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Bid to boost Kuwaiti youth employment in private sector

Committee takes aim at expat-run commercial shops

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: The National Committee for Regulating Demographics, under the leadership of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, is currently evaluating a set of decisions aimed at facilitating opportunities for young people to enter the private sector.

Reliable sources said the committee is pursuing multiple avenues, including measures to curb the practice of visa trading, putting an end to irregularities in the issuance of commercial licenses, ceasing the inclusion of commercial shop licenses for non-Kuwaitis, and encouraging citizens to operate businesses under the licenses they hold.

The intention is to take stringent measures to prevent the inclusion of commercial shops for expatriates, which is already pro-

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

IT is necessary to speak frankly, as the crises taking place in Gaza are unbeara-

ble. Traders of the issue have appeared in

public in an attempt to exploit the blood-

shed for enhancing their investments,

such as the leaders of Hamas who stay in

hotels in Doha, Istanbul and Beirut while

people die daily in the cage of fire that

Four of them who knew about the Op-

eration Al-Aqsa Flood are Yahya Al-Sinwar, Muhammad Deif, Marwan Issa, and

Muhammad Al-Sinwar. They are the ones who lead the soldiers on the ground. On

the other hand, we have Haniyeh, Mishal,

and others who, according to what the in-

formation says, were woken up by their

aides to see on the screens what was hap-

This is enough to determine the extent

pening on the borders of the Gaza Strip.

of their disconnection from reality. They

are exploiting bloodshed and destruction

to increase their wealth from supporting

countries, and inflate Ismail Haniyeh's

investments, which are supervised by his

As for Khaled Meshal, after he was res-

cued by the late King Hussein of Jordan,

he began living a life of luxury. While

the Gaza Strip had been under siege since

2008, the marriage of his daughter Fatima

in 2009, which was three months after

the war on Gaza, cost USD 1.5 million.

The following year, the marriage of his son Walid happened, which cost about a

These millions that Khaled Meshal

spent on entertainment alone represent

the official budget of the Gaza Strip, but

for those who understand it, and not for

blood traders like those, some of whom

brag that his house on the Gaza coast was

not damaged, like Ismail Haniyeh, who

currently lives in one of the most luxuri-

ous palaces in Doha, and only eats caviar

The difference between the four who

are leading the war against Israel is that

one of them was wounded three times

and lost one of his eyes. He also lost his

children, and Israel put him in prison for

imprisoned and suffered bitter torture,

while outside leaders were leading the

revolution of statements and declara-

tions from hotels and traveling on private

That is why the leaders of the field to-

day feel that their rights are violated, and

their blood has been spilled, while the ho-

tel warriors are protected in the countries

The effort of Hamas leaders abroad to

seize control of the decision was clearly

demonstrated by their defection from the

Palestine Liberation Organization, and

their requirement of leadership of Pal-

estinian action, rather than the "Fatah"

They began issuing treasonous state-

ments to all other factions, with the sup-

port of their Iranian master, who sought

to divide the Palestinian ranks in the same

manner that it did in Iraq, Lebanon, and Yemen, and incited sectarian strife in the

That is why, for 17 years, foreign lead-

ers have worked to consolidate dissent

within the national ranks. That is why

they broke the "Makkah Agreement" in

2007, which stipulated the cessation of internal fighting and the formation of a

Continued on Page 5

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

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"national unity government."

facebook

where they reside

As for Yahya Al-Sinwar, he was also

many years. He is Muhammad Deif.

and drives the latest models of cars.

son Abdul Salam.

million dollars.

Israel has created around them.

Opinion

Palestinian cause needs a man like Sadat.

not militia that accepts and another rejects

The committee has explored all available prospects in the private sector, with a focus on attracting young men to work in this sector.

Additionally, there are plans to enhance services for small and medium-sized enterprise owners (SMEs), inspiring young people to foster creativity and develop their ideas and projects.

The sources also confirmed the inclination to leverage job opportunities in companies with government contracts, including their facilities, so that Kuwaiti youth can secure a share of the workforce. It is emphasized that a review of worker recruitment for these contracts will not allow an unjustified increase.

One proposal includes diversifying the the job market across various sectors, Continued on Page 5

KUWAIT RELIEF PLANE AT AL-ARISH AIRPORT

Gaza awaits aid amid ongoing Israel attacks



KUNA photo

Kuwait's first relief planeload arrives at Al-Arish Airport carrying humanitarian and medical aid to Palestinians.

Fears of escalation mount

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will be heading to the UK, Tuesday, on an official invitation from King of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland Charles III. (KUNA)

Newswatch

BRUSSELS: The EU Council of Ministers, Monday, adopted a decision to prolong existing sanctions against so-called Islamic State (IS/Daesh), Al-Qaeda, and other groups and individuals for a further year, until October 31, 2024.

Currently, the sanction regime in place applied to 14 persons and 5 groups. Those targeted are subject to an asset freeze and a travel ban to the EU, said the Council in a statement.

Additionally, EU persons and entities were forbidden from making funds, financial assets or economic resources available to those listed under the sanction regime. (KUNA)

KABUL: The watchdog for U.S. assistance to Afghanistan has warned that the Taliban are benefiting from international aid through the establishment of fraudulent nongovernmental organizations.

The Taliban have exerted greater control over national and international NGOs since seizing power in August 2021. They have barred Afghan women from NGO work and sought to push out foreign organizations from the education sector.

A report from the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, or SIGAR, found that the Taliban benefit from American-funded education programming through the generation of tax revenues and from more "ne-farious" methods like the establishment of fraudulent NGOs and extorting and infiltrating existing NGOs to obtain or direct international donor aid. (AP)

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani court on Monday indicted **Imran Khan** on charges of revealing official secrets after his 2022 ouster from office in another dramatic move against the former prime minister who could now face a possible death sentence and will likely be unable to run in parliamentary elections in January.

Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi, a close aide and the deputy leader of Khan's opposition Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf party, will go on trial this week at a high-security prison in the garrison city of **Rawalpindi**. (AP)

KATHMANDU: A 5.2 magnitude earthquake and some aftershocks damaged nearly two dozen houses in the hilly Dhading district near **Nepal**'s capital Sunday, an official said.

The shaking also caused a landslide in the region, **Hum Nath Parajuli**, a district government administrator, said. Details were not immediately available. The area is nearly 60 kilometers (40

miles) west of Kathmandu, and the earthquake was felt in the Nepalese capital. Nepal's National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Center gave a pre-

liminary magnitude of 6.1. The U.S. Geological Survey provided measurements of a 5.2 magnitude with a depth of 24.7 kilometers (15.4 miles) and an epicenter near Bharatpur. (AP)

DHAKA: A cargo train hit a passenger train outside the Bangladeshi capital on Monday, leaving at least 15 people dead and scores more injured, fire officials said.

Rescuers joined local residents in extracting passengers from the wreckage of the train cars, said fire official Mosharraf Hossain at Bhairab, in the central district of **Kishoreganj**, where the collision happened at 3:30 p.m. (AP)

CAIRO, Oct 23, (Agencies): The first Kuwaiti relief plane has landed at Al-Arish Airport, delivering vital humanitarian and medical assistance to the Palestinians. Khaled Al-Zaid, a representative of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), stated that the aircraft is carrying a variety of medical supplies, ambulances, and essential necessities needed in these challenging circumstances.

Al-Zaid mentioned that the plane is loaded with 40 tons of aid provided by KRCS and the Kuwait Society for Relief, following the directives of Kuwait's political leadership in response to the Palestinian people's plea for assistance. He highlighted the direct coordination between the Egyptian and Palestinian Red Crescent Societies to facilitate the entry of these supplies into the region.

Additionally, Al-Zaid expressed gratitude to donors within Kuwait, including citizens, residents, institutions, and private sector banks, for their unwavering support of KRCS's efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people facing human rights violations by Israeli occupa-

A humanitarian air bridge launched by Kuwait to bring some 40 tonnes of aid to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip will last for five days, the country's ambassador to Egypt Ghanim Al-Ghanim said on

Monday. The initiative, a directive by Kuwait's political leaders, aims to "mitigate the misery" of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, who have been the victims of "Israeli transgressions," the envoy said as he was overseeing the arrival of Kuwaiti aid at Egypt's northern Al Arish airport.

The aid runs the gamut from essential food supplies to healthcare assistance, added the Kuwaiti diplomat, saying it was a testament to Kuwait's "unflinching support" for the Palestinians.

It is "incumbent" upon the international community to stand alongside the Palestinians at a time where Israel has stepped up its vicious at-

A wounded Palestinian woman cries as she holds the hand of her dead relative outside her home following Israeli airstrikes that targeted their neighbourhood in Gaza City, Monday, Oct. 23, 2023. (AP)

tacks against them, he underlined.

On Sunday, Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, announced the initiation of relief operations through an Air Bridge, in response to the call for assistance from the Palestinian people and under the guidance of Kuwait's leadership, including His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Kuwaiti charity societies continue to rally up efforts to address the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza as the Israeli occupation aggression left tens of thousands of casualties and large number of families with no homes or provisions.

Al-Salam charity Chief, Dhari Al-Beijan, told KUNA that since its establishment, the charity focused its work in central Asia but due to the continuing tragic events in Gaza, Al-Salam Charity redirected its efforts.

The charity, affirmed Al-Beijan, is in contact with official organizations in Palestine approved by Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to deliver urgent aid to the people of Gaza.

In the first phase, the charity had allocated USD 100,000 for foodstuff, medical necessities, and provisions for refuge centers, stated Al-Beijan saying that this has been facilitated by Foreign Ministry and Social Affairs Ministry.

As for Najat Charity's Abdullah Al-Shehab,

he told KUNA that over 34,000 people benefited from the urgent aid sent by the charity, as part of "For Palestine" campaign launched towards beginning of escalation.

Al-Shehab mentioned that they are preparing to send new batches of assistance, as they have also launched another campaign for the sponsorship of 1,000 orphans.

Tanmeia Charity official, Musab Al-Otaibi, he told KUNA that Gaza Strip is in dire need necessary provisions as the people are suffering from severe shortage and the collapse of the health system.

He affirmed that despite tough conditions and obstacles in delivering aid, Tanmeia charity would continue to send support to Palestinians. Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes struck targets

across Gaza on Monday, including in areas where Palestinian civilians have been told to seek refuge, after another small aid shipment was allowed into the besieged Hamas-ruled territory.

Israel has still not allowed any fuel to enter Gaza, where there has been a power blackout for nearly two weeks. Hospitals say they are scrounging for generator fuel in order to keep operating life-saving medical equipment and incubators for premature babies.

Israel is widely expected to launch a ground offensive in Gaza following Hamas' brutal Oct. 7 rampage into southern Israeli communities. Tanks and troops have been massed at the Gaza border, and Israel says it has stepped up airstrikes in order to reduce the risk to troops in the next stages. Fears of a widening war have grown as Israeli

warplanes have struck targets in the occupied West Bank, Syria and Lebanon in recent days. It has frequently traded fire with Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, which is armed with tens of thousands of rockets.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told troops in northern Israel on Sunday that if Hezbollah launches a war, "it will make the mistake of its life. We will cripple it with a force it cannot even imagine, and the consequences for it and the Lebanese state will be devastating.'

Hezbollah's political movement is part of Lebanon's fractious government, but its fighters operate outside the state's control. Israel heavily bombed Beirut's airport and civilian infrastructure during a 2006 war with Hezbollah. Israel is meanwhile evacuating some communities on its

Sadu House, KRCS

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23, (KUNA): The textile threads were intertwined in Kuwait's Sadu House, just as the Palestinian hands were joined in Gaza, and the needles and stitches deep in the fabric hurt the hearts of the participants in the "Weaving Peace" initiative, just as they pained the injured people of Gaza.

weaving for peace

This exhibition of solidarity with Palestine, organized by Al-Sadu Society in collaboration with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) with the theme "Weaving Peace... hands and hearts in solidarity for peace in Palestine," is where multiple Kuwaiti volunteers participated in weaving, knitting and embroidery.

The products had a variety of textiles, including hats, blankets, shawls and gloves, to support women and children in Palestine and to confirm Kuwait's permanent stance in support of the Palestinian cause.

Kuwait and Philippines labor 're-engagement' in progress

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: Diplomatic sources informed that bilateral meetings and consultations have commenced between Kuwait and the Philippines. The purpose of these discussions is to explore ways to enhance cooperation and coordination on labor-related issues, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The sources commended a recent meeting between Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and a Kuwaiti delegation during the Gulf-Arab summit with ASEAN, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia last Friday. They view this meeting as an initial step toward the resumption of labor talks between Kuwait and the Philippines, which were initiated in May.

According to the sources, it is expected that further positive developments will unfold in the coming weeks, particularly with regard to the return of Filipino workers to Kuwait.

Upon his return from the ASEAN and Gulf Cooperation Council summit held in Riyadh Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. revealed that the ban on sending Filipino workers to Kuwait will be lifted soon.

Philippine media, including the Phil Star newspaper and CNN Philippines, quoted the Philippine president saying: On the sidelines of the summit, he discussed relations between Kuwait and the Philippines.

He added: "During the meeting, we pledged to continue discussions on addressing labor issues, noting that the ban imposed on the deployment of Filipino workers in Kuwait



ed as one of the 2023 winners of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science grant.

— See Page 2 —

KD 259.8 mln stc's revenues for 1st nine months of 2023

— Details Page 9 —





In this group photo, a radiant constellation of brilliance shines as the 2023 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science awardees come together, embodying a decade of dedication and innovation in science.

Kuwaiti scientist Dr. Fatma Al-Awadhi among Women in Science laureates

L'Oréal-UNESCO empowers female scientists in GCC

By Marlon Aquino Malinao Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: In a world where scientific breakthroughs are shaping the future, recognizing and celebrating the achievements of female scientists is more crucial than ever. The 2023 edition of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science initiative for the GCC region does just that. This initiative, by L'Oréal Middle East, has been a beacon of hope for female scientists in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region for the past ten years, honoring and recognizing their groundbreaking research in diverse fields, from Life sciences to Mathematics and Computer science.

and recognizing their groundsteaking research in diverse fields, from the sciences to Mathematics and Computer science.

Laurent Duffier, Managing Director of L'Oréal Middle East, has been at the forefront of this noble cause, driving forward the mission to empower and support women in science. Under his guidance, the program marked its remarkable journey with a grand ceremony held recently, celebrating not just another year but a full decade of empowering and supporting the women in science. This year's ceremony was particularly special, as it honored and showcased the extraordinary work of six remarkable women. These outstanding scientists, who are making strides in their respective fields, have been selected as the 2023 winners of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science grant.

In the heart of this celebration, Arab Times had the privilege of interviewing these six winners to delve deeper into their research journeys, experiences, and what it means to receive such a prestigious grant from L'Oréal. Each of them has a unique story to tell, a story of determination, innovation, and a commitment to pushing the boundaries of scientific knowledge.

Among this year's laureates are promising PhD students, including Sara Ishaq Alkhoori, Lila Ali Aldakheel, and Nadin Nagy Mahnoud Younes. Their research covers a broad spectrum of critical topics, from eco-friendly biofuel production to plastic waste management and the development of low-cost, early detection tests for viruses.

In addition, we have the honor of speaking with accomplished post-doctorate researchers, Dr. Noha Mousaad Elemam, Dr. Dana Alsulaiman, and Kuwait's very own Dr. Fatma H. Al-Awadhi. Their research pursuits focus on vital areas, such as early breast cancer biomarkers, advanced biosensing platforms for cancer diagnosis, and the exploration of blue-green algae's chemistry and biology for medicinal advancements.

Join us as we delve into the world of these remarkable scientists, exploring their scientific endeavors, challenges, and the impact they are making on our world.

Dr. Fatma H. Al-Awadhi – Kuwait

Arab Times: Your research journey has taken you from Kuwait to the United States and back again, focusing on marine natural products. Can you

describe the pivotal moments or experiences that led you to pursue this specific field of research, and how has your international exposure influenced your work?

Dr. Fatma H. Al-Awadhi: The passion to pursue my specific field of research started soon after I earned my Pharmacy degree from Kuwait University and started working as a pharmacist in the Amiri Hospital (Kuwait). I realized within three years of working experience that I am interested about the drug discovery aspects (how drugs are discovered) rather than dispensing the marketed



Dr. Fatma H. Al-Awadhi

drugs (medicines) to the patients. I left my career as a Pharmacist and moved to United States to focus on marine natural products drug discovery. My international exposure had markedly influenced my work and career as well where I developed strong communication skills, decision-making, critical thinking, and creativity which are all important assets for any researcher.

Arab Times: Winning the L'Oréal grant is a notable achievement. Could you share the importance of this grant in advancing your research goals and how it will contribute to your ongoing work in marine natural products? What opportunities or breakthroughs do you envision as a result of this recognition?

Dr. Fatma H. Al-Awadhi: The L'Oréal program supports and empowers women in science, by recognizing, promoting and encouraging exceptional female scientists. Wining this grant award is indeed very important for me from a financial perspective to push my current projects into completion as well as help me achieve my research goal in exploring marine cyanobacteria collected locally in Kuwait. Additionally as a result of this recognition and the visibility I will gain after highlighting my research by L'Oréal, I envision new opportunities for me in terms of collaboration between GCC researchers to study and explore the therapeutic potential of blue-green algae collected from the Arabia Gulf.

Arab Times: Your research spans the intersection of chemistry and biology, with a focus on discovering bioactive compounds from marine cyanobacteria. Can you discuss some of the challenges and exciting discoveries you've encountered during your research journey, and how they have shaped your scientific perspective?

your scientific perspective? **Dr. Fatma H. Al-Awadhi:** I faced several challenges by working in this specific field. One of these challenges is the isolation of compounds in very small quantities which oftentimes hinders further investigations of the biological activities and hence require total synthesis. Also, finding the biological activity and the target of the discovered compounds is a challenge and sometimes is not straightforward. Despite these challenges, I made several exciting discoveries where I discovered several compounds from marine cyanobacteria that inhibits the migration of cancer cells. More recently I discovered two compounds that have anti-inflammatory activity. These challenges and discoveries underscore the importance of investigating the therapeutic applications to maximize our discoveries and add more value to the discovered compounds.

Arab Times: Beyond scientific achievements, you have a strong commitment to fostering collaboration and promoting women in the sciences. How do you plan to leverage the L'Oréal grant to further these goals, both in your research and in the scientific community at large?

I have no doubts that the visibility I gained by being a recipient of L'Oréal grant will inspire future generations of women scientists and will open new doors for me for future collaborations especially within GCC where I am interested to study marine cyanobacteria collected from the Arabian Gulf.

Arab Times: Marine natural products research often has ecological implications. Could you elaborate on the potential environmental impact of your work and how it aligns with the broader goals of conservation and sustainability in the Gulf region?

Dr. Fatma H. Al-Awadhi: The conservation of the marine environment is very important for drug discovery efforts. My research focuses on marine cyanobacteria which grow on the surfaces of corals and rocks. These cyanobacteria are often times toxic and sometimes overgrow resulting in harmful algal blooms. We are collecting these blooms to study them and explore the compounds they produce without impacting the marine environment in alignment with the conservation and sustainability in the Gulf region.

Dr. Dana Alsulaiman – KSA

Arab Times: Your research is centered around advanced biosensing platforms for cancer diagnosis. What personal experiences or motivations drove

you to focus on this specific area of research, and how has your journey influenced your dedication to enhancing early disease detection?

Dr. Dana Alsulaiman: Growing up, I witnessed several loved ones including my father and great aunt fall victim to cancer. Their unwavering hope and perseverance in the face of this grave disease inspired me to dedicate my research to tackling cancer through the development of miniaturized and accessible cancer diagnosis and monitoring platforms and devices.



biomarkers are a significant part of your research. Could you explain in simple terms how these methods work and how they compare to traditional diagnostic approaches? What potential impact do you foresee for patients and healthcare systems?

Dr. Dana Alsulaiman

Dr. Dana Alsulaiman: Imagine a future where all patients - regardless of their background or socioeconomic status - have access to high-quality healthcare solutions and where cancer diagnosis strategies are cost-effective, quick, and painless. This is exactly what I aspire to contribute to achieving through my role as assistant professor and leader of the BioMAD lab at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia. My lab focuses on the development of next-generation technologies for cancer detection and monitoring based on 'liquid biopsy' tests. As opposed to traditional, often invasive strategies like tissue biopsies or extensive imaging, liquid biopsies enable cancer diagnosis from a small (less invasive) biofluid sample like blood, urine, saliva, or even interstitial fluid under the skin. The technologies we are developing aim to detect traces of cancer-specific biomarkers in that sample; these biomarkers are like clues or breadcrumbs that cancer cells leave behind. Detecting them with our advanced ultrasensitive technologies allows us to diagnose cancer, even at its earliest stages when the likelihood of patient survival is the highest.

Arab Times: Securing a provisional patent for your research is a noteworthy accomplishment. Can you share some insights into the challenges and milestones you encountered while transitioning your research from the lab to

real-world diagnostic tools? What is the potential timeline for these diagnostic tools to become widely available?

Dr. Dana Alsulaiman: Securing a provisional patent for my technologies indeed marks a significant milestone in my research journey. Translating my research from the lab to real-world diagnostic tools has been a thrilling yet challenging endeavor, and I'm still at the start of this journey. One of the major challenges I faced was ensuring that my technologies are and continue to be robust enough to transition from the controlled lab environment to the real-world environment which is susceptible to changes in temperature, humidity, and other conditions. Apart from technological robustness, another challenge I am facing is finding and establishing a multidisciplinary team that has the passion and resilience to transition this research through many hurdles towards real-world impact.

Regarding the timeline for these technologies to reach the market, it is difficult to predict precisely but I like to be hopeful and optimistic. Over the next few years, we aim to refine our designs and optimize our strategies while continuing to secure funding and attract investors as well as industry partnerships or collaborations.

Årab Times: As an assistant professor at KAUST, you have an opportunity to shape the future of bioengineering research and mentor aspiring STEM professionals. How do you envision your role in promoting accessible healthcare and precision medicine, particularly in Saudi Arabia and the MENA region, and what key contributions do you hope to make in these areas?

Dr. Dana Alsulaiman: Through my role as assistant professor and principal investigator of the BioMAD lab at KAUST, I have the opportunity to not only educate and mentor aspiring STEM professionals but also to shape the future of bioengineering research in Saudi Arabia and the MENA region. Importantly, my research, which focuses on developing innovative diagnostic technologies, directly aligns with Saudi Arabia's vision and commitment to transform the healthcare sector and provide greater quality and accessibility to healthcare solutions. I hope I can use my role as a catalyst to promote and lead the development of advanced and accessible biomedical technologies for all, particularly in the field of cancer diagnostics and precision medicine.

Arab Times: Your journey from pursuing a Master's in Bioengineering to your current role involves overcoming gender disparities and advocating for women in STEM. What advice would you give to young women aspiring to pursue careers in science and technology, particularly in fields like point-of-care diagnostics and nanopore biosensors, where women are underrepresented?

Dr. Dana Alsulaiman: My journey in STEM from gaining my Bachelor's degree in Bioengineering to securing a faculty position at KAUST has reinforced my belief in the indispensable value of women's voices and perspectives in the field of STEM. Despite societal stereotypes, I firmly believe that women possess intrinsic qualities that enable them to excel and even become leaders in the STEM fields. This is the advice I would give to aspiring young women in STEM: Embrace your unique qualities of compassion, curiosity, collaboration, and communication while continuing to persist, learn, and grow. Seek out mentors and grow your networks to support your unique journeys, without ever underestimating your potential. The world needs more innovation, collaboration and inclusiveness to solve the looming global challenges, and you – women in STEM - have the power to achieve that.



Arab Times: Your research focuses on immuno-oncology and early breast cancer detection. What initially sparked your interest in this field, and how do you envision your work contributing

tion and immunotherapy? **Dr. Noha Mousaad Elemam:** The field of immuno-oncology focuses on harnessing the immune system to combat cancer. It has gained significant attention and importance in recent years due to its potential to revolutionize cancer treatment. Researchers in this field are exploring various approaches, including immune checkpoint inhibitors and CAR-T cell therapyto enhance the immune system's ability to recognize and destroy cancer cells. Since 2020, breast cancer has become the

to advancements in both cancer detec-



Dr. Noha Mousaad Elemam

most diagnosedcancer and the leading cause of global cancer incidence. This study will utilize the knowledge from immuno-modulation to develop novel earlybiomarkers for breast cancer which might help in early diagnosis and possible prevention. In addition, this might develop new therapeutic modalities in cancer immunotherapy and help understand the role ofmolecular and cellular immunological pathways. Eventually, this will benefit the patients and the communityby improving the patient's survival and reducing the financial impact.

Continued on Page 8





LOCa

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Rather hot, partly cloudy and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-

By Night: Mild and partly cloudy to cloudy with light to mod-

Weather

erate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain. Station **Max Exp** Min Rec **Kuwait City**

Kuwait Airport 25 Abdaly 37 25 Jahra Salmiyah Ahmadi 33 Nuwaisib Wafra

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

Kidney, Urology Center procures latest devices

Surgical operations performed using robots safer: Dr Al-Dousari

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: The Ministry of Health announced the provision of the latest class of Da Vinci Xi robot devices at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Kidney and Urology Center and the first radical prostatectomy operation

for a cancer patient. In this regard, Head of the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Nephrology and Urology Center Dr. Saad Al-Dousari explained that the Sabah Al-Ahmad Nephrology and Urology Center performed the first robotic operations at the same time - one with the world's most modern Da Vinci Xi robot for radical prostatectomy, and the second with the Da Vinci Xi robot for radical nephrectomy.



The two patients recovered and were discharged from the center the next day after the surgery

The robot is used in multiple surgical specialties, but urology is one of the specialties that most uses this technology in the world. Studies have proven the robot's usefulness in operations on organs located in the pelvic area, as it is a deep and narrow area and requires precise hands such as robot hands.

There is an increase in the number of robotic devices at the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Nephrology and Urinary Tract, in order to ensure that the Ministry of Health employs the latest technologies used in performing surgical operations, specifically artificial intelligence techniques. More than 1,500 major surgical operations have been performed in the center using surgical robots since 2014.

It included many cases such as radical resection of the prostate, radical resection of the bladder, radical resection of the kidney, removal of a tumor from the kidney, correction of a congenital defect in the kidney pelvis, and other major op-

Dr. Al-Dousari said surgery using the Da Vinci robot is characterized by less pain after the operation, because the operation using it does not require making large incisions and wounds as in open operations, in addition to the fact that the hospital stay period is short compared to open operations, in addition to the fact that the rate of bleeding during the operation is less.

He explained that what distinguishes the robot from a regular laparoscope is that the vision is perfect, because it is 10 times magnified and threedimensional, which allows the surgeon to see better than open operations. In addition, the robot's hands have extreme precision because they contain joints that enable them to rotate like a human hand, which allows for sewing to less than a millimeter, using the smallest types of needles and threads. One of the benefits of the robot is also to filter out hand tremors during the operation, which facilitates the surgeon's work and reduces the rate of complica-

Dr. Al-Dousari said studies have proven that surgical operations using robots are safe, and that more than 5 million operations using robots have been performed worldwide, adding that the robot has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a technology used to perform surgical operations by surgeons who have received certified training in its use.



KUNA photo

An operation is underway at the center.

Priorities for Oct 31 session detailed

Develop Caller ID to protect clients, prevent e-fraud: MP

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: A total of 48 MPs issued a joint statement on the legislative priorities for the parliamentary session scheduled for Oct 31, 2023.

These priorities fall under three categories: political, development and improvement of citizens' standard of living.

The political priorities include amending the regulations on the appointment of senior officials, National Assembly Law, Rehabilitation Law, Elections Law and constituencies; as well as cancellation of the requirement for international companies to have local agents to participate in public tenders.

The development priorities include amending the law on establishing Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) in order to maintain its financial sustainability, bill on cancelling real estate agencies, law on establishing the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Law, Teaching Profession Law (education development), law on establishing Kuwait International Advanced Industries Company (oil sector), and law on developing healthcare services.

The priorities aimed at raising the standard of living of citizens include increasing the minimum pension, pension in general social allowance and public aid; implementation of the strategic alternative to the salary scale; amending Chapter Five of the law on establishing the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) and laws concerning the disabled; and ratifying the bill on compensating the owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for the losses they incurred during the COVID-19 crisis.

On the other hand, the Governmental Coordinating Committee has presented the government-legislative priorities for the upcoming session as follows:

- Imposing tax on harmful commodities,
- Imposing tax on companies, ■ Increasing pension,
- Amending the law on establishing CAPT,
- Amending the Traffic law,
- Amending the Penal Code, ■ Financial sustainability of Kuwait
- Credit Bank, ■ Amending the Kuwait Anti-Corruption

Reliable sources confirmed that the gov-

ernment did not object to any of the priorities

specified by the MPs, although its priorities do not include the strategic alternative to the salary scale and social allowance increment.

Meanwhile, MP Khalid Al-Otaibi has submitted a proposal to obligate telecommunications companies to develop a caller identification system; so that the names of legitimate entities like banks and financial institutions appear on the client's phone when receiving calls from such entities. He sug-

gested assigning the

Communications and

Information Technol-

ogy Regulatory Au-

thority (CITRA) to

take certain measures

to protect the clients

and prevent electron-

ic fraud; especially

since the number

of electronic fraud



Al-Otaibi

cases recorded in 2022 reached about 54,000. He said CITRA should investigate fraud committed through the SIM cards issued by telecommunication companies in the country and identity all the involved individuals. He added CITRA must submit a report to the concerned minister stating the steps taken in this regard within three months of approving the proposal.

Furthermore, National Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Sa'adoun had a meeting with Ambassador of Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to Kuwait Robert Laro.

Also, on the sidelines of the 147th Assembly of the International Parliament Union (IPU) being held in Launda, Angola from Oct 22 to 27; Kuwait's Inter-Parliamentary Group attended the coordinative meeting of the Arab Geopolitical Group.

Treasurer of Inter-Parliamentary Group MP Adel Al-Obaid issued a press statement after the meeting, in which he stressed the need for the citizens of various countries to have a strong voice against the Israeli crimes targeting Palestinians in Gaza.

He affirmed that the Kuwaiti parliamenatry delegation submitted a proposal to call for an emergency assembly of the IPU to discuss the Israeli attacks on Gaza. He added the Kuwaiti contribution to the IPU Assembly reflects the constant position of its people —to support the Palestinians' fight for their rights. He hopes the IPU finalizes a decision to impose ceasefire in Gaza which, he pointed out, the United Nations Security Council has not done until now.

Housing Crisis – Part II

'Private sector can chip in'

Ex-ministers, activists present solutions

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: In continuation of the article published yesterday regarding the housing crisis in Kuwait, Al-Seyassah daily posed a number of questions to several former housing ministers and those with experience in the field of real estate, as part of its investigative report. The most prominent among these questions were - How long will the citizens suffer from the consequences of this crisis that forces them to move from one apartment to another, as the number of their family members increase while they are waiting for government housing? Can the entry of the private sector and the local banking sector accelerate the solution to the housing crisis? Is there a solution to this stubborn knot? Are there parties who do not have an interest in resolving the crisis?

Former housing ministers and activists in the real estate sector called for the necessity of reducing the period of obtaining housing care

by activating the participation of the private sector to contribute all its resources with the state in solving the housing crisis, with the importance of expanding the construction of housing cities, and vertical housing mechanism to solve the housing crisis.

In meetings with the daily, they called for taking firm decisions to alleviate the suffering of the citizens for proper housing.

They agreed on the importance of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) coordinating with international companies to develop designs and supervise the construction according to those designs so that a citizen can receive a house without any violation of the specifications.

However, some among them refused to rely on international companies, and urged them to give priority to local companies. Here are the details

Minister of Public Works and former Minister of State for Housing Affairs Bader Al-Humaidhi said providing housing care is one of the important elements for achieving citizens' living stability.

He explained that the accumulation of housing applications is one of the issues that further obstructs the solution. The realistic solution could be the expansion in housing cities through international tenders, provided that the conditions are determined by the concerned authority, which is PAHW. The time period for implementation should not exceed three years, with the introduction of electricity delivery to these cities to coincide with implementation.

The housing issue needs a firm decision to confront the increase in the number of housing requests. The private sector, whether global or Gulf, has the ability to cover many of these requests within seven years, especially since this sector has many capabilities related to the establishment of housing cities.

The involvement of the private sector can also be done through the B.O.T. system, especially since this matter will liberate the Kuwaiti economy and contribute to creating job opportunities in addition to reducing the number of housing applications.

Housing

Al-Humaidhi said when he was the Minister of Housing Affairs, he had presented a proposal to reduce the prices of housing plots, but it has not been achieved vet.

Meanwhile, former minister of Housing Affairs Yahya Al-Sumait affirmed that he was the first to demand that the state need to build more housing cities in remote areas, through which the largest part of the housing problem could be solved. At the same time, he expressed his support for adopting the vertical construction (apartment) system.

He explained that a citizen can accept the idea of living in an apartment when it is beautifully designed, not less than 300 square meters, with all services available in it, whether basic or recreational, especially since the housing installment for those who obtain housing care through vertical construction will be around KD 60, and the total will be paid in a short period of time, unlike home installments.

A citizen can adapt to living in a private apartment, considering that it is difficult for the country to follow the path of endlessly handing out plots in light of the small area of the country and the increase in the number of citizens.

Al-Sumait called on the government to market vertical construction system well, with the importance of clarifying to the citizen that the residential towers will be built in a way that preserves the privacy of every citizen, such that the apartment will be built on a full floor with the largest number of elevators available, and take into account modern designs.

Al-Sumait said, "The citizen's refusal of vertical construction is due to the failure of previous governments to market this type of housing", citing the experience of the Sawaber complex, which cost the state billions and was eventually demolished after the failure of that experiment.

He hinted that if the state really wants to move towards vertical construction, it must build housing cities that rely on building multi-storey towers and include all basic and recreational services, mosques and police stations.

Al-Sumait explained that he had presented to the late Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah the idea of designing houses using the apartment system in the Capital, with each apartment being 250 square meters on two floors. Thus, the apartment would become 500

'Warba Bank' launches a new branch at Ministries Complex

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: Warba Bank announced the opening of its new branch at the Ministries Complex, which was designed according to the latest developments in banking services to provide them in a more practical way. This provides more comfort, ease and speed to the Bank's clients in light of Warba's keenness to let them enjoy a distinctive experience during their visit to any of its branches and receive high and distinguished levels

Abdullah Nasser Al-Shuail, Senior Director of Branch and Private Banking Services at Warba Bank, said, "Launching the Ministries Complex branch is a continuation of the Bank's plans to develop its branch system spread throughout Kuwait and give clients a distinctive service experience to meet their various needs and help save their time."Pointing out that the new location was designed to provide distinguished services to clients with ease, while providing sufficient spaces for movement and waiting, so that Warba Bank remains distinguished and capable of developing these branches to keep pace with the continuous development in the banking industry lo-

He added that the Ministries Complex is considered one of the most important vital centers that witness a large attendance of visitors, both citizens and residents of Kuwait, especially since it includes a large group of major ministries that provide key and important services to everyone.

Al-Shuail noted that the plans to open more branches come in line with the expansion of digital banking services provided by the Bank through its various digital channels, stressing that the coming period will witness more banking products and services that will be the first of their kind in Kuwait, as is the custom of Warba Bank in offering its products.

He stressed that the Bank continues to expand in launching more branches, considering that the opening of the Ministries Complex branch represents another addition to the achievements of the Bank in recent years along with the development of its digital services, pointing out that the Bank is also continuing to expand investment in more digital banking services, in addition to its expan-



Abdullah Nasser Al-Shuail: The Bank continues to open more branches and expand locally to provide its services to clients.

sion in opening more branches as part of its plans to acquire market shares in various fields.

Al-Shuail concluded his statement by emphasizing that the strategy that the Bank has pursued for years in investing and expanding digital services has confirmed its success and importance in light of the circumstances that Kuwait and the world are currently going through by increasing reliance on bank-

ing services provided by the Bank's digital channels. Warba Bank is one of the banks that has achieved great successes in a short period, as it occupied a leading position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals, and it is one of the largest local banks in the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent components that make the bank close to all members of society, in addition Warba Bank is considered among the 50 largest banks in the Middle East in terms of market value for the year 2023 - Forbes Middle East classification.

meters. He also proposed the idea of building shops underneath the properties, which would be rented and their revenues distributed to the residents, with the necessity of an owners union for each property, provided that the Ministry of Housing Affairs is a member of the union

Al-Sumait said he hoped this idea will be implemented because Kuwait's lands are limited, adding that the problem of delivering prefabricated houses to citizens is that many citizens were breaking the facades and some internal walls, and this was costing the citizens.

Construction

He supported the idea of delivering ready-made homes to citizens, provided that PAHW adopts several models in construction through designs so that each plot has a building model and the citizen chooses the model that he deems appropriate for him.

Al-Sumait stressed the importance of the agreement between the state and the Ministry of Oil to expand the construction of new housing cities in lands that do not have oil under them, indicating that Kuwait has areas of land that allow urban expansion.

He also stressed the importance of PAHW's agreement with an international company to develop designs and supervise the construction to be according to the designs so that a citizen receives a house that does not violate the specifications.

Al-Sumait said the idea of a real estate developer is followed by those who want to invest in housing, as is the case with real estate mortgages. In the same context, Head of the Union of Con-

tracting Companies Dr. Salah Bouresli said, "Local contracting companies can build many residential cities and solve the entire housing problem, but there is a fierce war against them in order to benefit foreign companies through the local agent." He indicated that the international companies are

delaying implementation, citing the Chinese company that is implementing the Mutla'a City project. Bouresli stated that if local companies obtain a tender from the government, they suffer during the implementation period as they receive their dues with difficulty, and this affects the nature of their work and the payment of their workers' salaries.

He asked, "Why did the state, which recently signed contracts with a major country to implement housing projects, not look at local companies?! Is it reasonable that international companies will bring their equipment from their home countries or that they will use Kuwaiti equipment as well as local building materials?! There is no advantage for international companies to enter this market.'

Dr. Bouresli stated that converting some lands from residential to investment has achieved great wealth for some citizens, as the price of a thousand square meters in Ardiya, for example, is one million dinars, and the price of a thousand square meters before converting it to investment was from KD 250,000 to KD 300,000. He explained that citizens prefer to build their

own house, as the designs approved by PAHW do not meet their ambitions. In addition, it is devoid of basements, backyards, or servant quarters. If the state built housing cities and handed over to the citizen a house with all the citizen's demands, this matter would encourage the vast majority of citizens to receive the houses, especially since the value of the housing loan is not sufficient.

The area of the plots distributed to citizens varies

Liquor factory run in rented house

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: Ahmadi securitymen raided a local liquor factory in a house in the Al-Dhahr area, managed by 3 Asians, including a woman, and found inside it large quantities of local liquor and barrels filled with raw material, in addition to spe-

cial materials and tools for making alcohol. According to a security this happened after the Ahmadi Security Directorate got a tip-off from unidentified sources that the trio was using the rented house to manufacture alcohol inside a rented house in the Al-

Armed with a search and arrest warrant issued by the Public Prosecution, the security men in coordination with the Kuwait Municipality, busted the place and seized the three people.

Dhahr area.

Inside the house, the security men found 2,000 bottles of wine ready for sale and approximately 150 barrels filled with fermented raw material, in addition to special tools and equipment used for making alcohol.



7 yrs jail, KD 128m fine for citizen diwaniya 💸 عيوانية

PACI dept head gets 5 years in bribery case

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: The Court of Cassation has concluded a significant real estate fraud and money laundering case by amending a lower court verdict and sending a Kuwaiti businessman to 7 years in prison and imposing a fine of 128 million dinars on him. This verdict pertains to his involvement in selling counterfeit real estate, specifically chalets in Al-Khairan, reports Al-Rai daily.

Previously, the Criminal Court had sentenced the man to 17 months in prison and a 7-year imprisonment with hard labor for the second accused (an expatriate who remains at large). Both were also fined 128 million dinars. The civil aspect of the case has been referred to the appropriate civil court for further consideration.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendants with money laundering amounting to 64,294,023 Kuwaiti dinars. This charge was based on their deliberate acquisition and possession of this money, obtained from victims for investment purposes in two companies owned by the businessman. The funds were deposited into the bank accounts of these com-

Additionally, the prosecution accused the defendants, who were authorized to manage the companies, of signing off on the companies' bank accounts, channeling funds into their personal accounts, and conducting internal and external transfers that gave the appearance of real estate investments.

These actions were undertaken to mask and conceal the illegitimate origin of the funds, which were deceptively used to create the illusion of a non-existent project and generate false hopes of profits. The defendants achieved this by advertising investment opportunities in real estate through various media outlets.

PACI dept head jailed: The Court of Appeals has upheld the verdict of the lower court and put behind bars the head of the department of the Public Authority Civil Information to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of 212,000 dinars (double the bribe amount he received).



KIPCO, Tmkeen Award winners and supporters

KIPCO, Tmkeen host local startups, entrepreneurs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - hosted a networking dinner for local startups and entrepreneurs as part of the company's partnership with the Youth Empowerment Symposium

The guests included founders of startups that participated in past editions of the KIPCO Tm-keen Award for Young Entrepreneurs, which was launched by KIPCO and Tmkeen in 2015. The award has since become a symbol of recognition and encouragement for aspiring entrepreneurs, providing them with the resources and mentorship necessary to transform their startups into sustainable businesses.

The evening was an opportunity for the start-

The court has also put behind bars his two associates, an Egyptian and a Bangladeshi, for a period of 3 years, reports Al-Rai daily.

The investigation unfolded when the Director General of the PACI received reports about the issuance of civil ID cards by the main suspect in exchange for monetary payments.

This unlawful activity was facilitated by a Bangladeshi worker employed by a cleaning up business community to engage in meaningful conversations, exchange ideas and forge connections

Ms Eman Al Awadhi, KIPCO's Senior Vice President - Corporate Communications and Investor Relations, said:

"Tonight, we gather to celebrate the remarkable partnership between KIPCO and Tmkeen which began in 2015. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize the many finalists and winners of the KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs who are among us tonight. Together, we fostered a culture where youth are inspired to take risks, pursue their passions and contribute to the growth of our

company and an Egyptian who worked as a security guard at the PACI headquarters.

Suspicious transactions were uncovered through the tracking of civil identification numbers and the automated card issuance system, which provided insights into the involvement of department employees. This led to the apprehension of the suspects.



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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Kuwait can't be stable if citizens are in minority'

"SHEIKH Talal bin Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is in charge of Kuwait's most dangerous security files, the most threatening to stability, the most complex in human content, the most heinous in fraud and concealment, the most severe in interventions, and the strangest in the composition of violators, and the First Deputy Prime Minister has the right to praise his efforts in pursuing violators who are in Kuwait. They are distinguished by their insistence on sur-vival, no matter how harsh their living conditions are," columnist Abdullah

Bishara wrote for Al-Qabas daily.
"The First Deputy Premier that the realizes security of Kuwait cannot be stable as long as citizens constitute a minority that does not exceed 31% of the population, and

Bishara there is no reassurance with the continuation of the sponsorship system, which gives the citizen the right to bring

ing countries into Kuwait.
"Through this dangerous path, which provides the citizen with the right to bring in workers and technicians, the numbers swelled, because it opened the door to a trade that flourished with rights for the citizen, as some citizens found it easy to secure an income from human trafficking. These are the facts of Kuwait, not from its heritage, but it was available due to the flexibility of the facilities emnjpyed by the citizen, which the government did not address in a radical manner that deprives the citizen of privileges that are harmful to the nation.

a number of citizens from labor-export-

"This disturbing situation does not befit the image that Kuwait enjoys internationally, and in front of international organizations that monitor inhuman behavior. It also indicates a harmful deviation for Kuwaiti society, and I imagine that most of us coexisted with this unfortunate phenomenon with disdain without taking action to reduce its presence.

"I personally admit that I employed an Indian worker who was brought in by a Kuwaiti who was practicing this miserable work. This Kuwaiti was blind, as I later learned, and the worker also had a forged health certificate. It is certain that many of the people in the country have had such an experience.

"Given this harmful situation for Kuwait in terms of security, reputation and behavior, it was necessary to address this corridor, which made it easier for Kuwaitis to practice this tempting trade and join the lists of those benefiting from the ugly practice.

"Here the necessity arises for the First Deputy Premier to close this destructive phenomenon, which has tempted many to ioin the band of violators, including family members who have been criminalized by the courts and are spending years of punishment in prisons, and others who have tasted the financial return and are pleased to continue, and here is your responsibility in confronting this situation, which It cannot be consistent with the state's policy in treating the population problem, without a clear and effective dealing with this article, which is a fruitful gift to the residency trade, which is obsessed with its financial harvest.

'There must be a solution that closes this dangerous corridor, and without that, Kuwait's demographic plight will continue.

'Addressing the demographic composition also requires a commitment to limit the dominance of any community on the internal public scene, while ensuring the requirements of the security apparatus's ability to deal with the possibilities of quarrels and sabotage of in-

"There is no doubt that His Excellency the First Deputy Premier is fully aware that correcting the population situation requires comprehensive national partnership, including the private sector, the Kuwaiti parliament, the official and private media, and the role of the press, while continuing dialogue with various institutions and bodies, including civil society organizations that bear the responsibility of deepening security awareness. It is aware of its role in sub-

jugating Kuwaiti public opinion.

"Modifying the demographic composition is the most prominent step in the state's security strategy. It calls for public, official and popular solidarity. Its most prominent mechanism is communication with various local organizations, especially those related to the private sector, such as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and contracting companies. The treatment requires a popular governmental, parliamentary, sports, and labor outburst.
"The Ministry of Interior's efforts to

pursue violators are still a private ministerial matter for the Ministry of Interior, and other government institutions have not cooperated with it. Without presenting a collective national plan in which Kuwait mobilizes all its capabilities, with education that leads to popular national coexistence with this strategy, the First Deputy Pemier will remain concerned, because he could not implement aspects of his integrated plan on demographics.

'This reality suggests to the First Deputy Premier the necessity of a collective, public move towards amendment, benefiting from popular partnership that harnesses all the capabilities possessed by society to carry out the burden of responsibility as a partner in the mission that the First Deputy Premier has begun.

"If he was able to adapt the capabilities of Kuwaiti society to participate, it

would be natural for him to turn to his brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, who face the same concerns and suffer from the turmoil in the demographic composition of their

"This item related to population content was on the agenda of the meetings of the Interior Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and a complaint accompanied this item at every meeting, with an emphasis on the insistence on continuing the amendment efforts, which takes a long period of time.
"Moreover, the First Deputy Premier

must take advantage of the media by going out directly and speaking to the Kuwaiti people, explaining the content of his plan, pointing out the security risks of the situation continuing without modification, providing technical education and requesting collective support.

"The most important mechanism that Kuwaiti society wants is to present a practical proposal that ends the effectiveness of the sponsor, ensures security for the nation, and provides business owners with a satisfactory number of technicians and workers that meet the needs of society.

"Moreover, the First Deputy Prime Minister must deal with objections from internal or external associations, which use excitement about human rights and the harshness of deportation procedures, with strength, clarity and transparency, as states have the right to deport those who are not necessary for their continued survival, while recalling the Kuwaitis' extreme concern for the safety of their security, their stability, and from this national adherence, will find steadfast support.

"He should also expect some whispers and pleas for tolerance, along with negativity from embassies keen on the presence of their communities, and the First Deputy Premier realizes that the strength of the law lies in the solidity of implementation, and that hesitation generates fluidity and loss.

"There is no need to remind that the catastrophe of the invasion caused deep pain to the Kuwaiti society. It is not easy to ignore and overcome it, as caution remains fierce and doubt is present.

"Despite the efforts of the First Deputy Prime Minister and the Interior Ministry, and the solidarity of Kuwaiti society, we must realize the facts that population adjustment will remain slow and steps taken will take a long time. What is important is to confirm its progress, follow its procedures, and continue vigilance to ensure its success.

"With the conclusion of the article, I would like to emphasize that the security of the homeland is above all considerations, does not accept pleasantries, and does not coexist with hesitations. It is certain that labor-exporting countries that desire more will monitor the procedures of the "Interior Ministry," out of a desire to tame extremism and weaken determination, and it is the responsibility of the First Deputy Prime Minister to deepen the rules. Security, adherence to the rules of stability, and above that, he must make arrangements to ensure prosecution and follow-up and to ensure the survival of the communities within the framework of need."

"As the state institutions remain without leadership, and without delving into intricate financial calculations to comprehend the fiscal advantages of the Minister of Finance's expansion of retirement referrals within the Finance Ministry and its affiliated agencies, a theoretical inquiry arises: Are there readily available alternatives on the young minister's agenda to fill these vacancies, particularly in senior and supervisory roles within these expanding entities where retirement cases are on the rise? Could these decisions trigger a chain reaction that depletes various institutions of their supervisory functions," columnist Abdullah Muhammad Al-Afasy wrote for Al-Rai daily.

"In practical terms, we can hypothetically address this question by recognizing that retirement referrals from the public sector possess a dual nature. On one hand, these processes facilitate an infusion of fresh talent capable of keeping pace with the significant developments that have unfolded in recent years, dramatically altering both the public and private landscapes.

"However, this dynamics may hold true for other nations, but it may not apply to Kuwait, which has grappled with leadership vacancies across various institutions for approximately two years. Reappointments to these positions have been sluggish, attributed to a range of discretionary and undisclosed reasons. "In light of this complex dilemma,

the other facet of the retirement issue emerges, as there are concerns that the procedure could potentially exacerbate the already existing problem of job va-cancies. This is particularly worrisome in institutions where leadership necessitates competencies and deep-rooted practical experience.

"Key organizations in this context include the General Authority for Investment, the Central Bank of Kuwait, and the General Insurance Corporation, where it is expected, according to statements, that a significant number of eligible employees will be retiring simultaneously.

"These concerns may intensify if the Ministry of Finance's approach spreads to other ministries, as they seek to follow the path of youth-driven enthusiasm. While this approach is appreciated and even necessary, it calls for meticulous administrative planning that carefully considers the risks associated with expanding vacancies

within state institutions Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

Ministry resorts to allocate KD 30 mln budget to purchase power from GIA: sources

'Increase in electricity consumption expected next summer'

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: According to informed sources in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, an increase in electricity consumption by 861.4 megawatts, or by 4.6 percent of the production, is expected during the summer of next year, amounting to 18,727 mega-

watts, which is the result of electricity production from eight stations, including the Shaqaya station, which produces 70 megawatts of renewable

The sources explained that the rate of increase in consumption is equivalent to the increase in the actual production of the stations, which puts pressure on the stations and reduces their safe opera-

tion rates. This happens especially since the electricity load hit a record high in the history of Kuwait during the summer of 2023, reaching 16,905 megawatts on August 2. The stations are not operated at full capacity because there are a number of units that are annually under maintenance during the summer

The sources called for the need to

expedite the procedures for implementing the projects included in the ministry's plan to meet the increasing demand for electricity in light of the expansion in the construction of new residential cities and the steady population increase.

They indicated that the ministry resorted to allocating a budget to purchase electricity worth KD 30 million from the Gulf Interconnec-

tion Authority during the current fiscal year in order to ensure the safe operation of the stations and confront any emergency during the summer, but it did not actually purchase any quantities of energy in previous years.

chase any quantities of energy in previous years.

The sources revealed that the ministry, in the summers of 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019, took the initiative

to export electricity to the Gulf net-

work, and the quantities were recovered in the winter, as part of the electrical cooperation and exchange program.

However, the energy productivity situation is different now in light of the non-implementation of new projects to produce electrical energy due to the documentary cycle and the lack of necessary budgets to propose and implement these projects.



Burgan team with participants at the 2023 Farwah Expo.

As part of its expansive CSR strategy

Burgan Bank concludes fruitful sponsorship of '23 Farwah Expo

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: In its continuous effort to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and help bolster Kuwait's domestic economy, Burgan Bank participated in the 2023 Farwah Expo as an official sponsor. The three-day expo, which took place at Murouj, welcomed a lot of visitors who enjoyed Kuwait's most notable homegrown small and medium businesses, which serve various markets from F&B to clothing and accessories, homeware, perfumes, and more. This sponsorship comes as an extension of Burgan's unwavering support of local businesses and promising young talents and its continued efforts to create a business environment that allows for their growth and sustainability.

"Entrepreneurship plays such an important role in the sustainability, growth, and overall health of Kuwait's domestic economy; and as a proactive corporate citizen and forward-looking financial institution, it is very important that we continue to support ambitious local entrepreneurs and SME business owners,' said Abdullah Al Maqseed, Executive Manager - Merchant Acquiring at Burgan Bank. "By embracing and feeding the power of the SME community, we are actually calling for more business visionaries to propose creative solutions that answer to the market's growing needs and novel interests."

Al Maqseed further highlighted that this sponsorship stems from the Bank's commitment to social responsibility, ensuring sustainable mutual benefit for Burgan, its community, and the economy

omy.

To ensure maximum benefit for the expo attendees and entrepreneurs, Burgan Bank's representatives were present on the ground to share valuable knowl-

edge with the audience about the Bank's suite of products and services that are tailored to add ease and convenience to their personal and business transactions. For the entrepreneurs, Burgan's representatives focused on the Bank's business-specific flagship product Tijarati, in addition to the point-of-sale (POS), and payment gateway (PG). Furthermore, the Bank organized competitions with cash prizes and handed out special giveaways.

"When we build new products and services, we strive to offer our customers a practical solution to their everyday needs, but also a rewarding one that reassures them that their trust in Burgan is well-placed," added Al Magseed. "On the practical front, you can find services like Tijarati, which enables merchants to get a live overview of their businesses and transactions through the platform's detailed, easy-to-navigate dashboard. Then we introduced an extra layer of convenience with Tijarati Pay, a payment solution that enables Tijarati users to initiate and collect payments instantly through the platform at the best rates in the market. Subsequently, there is the Merchant Rewards, through which we constantly thank our customers for choosing Burgan. With this rewards program, transactions made through Tijarati Pay grant the merchant points that can be redeemed for a range of exclusive benefits."

It serves to note that Burgan Bank continues to dedicate its resources to the development of new products and services that echo the Bank's philosophy "Driven by You", with the aim of presenting its customers and community with banking solutions that enable them to lead the lives that they aspire to.

Finance minister promises to study demands of labor union

'Education deals with complaints seriously'

By Fares Al-Abdan and **Abdul Rahman Al-Shammari** Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: Head of the Ministry of Finance's Workers Union Yousef Al-Adwani revealed that the Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah has promised to study the proposals and demands in the interest of work, and expressed his keenness to cooperate with the union and meet all demands according to priorities and in the interest of the ministry's workers.

In a press statement to Al-Seyassah, Al-Adwani said the Minister of Finance received at the ministry's office the president and members of the union in the presence of Undersecretary Aseel Al-Munaifi and Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs Kholoud Al-Mutuh.

He affirmed that Al-Jarallah promised to meet the demands of all employees of the ministry and in all departments.

Al-Adwani thanked the minister, the undersecretary of the ministry, and the assistant undersecretary for Administrative Affairs for their concern about the interests of

Administrative Affairs for their concern about the interests of the ministry's employees in all departments and divisions.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education says it deals seriously with the complaints submitted to it, and takes necessary action regarding them in accordance with the established procedures. If it is necessary to refer the complaint for investigation, it will be referred to the concerned authority according to its subject matter and parties. It will then be acted upon in light of what the investigation concludes.

The ministry explained in a press statement issued yesterday that the complaints and grievances submitted by citizens are "diverse and different". Accordingly, they are submitted to more than one entity in the ministry depending on the subject of each grievance, and according to the competencies of the ministry's sectors and depart-

ments.

These complaints and grievances are dealt with in accordance with established procedures, either by requesting information about them, referring them for investigation as the case may be, or examining them with the concerned authority and acting in light of what the research concludes, and considering the differences in the topics of the complaints.

KU's 'memo' on average cost of student per year

By Abdul Rahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: A memorandum prepared by Kuwait University revealed that the average cost of a student per year at the university for the bachelor's level is KD 6,451, and for the postgraduate level it is KD 6,887.

The memorandum indicated that the average cost is calculated based on the actual spending from the university's budget and the number of students in each college, and on the basis of calculating the cost of classes for the annual budget allocated to the

It highlighted that the annual budget of Kuwait University includes annual and capital spending.



Photo by Rizk Taufik Officials during the rally organized by the Kuwait University in support of Palestinians.

KU organizes rally to support Palestinians

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23, (KUNA): Kuwait University (KU) organized Monday a rally in collaboration with KU Faculty Association and the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) in support of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Acting Director of KU Dr. Fayiz Al-Dhafeeri and large crowds of students, faculty members, and university workers joined together to denounce the Israeli occupation's aggression against Palestine and Gaza, which led to thousands of deaths and countless injuries, especially during the recent bombing of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital.

In order to demonstrate Kuwait's

stances in its various entities and institutions, Head of the KU Faculty Association Dr. Ali Al-Kandari told KUNA that the institutions are sending a message to the global academic community to establish human rights in Palestine, stop unjustified attacks, and adhere to the laws.

Palestinian cause

Continued from Page 1

Sometimes it is necessary to return to history from time to time to confirm the extent of the Palestinian division, and how those responsible for the issue abuse their cause.

That is why Haniyeh, Mishal, Al-Arouri and other residents of luxury apartments and hotels were surprised by what happened on October 7. In order to not appear humiliated, they moved their electronic files for regaining the reins of the media lying initiative.

At the same time, they started targeting Egypt, which alone bears the burden of helping the Gaza Strip at this stage, as it hosted an international peace summit on Saturday.

Only Cairo realizes that the solution does not lie in the aggressive statements made by Ismail Haniyeh, Khaled Mishal, and others.

For years, Arab leaders have been aware of the cause of the Palestinian affliction, which is the division caused by Hamas abroad. Perhaps the peace conference - which was held the day before yesterday at the invitation of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt - will be the beginning of the work to establish a Palestinian state, as the late Anwar Sadat did.

Any commander in the battle calculates the reaction after it ends, and what he will do the next day. This is what Sadat did, as he thought it was right, and opted for peace after the war, despite all the Arab noise that day, and the boycott of Egypt, but the Arabs returned after thirty years to Cairo.

When the Palestinians are united and know what they want, then there can be a Palestinian state. But if each group takes advantage of the events to trade in the blood of innocents, then we will be facing a hundred-year war that will not end until we sit at the negotiating table.

That is why we ask Hamas leaders abroad - Who is to blame for what happened?

The saying remains - The Palestinian cause needs a man like Anwar Sadat, who, if he says something, acts, and not

militia leaders. If one of them accepts an initiative that the other rejects, they receive the price for their positions in money dipped in blood.

Committee takes

Continued from Page 1

thereby reducing over reliance on a single nationality. Furthermore, the conditions and qualifications needed for specific roles will be set to ensure specialization and prevent unqualified individuals from occupying positions, ultimately enhancing the efficiency of the private sector workforce.

These decisions will be accompanied by campaigns against fictitious companies that hire surplus workers without a genuine need in the private sector. Such practices disrupt the demographic composition and lead to an increase in under-the-table employment.

Such companies will be followed by a gradual increase in violations as preparation for their eventual elimination and the accountability of those responsible.

The anticipated decisions are expected to yield positive outcomes in terms of encouraging foreign investment, rebalancing the demographic composition, reducing shop rents, facilitating the launch of private ventures by Kuwaiti youth, and safeguarding tenants from shop owners. These measures will also contribute to enhancing Kuwait's

international and global ranking.

It is noteworthy that Article 9 of Kuwaiti Commercial Registry Law No. 18 of 2018 prohibits anyone registered in the commercial registry from enabling others to exploit their registration. It is also forbidden for individuals to use commercial registries they do not possess, falsely indicate registration, or employ incorrect registration data on store fronts or documents.

This law does not affect the right to use names or trademarks arising from international trade contracts, technology transfer agreements, concession contracts, or international agreements valid in the State of Kuwait. The use of trade names by others is strictly prohibited.



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World News Roundup

Europe

Deputy PM leaves politics

Swiss populist party rebounds in election

GENEVA, Oct 23, (AP): Switzerland's anti-immigration Swiss People's Party rebounded from searing losses four years ago to become the largest parliamentary faction after the election, official results showed, as two environmentally-minded parties lost ground despite record glacier melt in the Alpine country.

Pre-election polls suggested that Swiss voters had three main concerns: Rising fees for the obligatory, free market-based health insurance system; climate change, which has eroded Switzerland's many glaciers; and worries about migrants and immigration.

The final tally late Sunday showed the people's party, known as SVP by its German-language acronym, gained nine seats compared to the last vote in 2019, and climbed to 62 seats overall in parliament's



200-member lower house. The Socialists, in second, added two seats to reach 41 in that chamber, known as the National Council.

It marked the latest sign of a rightward turn in Europe, after victories or electoral gains by conservative parties in places like Greece, Sweden and Italy over the last year, even if voters in Poland rejected their national conservative government last week.

A new political alliance calling itself The Center, born of the 2021 fusion of the center-right Christian Democrat and Bourgeois Democrat parties, made its parliamentary election debut and took third place with 29 seats, eclipsing the free-market Liberal party, which lost a seat and now will have 27.

Environmentally minded factions were the biggest losers: The Greens shed five seats and will now have 23, while the more centrist Liberal-Greens lost six, and now will have 10

Support

Political analyst Pascal Sciarini of the University of Geneva said Monday that the result was largely a "swing of the pendulum" and that support for the Greens was diluted in part because many voters felt they had already taken a big step toward protecting the environment by overwhelmingly approving a climate bill in June that will curb Switzerland's greenhouse gas emissions.

"At first glance, it's a bit surprising because the climate crisis is even more present than it was four years ago - when climate worries were the dominant issue among the population," he said.

He suggested that the bounce back for the SVP was a sign that rising insurance premiums and concerns about growing migration into Switzerland captured

many voters' minds this time.

"It's perhaps that there was a sort of competition among concerns - and that made the job harder for the Greens to make climate concerns the dominant theme in the media." Sciarini said.

Overall, the vote isn't likely to have significant impact on Swiss foreign policy, he said. The country's executive branch operates like a permanent govern-ment of national unity, where no single faction has total sway - what's known among the Swiss as their "magic formula" of democracy to ensure balance and moderation, and ensure that personalities don't domi-

Even with their electoral victory, the SVP only holds just over 30% of seats in the lower house. The composition of the legislature, which is elected every four years, ultimately shapes the composition of the executive branch, which is called the Federal Council and includes President Alain Berset, who plans to leave government at the end of the year.

But the legislative vote result won't significantly alter the composition of the Federal Council, where the SVP already has two seats - as do the Socialists, the free-market Liberals, while the Center has one.

The Center party, by outscoring the Liberals, may make a bid to swipe one of their two seats, and the Socialists will have to choose a successor for Berset; Those are the only likely changes to the Federal Coun-

Also

COPENHAGEN, Denmark: Denmark's deputy prime minister and economy minister announced Monday he was leaving politics and stepping down as head of the center-right Liberal Party to spend more time with his

The Liberals, however, are staying on in the threeparty governing coalition, which has been in office since December 2022.

For now, Defense Minister Troels Lund Poulsen would take over Jakob Ellemann-Jensen's posts and take on the roles of deputy prime minister and economy minister. A visibly moved Ellemann-Jensen said Monday he was taking the consequences following internal party criticism over dwindling support. He said he is resigning because he didn't want to stand in the way of his party's revival.

The party had seen support plunge from 24.6% in September 2019, when he became party leader, to 8.7% in an Oct. 3 opinion poll.

Critics also alleged that Ellemann-Jensen was too weak of a figure in a government where Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen were taking up much of the limelight.

"I am taking this decision because it is the right thing for the Liberal Party," Ellemann-Jensen said and insisted his sick leave was not a factor in his decision. Earlier this year, he was on a five-months sick leave following a medical check-up.

BERLIN: A prominent German leftist politician has launched plans to form a new party that some observers think could take votes away from the far-right Alternative for Germany.

Sahra Wagenknecht on Monday presented her "Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance - for Reason and Fairness." The aim is to formally launch the party in January, in time for European Parliament elections in June. Three state elections in Germany's formerly communist east will follow next fall.

Wagenknecht offers a combination of left-wing economic policy, with high wages and generous benefits, and a restrictive approach to migration. She also questions some environmentalists' plans to combat climate change and opposes current sanctions against Russia, which was once Germany's leading gas supplier, and German arms supplies to Ukraine.

Wagenknecht is launching her project at a time when center-left Chancellor **Olaf Scholz**'s quarrelsome three-party coalition is deeply unpopular. National polls show mainstream opposition conservatives leading and Alternative for Germany, or AfD, in second place with around 20% support.



Members of the parliament sit in the National Council hall during the Federal council elections, in Bern, Switzerland, on Dec 11, 2019. Inset: A man casts his ballot during the Swiss federal elections in Delemont, Switzerland on Oct 22. (AP)



US Sen Bob Menendez and his wife, Nadine Menendez, leave federal court on Sept 27, in New York. Menendez returns to Manhattan federal court on Oct. 23, to enter a not guilty plea to a conspiracy charge alleging that he acted as an agent of the Egyptian government even as he chaired the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. (AP)



Wilkinson

Hallgrimson

America

Ex-police chief gets 18 yrs: A Missouri police chief who was forced to resign following allegations he assaulted a father who tried to drown his 6-month-old daughter has been sentenced to 18 years in prison for attacking his ex-wife during a domestic dispute, a prosecutor said. **Greg Hallgrimson** was sentenced Fri-

day in the case in which authorities say he punched and knocked his ex-wife unconscious in June 2020, the Kansas City Star

Hallgrimson was chief of the Greenwood Police Department when a man walked into the department in December 2018 and said he had just tried to drown his daughter in a retention pond. Hallgrimson and another officer rushed to the icy pond and pulled the unconscious child out of the water. She was rushed to a hospital, where she was treated for severe hypothermia. But prosecutors said that upon completing the rescue mission, Hallgrimson threw the father to the ground back at a police station and punched him in the face. (AP)

Man beaten by teen's family: A man accused of fatally shooting a 15-year-old last year was beaten by members of the teen's family during a courtroom melee in San Antonio, authorities said.

Victor Rivas, 18, who is charged with murder in the May 2022 death of Ethan Soto, was in a Bexar County courtroom Friday awaiting a preliminary hearing when he was attacked.

Rivas' attorney, Adam LaHood, said his client was "going to be bruised and swollen" but was not otherwise injured.

Four people - two men and two juveniles - were arrested and will be charged with assault and disrupting court proceedings, the Bexar County sheriff's office said. Their names haven't been released.

Last week in Houston, a brawl broke out during a Harris County court hearing when family members of a murdered 16-year-old girl tried to attack her ex-boyfriend after he'd pleaded guilty to shooting her. (AP)

Police searching for 2 men: Vermont State Police are searching for a pair of 21-year-old Massachusetts men who disap-

peared under "suspicious circumstances

Politics

Presidential hopeful lagging poll numbers

Former US VP Pence faces cash shortage

NEW YORK, Oct 23, (AP): With three months to go before the Iowa caucuses that he has staked his campaign on, former US pice president Mike Pence faces mounting debt and lagging poll numbers that are forcing questions about not only whether he will qualify for the next debate, but whether it makes sense for him to remain in the race until then.

Pence ended September with just \$1.18 million left in his campaign account, a strikingly low number for a presidential contest and far less than his rivals, new filings show. His campaign also has \$621,000 in debt - more than half the cash he had remaining - and is scrambling to meet donor thresholds for the Nov 8 debate. While he would likely meet the debate's polling requirements, Pence has struggled to gain traction and is polling in the low single digits nationally, with no sign of momentum.

Leading

Former US president Donald Trump, meanwhile, is leading every one of his rivals by at least 40 points in national polls and ended September with \$37.5 million on hand.

People close to Pence say he now faces a choice about how long to stay in the race and whether remaining a candidate might potentially diminish his longterm standing in the party, given Trump's dominating lead. While Pence could stick it out until the Jan 15 Iowa caucuses, visiting the state's famous Pizza Ranch restaurants and campaigning on a shoestring budget, he must now weigh how that will impact his desire to remain a leading conservative voice, according to the people, some of whom spoke on condition of anonymity to share their unvarnished views.

"For Pence and many of the others, you gotta start looking and saying, 'I'm not going to go into substantial debt if I don't see a pathway forward," said former Wisconsin Gov Scott Walker, who ran against Trump in 2016 but abandoned his bid after concluding "the Trump train had left the station."

Pence, for the moment, is pressing forward. He held a Newsmax town hall in Iowa and fundraisers in Cleveland. Philadelphia and Dallas.

The super PAC supporting Pence is also continuing its efforts, fundraising

GOP & Dems agree that Afghan war wasn't worth it, poll shows

WASHINGTON, Oct 23, (AP): At a time when Americans are deeply divided along party lines, a new poll shows considerable agreement on at least one issue: The United

States' two-decade-long war in Afghanistan was not worth fighting.

The poll from the Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research comes two years after the US pulled out of Afghanistan in August 2021 and the Taliban returned to power. The war was started to go after the terrorist attacks and the Taliban who allowed them to use Afghan territory. It ended in frantic scenes of Afghans and Americans desperately trying to get on one of the last flights out of Kabul.
Polls suggest the withdrawal,

seen by many as chaotic and illplanned, may have been a turning point for President Joe Biden's approval ratings, which started a downward slide around that time and have not recovered since.

Two-thirds of Americans say the war in Afghanistan was not

worth fighting; 65% of Democrats and 63% of Republicans agree on that evaluation. Many have doubts about how successful the US was at accomplishing more specific goals such as eliminating the threat from extremists or improving opportunities for women.

"It was unwinnable from the beginning," said Martin Stefen, a 78-year-old Republican who lives in Carson City, Nevada. He said the US should have paid closer attention to what happened to the Soviet Union, which waged a decadelong war in Afghanistan during the only to pull out in 1989. And, he said, the US should have had a more specific end goal for how it wanted the war in Afghanistan to go and a better understanding of the country's tribal politics.

That thought was echoed by Justin Campbell, a 28-year-old Democrat from Brookhaven, Mississippi, He said it was clear after the US was entrenched in Afghanistan that it didn't have very deep support. Campbell said he's not pleased that the Taliban is back in control.

"But I don't think it was worth us staying over there," he said.

and conducting extensive voter outreach, including knocking on nearly 600,000 doors and counting.

The campaign is also working aggressively to reach the 70,000-donor threshold needed to qualify for next month's debate and expressed confidence they could get there if they try - even as others remain skeptical he can make it.

"I know it's an uphill climb for a lot of reasons for us, some that I understand, some that I don't," Pence acknowledged as he spoke to reporters in New Hampshire last week after formally registering for the state's firstin-the-nation primary.

Still, some in Pence's orbit believe he has important contributions left to make in the primary, particularly after the Hamas attack on Israel pushed foreign policy to the forefront. Pence has argued he is the most qualified candidate to deal with issues abroad, saying in the August debate that "now is not the time for on-the-job training."

Pence, they say, feels a renewed sense of purpose given his warnings throughout the campaign against the growing tide of isolationism in the Republican Party. Pence has used the conflict to decry "voices of appeasement," which he argues embolden groups like Hamas.

Another person cautioned that Pence, a devout Evangelical Christian who sees the campaign as a calling, may respond differently than other candidates might in his position if he feels called to stay in the race.

and Stowe, officials said.

Vermont State Police said investigators are concerned about the well being of the

Search continues for killer: A manhunt for a suspect in the fatal shooting of a Maryland judge continued for a fourth day Sunday as authorities completed their search of an area where the suspect's SUV

was found. Officials said Pedro Argote, 49, is suspected of gunning down Circuit Court Judge Andrew Wilkinson in his driveway on Thursday, hours after Wilkinson ruled

against him in a divorce case.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office said Saturday that the silver Mercedes SUV that Argote was believed to be driving was found in a wooded area in Williamsport, about eight miles (13 kilometers) southwest of Hagerstown, where the judge was shot. On Sunday, the sheriff's office said in a Facebook post that authorities have concluded their search of the Williamsport area.

"No further information indicates that Argote is still in the immediate area," the sheriff's office said. It urged anyone with information on Argote's whereabouts to contact authorities.
Wilkinson, 52, was shot the same day

he awarded custody of Argote's children to his wife. Washington County Sheriff Brian Albert said it was a "targeted attack." (AP)

while traveling through several communities. Efforts to find them included a weekend search with dogs Jahim Solomon of Pittsfield and Eric White

of Chicopee were reported missing on Oct 15 after falling out of touch with their families for several days, state police said. They'd previously been in Burlington, Lowell, Morrisville



Jakob Ellemann-Jensen, Danish Minister of Economy and chairman of Denmark's Liberal Party, (left), speaks during a press conference in Copenhagen on Oct 23. Ellemann-Jensen announced Monday he was leaving politics and stepping down as head of the center-right Liberal Party to spend more time with his family. On the right is Troels Lund Poulsen who will take over as new Minister of Economy. (AP)

Lat/Am

Presidential runoff

Argentine min beats Milei in 'first round'

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Oct 23, (AP): Economy Minister Sergio Massa produced a big surprise by finishing first in the opening round of Argentina's presidential election, reflecting voters' wariness about handing the presidency to his chief rival, a right-wing populist who upended national politics and pledged to drastically diminish the state.

Massa's victory over Javier Milei, a chainsawwielding economist and freshman lawmaker, came despite the fact that on his watch inflation has surged into triple digits, eating away at the purchasing power of salaries and boosting poverty. Still, he wasn't punished in Sunday's voting.

With nearly all ballots counted early Monday, Massa had 36.7% of the vote and Milei had 30%, meaning



the two will go to a Nov. 19 runoff. Most pre-election polls, which have been notoriously unreliable, had given Milei a slight lead over Massa. Former Security Minister Patricia Bullrich, of the main center-right opposition coalition, got 23.8% to finish third in the field of five candidates.

Massa has been a leading figure in the center-left administration in power since 2019. He successfully focused mes-

saging on the way Milei's proposals to slash the size of the state - from halving the number of government ministries to deep spending cuts - would affect everyday life for Argentines, said Mariel Fornoni of the political consulting firm Management & Fit.

That "had a significant impact and evidently instilled more fear than anything else," Fornoni said.

Andrei Roman, CEO of Brazil-based pollster Atlas Intel, whose latest survey had been one of the few putting Massa ahead, said one key to the result was a lower abstention rate than in the primary elections held in August. Around 78% of the electorate voted Sunday, some eight points higher than in the primaries that Milei won.

Support

Milei, a self-described anarcho-capitalist who admires former U.S. President Donald Trump, built a groundswell of support while calling for elimination of the Central Bank, replacement of the local currency with the US dollar, and a purge of the corrupt estab-lishment that he called the "political caste."

His radical proposals and fiery, profanity-laden

rhetoric caused some Argentines to vote for Massa, even if less than enthusiastically. Cristian Ariel Jacobsen, a 38-year-old photographer, said he voted for Massa to prevent Milei's "project that puts democracy

A sense of apprehension was evident on the streets of Argentina in the days before the election. People with any disposable income snapped up goods in anticipation of a possible currency devaluation, recalling that the government devalued the peso by nearly 20% the day after the August primaries. Argentines also bought dollars and removed hard currency deposits from banks as the peso accelerated its already steady depreciation.

Massa's campaign this year follows another eight years ago, when he finished a disappointing third place and was knocked out of the running. This time he will have his shot in the runoff. That contest will determine whether Argentina will continue with a center-left administration or veer sharply to the right.

Massa, 51, finished first in Sunday's vote despite inflation surging to 140% on his watch and the currency tanking. He told voters that he inherited an alreadybad situation exacerbated by a devastating drought that decimated exports, and reassured them that the worst was past.

Backing

He focused much of his firepower in the campaign's final days on warning voters against backing Milei, painting him as a dangerous upstart. He argued that Milei's plans could have devastating effects on social welfare programs, education and health care. The health, education and social development ministries are among those Milei wants to extinguish.

Although the numbers were not yet final, the next Congress will be sharply divided, with the ruling coalition

maintaining the most seats in the lower house and Senate. Right-wing support was split between Milei and two other candidates, whereas Massa had already consolidated nearly all support from the left, Atlas Intel's

Massa sent a signal Sunday night that he would seek to appeal to members of other parties for the runoff. "I'm going to call for a government of national unity - a government of national unity built on the foun-

dation of summoning the best individuals, regardless of their political affiliation," he said. He also could find common ground with other longserving public servants, many of whom have bristled

at Milei's candidacy and the threats it posed. Milei, who turned 53 on election day, had characterized his two main opponents as part of the entrenched and corrupt establishment that brought South America's second-largest economy to its knees, but on Monday morning he made a direct appeal to Bullrich's

Also:

CARACAS, Venezuela: Early returns in the Venezuelan opposition's presidential primary gave a big lead to former legislator Maria Corina Machado early Monday, and she quickly claimed victory as the voters' choice to lead the campaign to end the decadelong, crisis-ridden presidency of Nicolás Maduro.

The independent National Primary Commission, which organized the primary, did not release any results until long after polling stations closed Sunday, blaming internet censorship.

The organizers said that in the first 601,110 ballots counted, about 93% picked Machado, who had entered the vote as a strong front-runner. The rest of the votes were scattered among the other nine candidates. There was no indication of how many people cast ballots in all, and organizers were expected to release additional results throughout Monday.

"Today, very powerful forces have been unleashed," Machado told supporters gathered outside her campaign headquarters in the capital, Caracas. "Today, we have shown ourselves what we are capable of doing in the face of all the obstacles, in the face of all the abuses.'

Holding Venezuela's first presidential primary since 2012 required the deeply fractured opposition to work together. Venezuelans, in turn, showed up at voting centers in and outside of their homeland to make it count, enthusiastically lining up for hours despite scorching sun and torrential rain.



In this handout photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Communications Office, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., (center right), listens during an emergency meeting with the defense secretary and other top military and security officials to discuss the latest hostilities in the disputed South China Sea at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila, Philippines on Oct 23. (AP)



Sergio Massa, Economy Minister and presidential candidate for the ruling party, speaks to supporters at his campaign headquarters after general elections in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Oct 22. Massa held the lead in early results and is poised to face off Javier Milei in a second round Nov 19. (AP)



Asia

Newsom traveling to China: California Gov Gavin Newsom will try to reinforce his state's role as a global leader on climate change as he begins a weeklong visit to China on Monday, a trip that presents both political risk and opportunity for crucial international collaboration.

Newsom's tour begins with a discussion in Hong Kong before he continues on to Beijing, Shanghai and the provinces of Guangdong and Jiangsu. He'll visit the first Chinese city to deploy an all-electric bus fleet, tour an offshore wind facility and see a wetlands preserve. He'll sign agreements with leaders of Chinese provinces to set mutual commitments on a host of climate goals. California has already signed dozens of such agreements with subnational governments.

Newsom's agenda also includes conversations on "strengthening cultural ties and combating xenophobia," and he will visit a school with his wife, Jennifer Siebel Newsom.

His trip to China follows a brief visit to



Top court rejects petition: Indonesia's top court rejected an effort to block presidential candidates who are over 70 or implicated in human rights abuses, clearing the legal path for a septuagenarian former general's ultra-nationalist campaign.

Lawyers belonging to a human rights advocacy group and other petitioners argued that the constitution required stricter limits than those written in the country's 2017 General Election Law, which sets no maximum age.

If successful, the petition would have blocked frontrunner Prabowo Subianto, 72, a former special forces general and current defense minister, from competing in the election scheduled for next February.

While the petitioners said they were not targeting a particular candidate, Subianto's candidacy is widely feared by human rights activists, who associate him with torture and disappearances during the final years of the Suharto dictatorship.

Now, Subianto is running as Widodo's successor, naming the president's eldest son as vice-presidential candidate. Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the 36-yearold mayor of Surakarta, is below the statutory minimum age of 40, but will be allowed to run under an exception created by the top court last week that allows current and former regional governors to run at 35. (AP)



Defense

South Korea, US, Japan hold 1st-ever trilateral aerial exercise

US renews warning it will defend Manila

MANILA, Philippines, Oct 23, (AP): The United States renewed a warning Monday that it would defend the Philippines in case of an armed attack under a 1951 treaty, after Chinese ships blocked and collided with two Filipino vessels off a contested shoal in the South China Sea.

Philippine diplomats summoned a Chinese Embassy official in Manila on Monday for a strongly worded protest following Sunday's collisions off Second Thomas Shoal. No injuries were reported but the encounters damaged a Philippine coast guard ship and a wooden-hulled supply boat operated by navy personnel, officials said.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. called an emergency meeting with the defense secretary and other top military and security officials to discuss the latest hostilities in the disputed waters. The Philippines and other neighbors of China have resisted Beijing's sweeping territorial claims over virtually the entire South China Sea, and some, like Manila, have sought U.S. military support as incidents multiply.

Blasted

After the meeting, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro blasted China in a news conference for resorting to "brute force" that he said endangered Filipino crew members and for twisting the facts to conceal its aggression.

The Philippine government views the latest aggression by China as a blatant violation of international law," Teodoro said. "China has no legal right or authority to conduct law enforcement operations in our territorial waters and in our exclusive economic zone.'

Marcos ordered an investigation of the high-sea collisions. Teodoro said. but he refused to disclose what steps the Philippine government would take.

"We are taking these incidents seriously at the highest levels of government," he said, adding that the government called for a news conference to provide accurate facts. "The Chinese government is deliberately obfuscating the truth," the defense chief said.

The Philippines also plans to raise its alarm over the Chinese ships' dangerous maneuvers in talks between

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on a proposed nonaggression pact - a "code of conduct" to prevent a major armed conflict in the South China Sea. Beijing is hosting the three-day negotiations starting Monday, two Philippine officials told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of a lack of authority to publicly discuss details of the talks.

Teodoro said it was "very ironic" that China was hosting the talks that aim to prevent major conflicts at sea when they just committed "a blatant disregard of international law.'

Conflicts

The territorial conflicts involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have long been regarded as a flashpoint in a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China

About five Chinese coast guard ships, eight accompanying vessels and two navy ships formed a blockade on Sunday to prevent two Philippine coast guard ships and two boats from delivering food and other supplies to Filipino forces stationed at Second Thomas Shoal aboard a marooned navy ship, Philippine coast guard Commodore Jay Tarriela said.

During the standoff, one of the Philippine coast guard ships and a supply boat were separately hit by a Chinese coast guard ship and a vessel. Only one of the two Filipino boats managed to deliver supplies to Philippine forces, Tarriela said.

The senior Chinese diplomat who was summoned by Philippine foreign officials repeated China's assertion that the Philippine vessels intruded into Chinese territory.

"China once again urges the Philippines to take seriously China's grave concerns, honor its promise, stop making provocations at sea, stop making dangerous moves, stop groundlessly attacking and slandering China, and to tow away the illegally 'grounded' warship as soon as possible," Zhou Zhiyong was quoted as saying by the

Chinese Embassy in Manila. He was referring to the Sierra Madre, which serves as Manila's territorial outpost at the shoal after being deliberately ran aground in 1999. The Chinese coast guard on Sunday

blamed the Philippine vessels for causing the collisions and said the Filipinos were carrying construction materials to strengthen their outpost at the shoal.

SEOUL, South Korea: The South Korean, US and Japanese militaries conducted their first-ever trilateral aerial exercise on Sunday in response to evolving North Korean nuclear threats,

South Korea's air force said. The training held near the Korean Peninsula was to implement the three countries' earlier agreement to increase defense cooperation and boost their joint response capabilities against North Korean threats, the air force said in a statement.

The drill involved a nuclear-capable B-52 bomber from the United States and fighter jets from South Korea and Japan, the statement said.

South Korea and Japan are both key US allies in Asia, which together host about 80,000 American troops.

The three countries have occ ally held trilateral maritime drills, such as anti-submarine or missile defense exercises, but Sunday's training marked the first time for them to perform a trilateral aerial drill.

In South Korea, expanding military drills with Japan is a sensitive issue, because many still harbor strong resentment against Japan's brutal 1910-45 colonial rule over the Korean Peninsula. But the North's advancing nuclear program has pushed South Korea's conservative president, Yoon Suk Yeol, to move beyond historical disputes with Japan and beef up a trilateral security cooperation with the U.S. and Japan.

In August, Yoon, US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met at Camp David in their countries' first stand-alone trilateral summit and agreed to bolster their defense cooperation to deal with **North Korea**'s nuclear threats. The three leaders decided to hold annual trilateral exercises and put into operation by year's end the sharing of real-time missile warning data on North Korea.

Pilot's extradition postponed: A Sydney court on Monday postponed an extradition hearing for a former US military pilot accused of illegally training Chinese aviators until May as his lawyers attempt to further build their case.

Boston-born Dan Duggan, 55, was scheduled to fight his extradition to the United States at a Nov. 23 hearing in the downtown Downing Center Local Court.

But a magistrate decided to use that date to rule on what additional information that the Australian defense department and se-

curity agencies should provide defense law-

US lawyer Trent Glover told the court the United States was ready to proceed with the extradition, but had agreed with defense lawyers the hearing should take place after November.

Duggan's lawyer, Dennis Miralis, told reporters outside court that the stakes were high for his client, who faces up to 65 years in prison if convicted. "This is existential, which means that

every right that Dan has under the Australian legal system on the basis that he's presumed innocent ... needs to properly and carefully be considered," Miralis said.

Duggan's wife, Saffrine, has said she asked Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to advocate against the extradition when he meets President Joe Biden in Washington this week. (AP)



'Rejection of Voice shameful': Indigenous campaigners who wanted Australia to create an advisory body representing its most disadvantaged ethnic minority have said its rejection in a constitutional referendum was a "shameful act."

Many proponents of the Indigenous Voice to Parliament maintained a week of silence and flew Aboriginal flags at half-staff across Australia after the Oct. 14 vote deciding against enshrining such a representative committee in the consti-

In an open letter to federal lawmakers, dated Sunday and seen by The Associated Press on Monday, "yes" campaigners said the result was "so appalling and mean-spirited as to be utterly unbelievable."

'The truth is that the majority of Australians have committed a shameful act whether knowingly or not and there is nothing positive to be interpreted from it," the letter said. The letter said it was written by Indig-

enous leaders, community members and organizations but is not signed. Indigenous leader Sean Gordon said on

Monday he was one of the many people who had drafted the letter and had decided against adding their signatures. "It was a statement that could allow In-

digenous people across the country and non-Indigenous people across the country to commit to it and so signing it by individuals or organizations really wasn't the approach that we took," Gordon told Australian Broadcasting Corp. (AP)



Visiting California Gov Gavin Newsom, (right), and President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong Xiang Zhang, (left,) arrive at the fireside chat at the Hong Kong University in Hong Kong on Oct 23. Newsom said on Monday his state will always be a partner on climate issues no matter how the US presidential election next year turns out during his week-long trip to China, in an attempt to reinforce his region's role as a global leader on climate change. (AP)

Women in Science

Continued from Page 2

Arab Times: In your research, you aim to understand the interplay between cancer and the immune system. Can you provide some insights into the specific markers or mechanisms you are investigating to achieve a better understanding of cancer progression and the potential for improved patient survival rates?

Dr. Noha Mousaad Elemam: Certainly, we are focused on unraveling the intricate interplay between cancer and the immune system to gain insights into cancer progression and identify potential avenues for enhancing patient survival rates. Our work primarily revolves around exploring the expression of a particular marker (GPR68) that is expressed in breast cancer and immune cells present in the tumor microenvironment. Understanding the function and signaling pathways of such a marker will provide the knowledge to develop strategies that could initiate an anti-tumor immune response. Besides, our research could aid in identifying reliable biomarkers that can promote early diagnosis and predict patient responses to available therapies as well as being a possible therapeutic target for breast cancer patients.

Arab Times: Could you share some of the challenges and breakthroughs you've encountered during your scientific journey, particularly during your Ph.D. research on the role of natural killer cells in cancer? How have these

experiences shaped your approach to immuno-oncology research? **Dr. Noha Mousaad Elemam:** Certainly, my scientific journey, especially during my Ph.D. research on the role of natural killer (NK) cells in cancer, has been marked by several challenges and significant breakthroughs. These experiences have profoundly shaped my approach to immuno-oncology research. It is important to highlight that NK cells represent a small subset of our immune cell population but play a crucialrole in the anti-cancer response. Hence, we aimed at harnessing NK cells for cancer immunotherapy; however, more research is still needed to better understand their complex interplay with other cell types in the tumor microenvironment. Such challenges and breakthroughs have profoundly influenced my approach to immuno-oncology research and instilled in me a deep appreciation for the complexity of the immune-tumor interplay.

Arab Times: As a woman in a field that has historically been male-dominated, what strategies have you employed to overcome gender barriers, and how do you hope to inspire and support the next generation of female scientists in the Middle East and beyond?

To overcome gender barriers, I employed several strategies to work towards a more inclusive and diverse scientific community. I have sought out mentors who have provided guidanceand helped me navigate the complexities of academia and research. Now, as an established scientist, I actively mentor and support young female researchers, offering them guidance, encouragement, and networking opportunities. Also, I have worked to build a strong network of colleagues who have a great passion for science and gender equality. Besides, I believe that balancing a demanding research career with personal life is crucial for retaining women in STEM. In addition, I am passionate about educational outreach programs that target young girls and students in the Middle East to promote young women to STEM fields and provide them with role models, eventually inspiring the next generation of female scientists.

Dr. Noha Mousaad Elemam: Collaboration and community engagement appear to be important aspects of your vision. Can you elaborate on your approach to interdisciplinary teamwork and how you plan to share your scientific insights and mentor emerging scientists in your region?

Collaboration and community engagement are indeed fundamental aspects of my vision as a scientist. I actively seek opportunities to collaborate with researchers from diverse backgrounds and disciplines. Such collaborations enrich our research by bringing together different perspectives, skills, and methodologies to tackle complex problems. Also, we actively pursue funding opportunities that support interdisciplinary research initiatives and prioritize the publication of our research findings in reputable journals as well as present our work at conferences. Disseminating knowledge through these channels ensures that our insights reach a broader scientific community. I always try to offer graduate students all the guidance and mentorship they need, to help them navigate the challenges of academia and research. This includes providing advice on academic pathways, grant applications, and networking opportunities. Also, I participate in formal mentorship programs that pair experienced scientists with emerging scientists to provide guidance, support, and career advice.

Nadin Nagy Mahnoud Younes – Qatar

Arab Times: Your research focuses on the development of low-cost lateral flow assays (LFAs) for the rapid detection of Norovirus and Hepatitis E.



Nadin Nagy Mahnoud Younes comparable solutions are currently lacking for highly contagious viruses like

Can you share the motivation behind choosing these particular pathogens for your research, and what impact do you hope these LFAs will have on public health, especially in Qatar and

Nadin Nagy Mahnoud Younes: My research project focuses on the flow assays (LFAs) designed for the early and rapid detection of two significant foodborne pathogens: Norovirus (NoV) and Hepatitis E (HEV). The motivation behind this project

is the pressing need for accessible and affordable diagnostic solutions, particularly during infectious disease outbreaks. While we have seen the pivotal role that rapid antigen tests have played in managing COVID-19,

NoV and HEV Norovirus is a leading cause of acute gastroenteritis, impacting approximately 685 million individuals worldwide each year. A significant proportion of these cases occur in children under the age of five, resulting in an estimated 50,000 child fatalities annually. NoV's highly contagious nature has led to extensive outbreaks worldwide, causing severe cases of gastroenteritis. On the other hand, Hepatitis E is the most common cause of acute liver inflammation globally, with an estimated 20 million infections and 70,000 related deaths annually. Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable, with up to a 30% mortality rate in the third trimester.

This project holds particular significance for Qatar, given its hosting of major international events. Consequently, implementing such technologies in clinical settings and other relevant sites will enhance preparedness for foodborne outbreaks. Moreover, while initially designed for clinical samples, our adaptable test platform opens the door for potential future use in testing food and environmental samples, such as treated wastewater used for irrigation. Additionally, the technology developed in this project holds commercialization potential, benefiting both Qatar and international markets. It also serves as a foundation for detecting other relevant viruses, including emerging coronaviruses like MERS, contributing to global health preparedness.

Arab Times: LFAs offer simplicity and cost-effectiveness in disease detection. Could you elaborate on how these LFAs work and their potential advantages over existing diagnostic methods for Norovirus and Hepatitis E? How do you envision these LFAs being integrated into routine diagnostic protocols?

Nadin Nagy Mahnoud Younes: Lateral Flow Assays (LFAs) comprise a test strip with key components: a sample pad for applying the patient's sample (e.g., blood, urine), a conjugate pad containing labeled molecules like antibodies or antigens, and a nitrocellulose membrane. As the sample flows through the strip, it interacts with these components. When the target pathogen or molecule is present, it binds with the labeled molecules, resulting in a visible line on the membrane, indicating a positive result.

LFAs offer several notable advantages over traditional diagnostic methods such as PCR and ELISA. They are user-friendly, cost-effective, and deliver rapid results, making them particularly invaluable during disease outbreaks. Our primary objective is to develop highly sensitive LFAs for Norovirus and Hepatitis E. These LFAs hold the potential to revolutionize point-of-care diagnostics, particularly in regions with limited healthcare resources. They enable swift detection and containment of these diseases, promising to enhance disease control measures and potentially save lives.

In terms of integration into routine diagnostic protocols, LFAs can serve as a first-line screening tool. Given that LFAs are cheap, rapid and easy to perform, healthcare professionals can quickly assess whether a patient is positive for Norovirus or Hepatitis E, allowing for immediate precautionary measures.

Arab Times: Qatar hosts major events, and the timely detection of infectious agents is crucial. How do you see your research contributing to public health preparedness and outbreak response, particularly during large gatherings and events? Nadin Nagy Mahnoud Younes: My research significantly enhances public health preparedness and outbreak response during major gatherings and events hosted in Qatar. Through the development of low-cost lateral flow assays (LFAs) for Norovirus and Hepatitis E, we provide a vital tool for rapid on-site pathogen detection. This capability is particularly crucial in crowded event settings where infectious agents can easily spread.

Our proactive approach reduces the risk of large-scale outbreaks, ensuring the safety of event attendees. Furthermore, it reflects Qatar's strong commitment to public health during international gatherings, thereby promoting the

overall well-being of the nation and its visitors. Arab Times: Collaborative partnerships play a significant role in research. Can you tell us about your plans for forging collaborations and how you intend to diversify the applications of LFAs beyond Norovirus and Hepatitis E detection?

SPECIAL REPORT

Nadin Nagy Mahnoud Younes: Certainly, collaborative partnerships are integral to the success of our research. We plan to collaborate with local healthcare authorities, international research institutions, and industry partners to ensure the widespread adoption of our LFAs. By leveraging these partnerships, we aim to diversify LFA applications, potentially extending their use for detecting other infectious agents, such as emerging coronaviruses or other foodborne pathogens. Our goal is to create a versatile platform that can rapidly respond to evolving public health needs, ultimately contributing to global health preparedness and safety.

Arab Times: As a woman in STEM, what advice or message would you like to convey to aspiring female scientists, both in Qatar and globally, who are looking to pursue careers in research and make meaningful contributions to public health and diagnostics?

Nadin Nagy Mahnoud Younes: As a woman in STEM, my advice to aspiring female scientists, both in Qatar and across the globe, is to embrace your assion and curiosity for science and research with unwavering dedication. Don't allow stereotypes or gender norms to limit your potential. In the realm of science, there are no boundaries, and your unique perspectives and ideas are incredibly valuable.

Surround yourself with a supportive community that ignites your passion for science. Recognize that diversity of thought and perspective drives innovation and problem-solving. Your distinct insights and relentless commitment can lead to groundbreaking discoveries that benefit society.

Lila Ali Aldakheel – KSA

Arab Times: Your research focuses on identifying microorganisms in mangrove soils that can break down plastic. What inspired you to pursue this specific area of research, and how do you envision your work contributing

to more effective plastic waste mangement, especially in regions like the Middle East?

Lila Ali Aldakheel: Worldwide plastic production reached an astonishing 390.7 million tons in 2021, with more than 250,000 tons being discharged into the oceans. The global problem of microplastic pollution has received substantial recognition from the scientific community, underscoring the seriousness of this matter. Nevertheless, there is a noticeable deficiency in research concerning the examination of microplastic pollution in Middle Eastern oceans and mangrove soil, as well as its repercussions on the environment and human well-being. It is crucial that additional inquiries are conducted in this specific region to gain a more compre-



Lila Ali Aldakheel

hensive comprehension of the scale of this problem. Through this research, we aim to identify suitable microbial consortia and establish a framework for potentially engineering the microbial community and its metabolic activity to enhance the degradation process in the future. Thus, providing sustainable solution for plastic pollution here in the Middle East and worldwide.

Arab Times: With the global production of plastic continuing to rise, plastic pollution is a pressing issue. Can you elaborate on the methodologies and techniques you use to study the diversity, abundance, and microplastic-degrading enzymes in microbial communities? What potential breakthroughs or discoveries have you made in this field?

Lila Ali Aldakheel: Micro-plastics have a low degradation rate, leading to their persistence in the ecosystem for extended periods. Currently, there is a significant knowledge gap and growing interest in finding sustainable alternatives tocombat marine plastic pollution. Fortunately, certain groups of microorganisms present in the environment have the potential for biodegrading plastics. However, the process of microbial degradation of synthetic polymers s not universally well-understood. In my project, we employed metagenomics, static microcosms, and marine microbial enrichment cultures to investigate the mechanisms underlying the microbial degradation of microplastics and discover bacterial enzymes that are involve in degrading the microplastics more efficiently. This discovery, will provide a sustainable method to biodegrade plastics using nature resources.

Arab Times: You mentioned your childhood experience living in the Middle East, where mangroves hold cultural significance. How does your personal connection to the environment shape your research goals, and how do you engage with the local community to address plastic pollution and environmental preservation?

Lila Ali Aldakheel: "That's correct, mangrove forests hold significant cultural importance in Saudi Arabia, and my appreciation for their value has grown even more profound since learning about the ecosystem benefits they offer. These include the capacity to combat climate change by absorbing CO2 from the atmosphere, acting as a natural barrier against coastal erosion, and providing various other vital services. Consequently, it becomes imperative to safeguard these mangrove ecosystems from the pollution caused by microon the environment as a whole and mangroves in particular. To combat this pollution effectively, it is crucial to educate local communities about the issue and encourage them to reduce plastic usage, thereby contributing to environmental preservation.

Arab Times: Your journey into science was influenced by your diagnosis with sickle cell anemia. Could you share how this personal experience motivated you to pursue a career in molecular biology and eventually led you to your current research focus on plastic degradation?

Lila Ali Aldakheel: Curiosity is a defining trait of scientists, and I am certainly no different in this regard. In my early educational journey, I was inquisitive about genetic diseases and the factors contributing to individuals being born with them. This curiosity led me to pursue a path of study in medical and molecular biology. During my master's program, I had the opportunity to delve into advanced microbiology, with a particular focus on environmental microbiology. I was truly amazed to witness how these tiny organisms, including bacteria and fungi, play a pivotal role in providing essential ecological services. This experience left a lasting impression on me, prompting a shift in my academic interests toward the field of environmental microbiology.

Arab Times: As a teacher at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) Virtual Academy, you are actively involved in educating high school students. How do you see your role as an educator and researcher intersecting, and what message do you hope to convey to the next generation, especially regarding women's participation in STEM fields?

Lila Ali Aldakheel: Teaching has been an incredibly fulfilling experience for me. I firmly believe that as scientists, it's our responsibility to impart knowledge to the younger generation and ignite their passion for science. One of the most gratifying aspects of teaching is witnessing how students can rapidly expand their knowledge and leverage it to benefit their communities. I especially want to encourage young women to pursue their passions, have faith in their abilities, and, above all, never give up on their dreams. Science is an ever-evolving field, with endless possibilities for making a positive impact. I urge everyone not to hesitate and seize the opportunity to harness the power of science for the betterment of society.

Sara Ishaq Alkhoori – UAE

Arab Times: Your research focuses on optimizing catalysts for the hydrodeoxygenation (HDO) reaction to produce eco-friendly biofuels. What inspired you to delve into this field, and how do you see your work contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions and combating climate change on a global scale?



Sara Ishaq Alkhoori

Sara Ishaq Alkhoori: On a global scale, the environmental and economic threats have triggered the ongoing "low-carbon revolution," which reshapes the global energy market by lowering the significance of fossil fuels and boosting the reliance on renewable energy sources including biomass. The United Arab Emirates immense dependence on petroleum for fueling the transportation sector threatens the energy security in the long-term. All the compelling concerns drive a national effort to diversify clean energy resources, aiming to increase their contribution from 25 to 50% by 2050. My research which involves producing and using biofuels

from a renewable source like palm oil will create safe and clean transportation fuel options that can alleviate negative effects on the climate, which aligns perfectly with the UAE Year of Sustainability and COP28's global climate goals.

Arab Times: Can you explain the significance of the hydrodeoxygenation process in upgrading palm oil into renewable fuels like green gasoline, aviation fuel, and diesel? What are the key challenges in developing effective catalysts for this process, and how have you approached solving them? Sara Ishaq Alkhoori: Renewable fuels are relatively unsuitable to directly

replace fossil fuel due to the high presence of water and oxygen contents in its compounds. During the hydrodeoxygenation reaction, oxygen is removed

from the palm oil compounds in the presence of a catalyst to form hydrocarbon fuels that have physicochemical properties similar to that of fossil fuels. One of the challenges in hydrodeoxygenation process is the catalyst deactivation due to carbon formation as a result of high acidity of the catalyst used. Therefore, my design criteria is to tune the acidity of the catalyst by incorporating basic metals such as Magnesium and Calcium to minimize carbon formation, and hence improve the hydrodeoxygenation reaction to produce higher product yield (i.e., biofuels).

Arab Times: Your research aligns with the UAE's energy security goals and global environmental commitments. How do you envision your work impacting the national and international efforts towards sustainability, and what role do

you see biofuels playing in the transition to sustainable energy systems?

Sara Ishaq Alkhoori: My research aligns with the UAE's energy security and global environmental commitments, offering substantial national and international benefits. At a national level, my work can bolster the UAE's energy security by promoting domestic biofuel production, stimulating economic growth, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and enhancing resource efficiency. Internationally, my research contributes to mitigating climate change by advancing sustainable biofuel technologies, aligning with the UAE's climate commitments. Additionally, knowledge sharing and collaboration can accelerate the global adoption of sustainable biofuels, fostering diplomatic influence for the UAE. In this transition to sustainable energy systems, biofuels serve as a pivotal component, reducing emissions and diversifying energy sources, thus playing a critical role in achieving both national and international sustainability objectives.

Arab Times: Collaborations and real-world applications are essential for translating research into practical solutions. Could you share your plans for future collaborations and how you intend to optimize the HDO reaction, evaluate yield, and assess the environmental impact of your biofuel production methods?

Sara Ishaq Alkhoori: In this regard, I have been accepted as a visiting researcher in Prof. Dr. Jeroen Anton van Bokhoven research group in Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich, Switzerland (ETH Zürich, world's top 7th university based on QS rankings 2024). He is one of the leading scientists in the field of catalysis and biofuel production. During this internship, which will start mid-October, my plan is to work on catalyst design optimization and advanced characterization using state-of-art techniques that are not available in the UAE. My ultimate goal is to make a lasting impact on society by advancing the frontiers of knowledge and driving positive change through scientific endeavors. This can be done through pursuing my scientific research meanwhile gaining industry experience to leverage my scientific expertise and make a meaningful impact in a practical setting. I also aspire to collaborate with like-minded scientists, industry professionals, and policymakers to implement sustainable solutions on a larger scale. In the future, I see myself as a respected leader and expert in my field with a leading voice, driving positive change and inspiring others to join the cause.

Arab Times: As a woman in the STEM fields, what advice or encouragement would you offer to aspiring female scientists, particularly in the Middle East, who are looking to pursue careers in environmental science and sustainability?

Sara Ishaq Alkhoori: I think many women in the Middle East are pursuing careers in science and making remarkable contributions to various scientific fields. To all the aspiring women scientists in the Middle East, my message to them: Embrace your passion, believe in your abilities, and never let anyone or anything hold you back. Your unique perspectives and talents are invaluable to the scientific community. Keep pushing boundaries, breaking stereotypes, and inspiring future generations of women in science. We have the power to

Laurent Duffier, Managing Director of L'Oréal Middle East

Arab Times: The L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science initiative in the Middle East has been recognizing and honoring female scientists for their ground-breaking research in the GCC region. Can you share with us the inspiration behind this initiative and its broader objectives in promoting women in science?

Laurent Duffier: Our inspiration for launching the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Middle East Regional Young Talents program primarily stemmed from the glaring absence of visibility and the insufficient representation women in science had all over the world. We realized that to change the narrative, we needed to foster the exceptional Arab women scientists who were pushing boundaries and innovating.

As such, this longstanding program has been propelling them forward, bolstering their research, and ensuring their work garners the recognition it deserves. Through this initiative, we're not only spotlighting these talents but also aiming to inspire countless others by emphasizing the incredible talent pool in the Middle East and celebrating their ground-breaking achievements

Arab Times: Each year, six exceptional female scientists are awarded for their outstanding contributions to research. Could you highlight some of the notable achievements or innovations that these scientists have brought to their respective fields and the wider scientific community?

Laurent Duffier: While it's difficult to encapsulate the vast array of accomplishments of these incredible female scientists, they've made significant strides in areas ranging from climate change solutions to advancing medical research. Our winners have been pivotal in addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges. Five of them have even achieved international acclaim through our International Rising Talent program and another four received the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science International Award. It's truly inspiring to witness their determination and the impact they have on the global scientific landscape.

Arab Times: Beyond recognition, how does the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science initiative support and empower the winners in their scientific careers? Are there specific programs or opportunities provided to help them further their research and impact?

Laurent Duffier: Beyond the accolade, our program provides tangible and financial support to materialize their research and drive it forward. Over the last decade, we've invested a total of AED 3.4 million in 51 researchers, to ensure their scientific visions comes to fruition. Beyond funding, our program provides a platform for these scientists to gain visibility, network with their peers, and access further opportunities, cementing their position in the scientific community and beyond.

Arab Times: The GCC region is known for its diverse scientific talent. How has the initiative contributed to raising awareness about the importance of gender diversity in science and encouraging more women to pursue careers in STEM fields in the region?

Laurent Duffier: Our program in the GCC has been pivotal in highlighting not just the talent but the region's outstanding progress in female STEM representation. This shift, while influenced by several factors, is also a testament to the inspiration our program has instilled. At a grassroots level we aim to magnify these successes, to further motivate the next generation of women in the region. We've seen heartening responses, with more young women considering and entering STEM fields, backed by the knowledge that there's a community and initiative that celebrates and supports their journey. This, in turn, fortifies the GCC's stance as a leading region in championing women in science, setting a notable standard for the rest of the world.

Arab Times: Lastly, as the Managing Director of L'Oréal Middle East, what role do you see the private sector playing in advancing gender equality and diversity in the sciences, and how does L'Oréal Middle East envision its ongoing commitment to this cause?

Laurent Duffier: The private sector holds immense potential and responsibility in shaping the narrative around gender equality and diversity, especially in fields traditionally dominated by one gender, like the sciences. Companies play a pivotal role, and it's crucial they exemplify this commitment within their own ranks first. I am proud to say that 69% of the 4,000 scientists driving L'Oréal Group's Research and Innovation are women. Corporations can create platforms, fund initiatives, and most importantly, change internal cultures to be more inclusive, fostering an environment where talents from all backgrounds can flourish. At L'Oréal Middle East, we firmly believe in the power of diverse minds to drive innovation. Our longstanding commitment with programs like the L'Oréal-UN-ESCO For Women in Science is a testament to this belief. But beyond programs and accolades, we've investing in fostering a culture that recognizes, celebrates, and nurtures diverse talent. We envision a future where gender equality in sciences isn't an aspiration but a norm, and we're determined to lead by example, hoping that our efforts catalyze broader industry-wide change



Laurent Duffier

The EU Council of Ministers Monday adopted a regulation apparently to help the EU and its member states protect themselves from economic coercion by non-

EU countries. The new legislation, known as the Anti-Coercion Instrument, is meant to serve as a deterrent for third countries targeting the EU or its member states, said the Council in a statement. The aim is to use this legislation to de-escalate and

induce the discontinuation of coer-

ment through dialogue. When this is not possible, and as a last resort, the EU will be able to adopt countermeasures such as the imposition of trade restrictions, in the form of, for example, increased customs duties, import or export licences, restrictions on trade in services or access to foreign direct investment or public

"The new legislation will make the EU a stronger and more sovereign trading power, better equipped to deter and when necessary counter third countries' coercive trade measures against the EU and its member states," said Hector Gomez Hernandez, Spanish acting minister for industry, trade and tourism, whose country holds the current EU Presidency.

Riyadh hosts supply chains and logistic conference

rent exhibition, and a range of

The Supply Chains and Logistic Services Conference kicked off in Riyadh on Sunday with the participation of 64 international speakers. Saudi Minister of Transportation and Logistics Services Saleh Al-Jassar inaguarated the conference where 52 agreements to boost sup-ply chains and logistic services were signed. The conference encompasses essential keynote presentations, a concur-

specialized workshops.
Additionally, it features a dedicated section for financing solutions and supply chain matters, along with various complementary events and activities. The conference boasts around eight distinct workshops, at-tracting approximately 770 par-ticipants taking part in the "Log-ithi" event, organized into 70

teams. Among its focal points,

the conference delves into the critical themes of adaptability and sustainability within supply chains, crucial for the transition to a circular economy. Moreover, it addresses the evolution of specialized supply chains within the Kingdom, while also examining the influence of global supply chains in en-hancing distribution operations, among other pertinent subjects.

Market Movements 23-10-2023

PAKISTAN

- KSE 100

+398.21 51,072.73 +444.00 22,572.49

- Nikkei **EUROPE** - Euro Stoxx 50 - FTSE 100 Tadawul PHILIPPINES - PSEi

EU adopts Anti-Coercion Instrument

Change Closing pts -259.81 30,999.55 4.008.58 -16.10 7,351.14 -21.66 3,729.91 10.341.80 -154.36

Business

stc's revenue surges to KD 259.8mn with 4.2% increase

Company achieves steady growth with KD 24.4mn net profit in first 9 months of 2023

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers and enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced its financial results for the nine months period ended 30 September 2023, highlighting the most significant achievements, financial and operational performance in addition to the social initiatives made by the company during the first nine months of 2023.

In this regard, Eng. Maziad Alharbi, stc's Chief Executive Officer, has stated that: "Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc) continues to reap its achievements of implementing its corporate strategy and the strategic expansion of its operations throughout the past years. Whereby, stc achieved robust financial and operational results during the first nine months of 2023 demonstrating the Company's commitment to enhance its internal capabilities and expanding its operations to deliver unique services in terms of design and efficiency besides driving the digital transformation process. In this regard, stc leverages its wellestablished sophisticated network to provide a wide range of services that meet the different needs of the individual and enterprise sectors. Not to



Maziad Alharbi, stc's Chief **Executive Officer**

mention the in-depth expertise of its subsidiaries specializing in delivering fixed communication and ICT services, to provide high-quality, innovative, and comprehensive solutions to the enterprise sector.

Driven by stc's unwavering dedication to expand, innovate and provide services devoted to enhance the customer experience, stc has successfully retained its competitive position in the ICT market in Kuwait through implementing its future corporate strategy. Accordingly, stc is keen to constantly update its corporate strategy in line with the latest developments in the sector in order to enable the Company to capture all the available opportunities in the ICT market in Kuwaiti.

stc is always keen on enhancing its digital services to improve and upgrade its integrated services that enables the Company to maintain its market share

by enhancing its services and providing its customers with an unparalleled experience through strengthening its digital channels as well as leveraging its solid infrastructure to reach a new level of exceptional speeds and better coverage in line with the intense competition in the ICT sector in the State of Kuwait."

Commenting on the announcement of company's financial results for the nine months period ended September 30, 2023, Eng. Maziad Alharbi added:"stc has achieved strong financial results by leveraging its technical and human capabilities in accordance with the aspirations and expectations of both its customers and shareholders. Whereby, stc's total revenue reached KD 259.8mn in the first nine months of 2023 with a growth rate of 4.2% compared to the KWD 249.4 mn in the same period the previous year. This growth is attributed to the expansion of the Company's operations through its focus on providing digital services to the enterprise sector as well as offering integrated technical solutions to companies across various sectors. It is worth noting that in addition to stc's focus on driving its operations towards new areas of sustainable growth through a series of innovative initiatives aimed at optimizing operations and delivering high-quality services and products that cater to the needs of its customers' requirements, the Company has successfully enhanced its operations through its well-developed evolving infrastructure.'

Alharbi added: "These outcomes resulted in a growth of EBITDA by 3.9% to reach KD 63 million in the first nine months of 2023 compared to KD 60.6 million in the same period of 2022 supported by the increase in the Company's revenue. As a result, the company's net profit during the nine months period ended 30 September 2023 reached KD 24.4 million with a growth of 0.5% compared to KD24.3million during the same period in 2022. stc's customer base reached approx. 2.4 million customers

at the end of September2023".

Commenting on stc's financial position as of September 30, 2023, Alharbi said: "stc's total assets reached KD 432.0mn by the end of September 2023, while the total shareholders' equity increased by 2% reaching KD 235.9mn by the end of September 2023 compared to KD 231.6 mn during the same period in 2022. Whereby, stc has a strong solvency position amongst its peers in the Middle East."

Alharbi Noted: "stc is committed to continuously review and update its financial and operational strategies with the aim of enhancing the Company's capabilities with exceptional effectiveness. By keeping abreast of the latest developments in the telecom industry stc is determined to channel its resources into delivering a comprehensive range of services including voice, digital and data solutions to enhance profitability, achieve the desired financial and operational outcomes and ensure its sustained cash flow.

Regarding stc's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Alharbi stated: "The Company has continued to enhance its comprehensive and sustainable CSR activities through launching numerous community-based campaigns and initiatives that added value to the local community, while spreading a positive and lasting impact.stc's CSR program primarily focused on activities and initiatives that empower the youth in collaboration with governmental entities, non-profit organizations, and institu-

tions within the private sector. The activities were carried out under



stc Headquarters

Revenues	KD 259.8mn
EBITDA	KD 63.0mn
Net Profit	KD 24.4mn
Earnings per share	24Kuwaiti fils
Assets	KD432.0mn
Shareholders' equity	KD 235.9mn
Book value per share	236fils per share
Customer base	2.4mn customers

the umbrella of the "Weyak" initiative, which was designed to support small and medium-sized Kuwaiti companies, start-ups, as well as the "upgrade" edu-

cational initiative. In Terms of sustainability, Alharbi emphasized stc's role in enhancing its sustainability standards, while maintaining its ongoing efforts to integrate

sustainable practices into the Company's corporate strategy. As part of its comprehensive CSR framework, stc will continue to form collaborative partnerships with both the public and private sectors, enhance communication with the local community, and increase public awareness of the concept of so-cial responsibility."

Local banks tread cautiously

Kuwait's financing for securities sees sharp 29.9% drop over eight months

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: The consolidated new financing from local banks for the purchase of securities decreased by 29.9 percent over eight months, amounting to approximately 307.7 million dinars. This is a significant drop from 1.027 billion dinars in the first eight months of 2022 to 720.1 million in the same period of 2023. According to the Central Bank of Kuwait's monthly statistics from August, financing directed toward purchasing securities (including stocks, bonds, and sukuks) dropped by 2.5 percent on a monthly basis, totaling 85.3 million dinars in August. However, this represented a 47.3 percent increase on an annual basis from 57.9 million dinars at the end of August 2022.

This decline in securities financing corresponds to a reduction in new credit facilities, consolidated over eight months, by approximately 93.1 million dinars or 0.6 percent, going from 15.76 billion dinars in the first eight months of 2022 to 15.669 billion in the same period of 2023.

In contrast, the total new credit facilities for all sectors increased by 3.2 percent on a monthly basis in August, rising by around 63.6 million dinars, from 1.948 billion dinars in July to 2.012 billion dinars in August. This represented an increase compared to 1.354 billion dinars at the end of August 2022.

Accumulated Financing:

The accumulated balance of securities financing with local banks increased by 1 percent on a monthly basis, reaching 3.238 billion dinars in August, up from 3.204 billion dinars in July. However, this balance saw a 1.6 percent decline of 53.2 million dinars since the beginning of 2023, having been 3.291 billion dinars at the end of December 2022. Nevertheless, it rose by 3.9 percent and 122.6 million dinars on an annual basis from 3.11 billion dinars at the end of August

The balance of financing for the purchase of securities is divided into two categories. The first involves financing for companies and institutions, which decreased by 0.2 percent, or approximately 4.1 million dinars, from 2.054 billion dinars at the end of July to 2.05 billion dinars in August. However, it increased by 3.9 percent from the beginning of the year, or about 77.1 million

Prospect of greater cooperation

China. GCC to deepen ties in trade and investment, digital economy

TOKYO, Oct 23, (KUNA): China and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on Sunday agreed to deepen exchange and cooperation in areas including trade and investment, the digital economy, sustainable development and infrastructure, Chinese state media reported, citing the ministry of commerce.

The agreement came at an economic and trade ministerial meeting held in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, the Global Times reported, saying it was a concrete action to implement the economic and trade achievements of the first China-Arab States Summit and the China-GCC Summit, as well as to promote the deepening of China-GCC economic and trade cooperation under the Chinaproposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the report said.

Consensus

During the meeting, the two sides reached a broad consensus on topics such as jointly safeguarding the multilateral trading system, promoting two-way investment, deepening cooperation in the industry chain and supply chain, upgrading the level of connectivity and promoting energy transformation, it said.

Describing the prospect of greater cooperation as "broad," Beijing's Commerce Minister Wang Wenato said that Chinese modernization will bring new opportunities for China-GCC cooperation. The GCC member states are actively promoting industrial diversification, and the prospects for China-GCC economic and trade cooperation are broad.

Wang noted that the two sides will reach an early agreement on a free trade agreement, support and promote World arras Organization (WTO) reform and actively promote the operation of the joint investment commission and support cooperation between sovereign

wealth funds from both sides. China and the GCC will work together to promote industrial synergy and deepen the "oil and gas cooperation model" and encourage enterprises of both sides to carry out investment and cooperation in line with market-oriented principles, Wang said. The two sides will also pragmatically explore opportunities for infrastructure cooperation in areas such as ports, aviation,

communications and pipelines. They agreed to "deepen exchanges and cooperation in trade and investment," the digital economy, sustainable development, infrastructure and other areas based on platforms such as the economic and trade ministerial meeting, so as to continuously cultivate new growth points of economic and trade cooperation between China and the GCC, said the ministry.

dinars, compared to 1.973 billion dinars at the end of December. Additionally, it grew by 6.9 percent and about 133.1 million dinars on an annual basis from 1.917 billion dinars in August 2022. As for the second category, financing for individuals decreased by 9.8 percent, or around 130.2 million dinars, going from 1.318 billion dinars in December 2022 to 1.188 billion dinars in August. It also decreased by 3.3 percent on a monthly basis, or about 38 million dinars, having been 1.15 billion dinars in July.

Credit Facilities:

This decrease in the balance of securities financing coincided with a reduction in the total cash credit facilities provided by banks (for all sectors) during the first eight months of 2023 by 0.3 percent, totaling 52.61 billion dinars. This was a slight decline from 52.644 billion dinars at the end of July but marked a 1.264 billion dinars increase on an annual basis from 51.346 billion dinars in August 2022.

Local banks have been cautious in their approach to financing securities, not fully utilizing the regulatory permitted ratios for the purchase of listed shares due to concerns over increasing exposure to stocks, as experienced after the financial crisis, and the potential risks associated with certain financing activities from companies, institutions, and individuals.



The Board of Directors of **Kuwait Telecommunications** Company (stc)

is pleased to announce to its shareholders that the company has achieved a net profit of KD 24.4 million (earnings per share 24 fils) for the nine months period ended 30 September 2023.

Total Revenue 4.2% **KD Million** 9M - 2023 **EBITDA 3.9**%

9M - 2023

9M - 2023 **EPS 0.5%** Kuwaiti fils per share

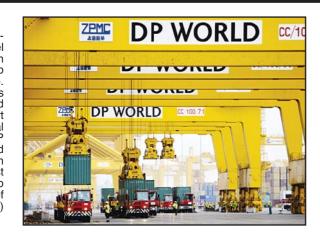
KD Million

30 September 2023

Subscribers

Million

Cranes off load containers at the Jebel Ali Port Terminal 2 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Feb. 8, 2009. Tanzania's government signed a controversial port management deal with Dubai-based DP World that had fueled protests in the African country in the past month's and led to arrests of dozens of critics. (AP)



Tanzania signs port management deal with DP World

Tanzania's government signed a controversial port management deal with Dubai-based DP World that had fueled protests in the African country in the past months and led to

arrests of dozens of critics.

The deal was signed on Sunday in the presence of Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who has recently been accused of cracking down on critics such as her predecessor, the late John Magufuli.

Tanzania Ports Authority Director General Plasduce Mbossa said that DP World, based in the United Arab Emirates, will only operate four berths of the Dar es Salaam Port,

located in the country's financial capital, and not the entire port. Its performance would be reviewed every five years for a total contractual period of 30 years.

The opposition and civil society have protested the government decision to have a foreign logistics company manage Tanzania's ports. The government has said the move would increase port efficiency and grow the country's economy.

The ports agreement was approved by

Tanzania's parliament on June 10, triggering protests in which more than 22 people have been arrested so far, according to Human

Rights Watch.
The international rights group in August urged Tanzania to respect freedom of expression and the right to protest.

Tanzania has made some reforms since the death in 2021 of autocratic President Magufuli, who cracked down on critics and introduced draconian laws.

Hassan, who is serving out Magufuli's term, has been accused of continuing his anti-democratic policies. However, she was lauded in 2022 for lifting a prohibition on four newspapers that had been banned by the former leader. (AP)

Much of the hoped-for revenue drained away by the loopholes

Deal to force multinational companies to pay a 15% minimum tax is marred by loopholes, watchdog says

Japan's prime minister plans an income tax cut for households



Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida delivers his policy speech during an extraordinary session of the Diet at the parliament in Tokyo Monday, Oct. 23,

Kishida also eyes corporate tax breaks

TOKYO, Oct 23, (AP): Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Monday he is preparing to take bold economic measures, including an income tax cut for households hit by inflation and tax breaks for companies to promote investment, in what's seen as a move to lift his dwindling public support.

In his speech to start a new Parliamentary session, Kishida said it was time to shift from an economy of low cost, low wages and cost-cutting to one backed by growth led by sustainable wage hikes and active investment.

"I'm determined to take unprecedentedly bold measures,"

Kishida said, pledging an intensive effort to achieve stronger supply capability in about three years. "I will put more emphasis on the economy than on anything else."

He said he is determined to help people ride out the impact of soaring prices for food, utilities and other costs that have exceeded their salary increases, by implementing income tax cuts. He also pledged to introduce corporate tax incentives to promote wage increases, investment and optimization.

Reluctant

Previously, Kishida had been considered reluctant to cut taxes because his government must find the funds to double Japan's defense budget within five years as planned while also trying to counter the impact of Japan's low birth rate and rapidly declining population.

Kishida's pledge on tax breaks has been criticized by opposition leaders as a vote-buying attempt because the proposals surfaced just before two by-elections held on Sunday that were seen as a litmus test for potential snap elections.

Parliamentary

His Liberal Democratic Party secured a parliamentary seat representing Nagasaki in Sunday's vote but lost in a combined district in Kochi and Tokushima to a candidate backed by the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan.

"The results clearly show that many voters are dissatisfied by the government's delayed economic measures to tackle rising prices," said Jun Azumi, a senior CDPJ lawmaker.

Kishida told reporters that he takes the results seriously and that he will tackle important policies one by one. "Now is the time for me to focus on that, and I'm not thinking about anything else," Kishida said, denying that his tax cut proposal was related to elections.

The tax cuts would be part of a new economic stimulus package he plans to announce by the end

of the month. On the diplomatic front, Kishida in his speech reiterated the need to strengthen Japan's military, given conflicts that are underway elsewhere, such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the war between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas rulers.

Kishida also urged China to immediately lift its ban on Japanese seafood imports imposed in August when the tsunami-wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant started releasing the treated radioactive wastewater into the sea. The government is working to find new markets for the Japanese fishing industry that are less reliant on China, Kishida said.

WASHINGTON, Oct 23, (AP): An ambitious 2021 agreement by more than 140 countries and territories to weed out tax havens and force multinational corporations to pay a minimum tax has been weakened by loopholes and will raise only a fraction of the revenue that was envisioned, a tax watchdog backed by the European Union has

The landmark agreement, brokered by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, set a minimum global corporate tax of 15%. The idea was to stop multinational corporations, among them Apple and Nike, from using accounting and legal maneuvers to shift earnings to low- or no-tax havens.

Those havens are typically places like Bermuda and the Cayman Islands where the companies actually do little or no business. The companies' maneuvers result in lost tax revenue of \$100 billion to \$240 billion a year, the OECD has said.

According to the report, being released Monday by the EU Tax Observatory, the agreement was expected to raise an amount equal to nearly 10% of global corporate tax revenue. Instead, because the plan has been weakened, it says the minimum tax will generate only half that - less than 5% of corporate tax revenue.

Much of the hoped-for revenue has been drained away by loopholes, some of them introduced as the OECD has been refining details of the agreement, which has yet to take effect. The watchdog group estimates that a 15% minimum tax could have raised roughly \$270 billion in 2023. With the loopholes, it says, that figure drops to about \$136 billion.

Over the summer, the OECD agreed to delay for at least a year - until 2026 - a provision that would have let foreign countries impose additional taxes on U.S. multinational companies that failed to pay at least a 15% rate on their overseas earnings.

The EU Tax Observatory noted that even under the rules of the 2021 agreement, companies would maintain some ability to evade taxes. Companies that have tangible businesses - factories, warehouses, stores and offices - operating in a particular country, for example, could continue to pay a tax rate below 15%. That carveout, the EU Tax Observatory warned, could "give firms incentives to move production to countries with tax rates below 15%.

'This risks exacerbating the race-tothe-bottom with corporate income tax

rates," it said. Another loophole lets countries ofducting research and investing in local factories, that can reduce companies' tax rates below the 15% mark and still comply with the 2021 agreement.

The Tax Observatory also expressed concern that the race by governments to grant tax breaks for green technologies to fight climate change "raises some of the same issues as standard tax competition. It depletes government

It also "risks increasing inequality by boosting the after-tax profits of shareholders, who tend to be towards the top of the income distribution," it

The EU Tax Observatory isn't calling for an outright ban on green-technology subsidies. But it is urging governments to consider other policies to offset the financial gains to the wealthy from such tax breaks.

The group said that multinational corporations shifted \$1 trillion - 35% of the profits they earned outside their home countries - to tax havens. American companies account for about 40% of such global profit shifting.

Last week, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the minimum-tax agreement wouldn't be finalized until

"There are some matters that are important to the United States and other countries that remain unresolved open issues that still must be resolved before the treaty can be signed,□ she said after meeting with European finance ministers.

The EU Tax Observatory is run by Gabriel Zucman, a leading economist and tax-and-inequality researcher of the Paris School of Economics and the University of California, Berkeley. Its report is based on the work of more than 100 researchers around the world who often work with government tax agencies. It draws upon new sources of data on multinational corporate finances and offshore wealth held by corporations.

Despite its criticisms of what has happened to the minimum tax, the EU Tax Observatory praised a separate effort to stop the wealthy from dodging taxes. In 2017, tax authorities around the world began exchanging taxpayer information from financial institutions to better enforce tax laws. The results. essentially ending bank secrecy, have been dramatic, the Tax Observatory

Until the "automatic information exchange," was introduced, it said, virtually all wealth that the world's rich held offshore went untaxed. Now, only 25% escapes taxes.

Largely been untested until now

A price 'cap' on Russian oil aims to starve Putin of cash

FRANKFURT, Germany, Oct 23, (AP): For months after Ukraine's Western allies limited sales of Russian oil to \$60 per barrel, the price cap was still largely symbolic. Most of Moscow's crude - its main moneymaker - cost less than that.

But the cap was there in case oil prices rose - and would keep the Kremlin from pocketing extra profits to fund its war in Ukraine. That time has now come, putting the price cap to its most serious test so far and underlining its weaknesses.

Russia's benchmark oil - often exported with Western ships required to obey sanctions - has traded above the price cap since mid-July, pumping hundreds of millions of dollars a day into the Kremlin's war chest.

With Russia's profits rising, the Israel-Hamas war pushing up global oil prices and evidence that some traders and shippers are evading the cap, the first signs of enforcement are appearing 10 months after the price limit was imposed in December.

But sanctions advocates say the crackdown needs to go further to really hurt Russia.

Reducing oil profits "is the one thing that hits Russian macroeconomic stability the most," said Benjamin Hilgenstock, senior economist at the Kyiv School of Economics, which advises the Ukrainian government.

Oil income is the linchpin of Russia's economy, allowing President Vladimir Putin to pour money into the military while avoiding worsening inflation for everyday people and a currency collapse.

Moscow's ability to sell more to the world than it buys means it's weathering sanctions far better than expected. Its economy will grow this year while Germany's shrinks, the International

Monetary Fund estimates. Still, Russia's main source of income is at risk from stepped-up enforcement. The U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned two ship owners last week, while U.K. officials are investigating violations.

Since the invasion began, oil sanctions have cost Russia \$100 billion through August, said an international working group on sanctions at Stanford University. But most of that, economists say, stems from Europe's ban on Russian oil, which cost Moscow its main customer.

"There are serious problems with the (price cap) policy, but it can work," Hilgenstock said. improvements, it can be very effec-

Vessels owned or insured by Western nations "persisted in loading Russian oil at all ports within Russia? in recent weeks as prices rose above the cap, the Helsinki-based Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air said in a report last week. "These occurrences serve as compelling evidence of violations against the price cap policy.

Russia's oil income rose in September to some 200 million euros (\$211 million) a day as global prices increased, the think tank said. Less oil available worldwide - with Saudi Arabia and Russia cutting production - pushed prices for Moscow's key export grade crude to \$74.46 last week, S&P Global Platts said. It's been above \$60 since July 11.

The price cap is meant to limit what Russia can earn without taking its supplies off the market. Doing that threatens a shortage that could drive up fuel costs and inflation in the U.S. and

It relies on a key fact of the shipping industry: many vessel owners, traders and most insurers are based in Europe or the Group of Seven major democracies that imposed the price cap. That puts those companies within reach of sanctions. To comply, shipping companies need to know the price of

Major oil producers seize the initiative as prices surge

Chevron buys Hess for 53 billion dollars

NEW YORK, Oct 23, (AP): Chevron is buying Hess Corp. for \$53 billion and it's not even the biggest acquisition in the energy sector this month as major producers seize the initiative while oil prices surge.

The Chevron-Hess deal comes less than two weeks after Exxon Mobil said that it would acquire Pioneer Natural Resources for about \$60 billion.

Crude prices are up 9% this year and have been hovering around \$90 per barrel for about two months. Energy prices spiked sharply immediately after Russia invaded Ukraine in early

Chevron said Monday that the

jor oil field in Guyana as well as shale properties in the Bakken Formation in North Dakota. Guyana is a South American country of 791,000 people that is poised to become the world's fourth-largest offshore oil producer, placing it ahead of Qatar, the United States, Mexico and Norway. It has become a major producer in recent years with oil giants, including Exxon Mobil, China's CNOOC, and also Hess, squared off in a heated competition for highly lucrative oil fields in northern South America.

acquisition of Hess adds a ma-

Chevron is paying for Hess with stock. Hess shareholders will receive 1.0250 shares of Chevron for each Hess share. Including debt, Chevron valued the deal at \$60 billion.

Chevron said the deal will help to increase the amount of cash given back to shareholders. The company anticipates that in January it will be able to recommend boosting its first-quarter dividend by 8% to \$1.63. This would still need board approval. The company also expects to increase stock buybacks by \$2.5 billion to the top end of its guidance range of \$20 billion per year once the transaction closes.

The deal arrives a month after unions ended disruptive strike actions at Chevron's three liquefied natural gas plants in Australia that provide more than 5% of global LNG supplies.

The boards of both companies have approved the Hess deal, which is targeted to close in the first half of next year. It still needs approval by Hess shareholders. John Hess, the company's CEO, is expected to join Chevron's board. His family owns a large chunk of

Shares of Chevron Corp., based in San, Ramon, California, declined more than 3% before the opening bell Monday. Share of Hess Corp., based in New York City, rose slightly.

This all feels like a rather major development for lifelong Stones fans. For so long, it seems, there's been an unspoken contract between them and the band: You keep touring, and we will come. You'll play the hits, maybe dust off a few surprises to keep it fresh. It's enough, because, duh, you're the Stones! Jagger will keep moving like, well, Jagger, technically age 80. Keith Richards, a mere 79, will stay nimble and brilliant on guitar, along with Ronnie Wood, the baby at 76. And we'll come until you stop - which you won't.

New music? That has not been part of the equation. (How well do vou remember 2005's "A Bigger Bang"?)

But now, on the track "Whole Wide World," when Jagger sings, "And you think the party is over," it feels like the whole album is one big answer: Um, nope!

And maybe, just maybe, we have a hint of possibility of shaking up the arena set list. A key candidate would be the aforementioned, gospel-tinged "Sweet Sounds of Heaven" - Exhibit A of what's fun about the album, starting with the fact that when you're the Stones, you can invite anybody to your party and they'll show. Like Gaga and Stevie Wonder, who joins the track on keyboards ("Play me something, Stevie," you'll hear). But the song also testifies to how vigorous Jagger's voice remains.

Lyrics

Another party guest: Elton John, doing piano duty on two tracks. In one, "Get Close," Jagger croons: "I walk the city at midnight with the past strapped to my back." (Strapped, OK, but not constricting the blood flow.) The lyrics are not always this poetic, but when they are, it's often a dialogue with the past. As when Richards sings in "Tell Me Straight," his poignant lead vocal outing: "Is my future all in the past? Just tell me straight."

In the furious "Bite My Head Off," the band's guest is none other than their old friend Paul McCartney - yeah, the same guy who called them a "blues cover band" recently, amusing and perhaps annoying them. Here he is, just a Beatle on bass. No biggie.

The late, great Charlie Watts, who died in 2021, appears posthumously on two of the 12 tracks. On one, "Live by the Sword," former bandmate Bill Wyman joins on bass, making for an emotionally potent reunion. Steve Jordan, the successor Watts chose, takes the beloved drummer's place on the rest of the album. Most tracks are penned by Jagger and Richards; they're joined on three by pop producer Andrew Watt (known for work with Post Malone and Justin Bieber), who clearly exhibits a golden touch with this whole project.

Is this the last new album? Likely not. But if it were, the final words would be "rolling stone," via a poignant Muddy Waters cover, reminding us of the blues albums Mick was carrying that fateful day he connected with Keith at a train station.

"She said 'I got a boy child coming ... he's gonna be a rolling stone," the last line goes.

You think the party's over? Ha.

Variety



This image released by Apple TV+ shows John le Carré in a scene from 'The Pigeon Tunnel.' (AP)

Film

Errol Morris unmasks the master storyteller

'Pigeon Tunnel,' a le Carré-style thriller

almost as unlikely as "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer," Martin Scorsese took on Taylor Swift in cinemas over the weekend. And while the box office belonged for a second time to "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour," Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" got off to a strong

NEW YORK: In a movie match-up

weekend of \$92.8 million, "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" took in an estimated \$31 million over the weekend from 3,855 locations, according to AMC Theaters. In an unconventional deal, the theater chain is distributing Swift's concert film, and playing it only

the film on opening weekend, when a large percent of sales were driven by advance ticketing. Sales dropped a steep 67% in its second weekend, potentially signifying that "The Eras Tour" was predominantly an opening-weekend

proved to be a movie event unlike any other. Within days, it became the highest grossing concert film ever in North America, not accounting for inflation. It's quickly accumulated \$129.8 million

domestically More was riding on "Killers of the Flower Moon," a historical crime drama about a string of murders against the Osage nation in the early 1920s. The film, which cost at least \$200 million to make, is the largest production yet from Apple Studios. The streamer partnered with Paramount Pictures to release Scorsese's adaptation of David Grann's bestseller in 3,628 theaters, with plans to later stream it on a not-yet-announced date on

Apple TV+. "Killers of the Flower Moon" debuted with \$23 million, marking the third best opening for the 80-year-old Scorsese, following "Shutter Island" (\$41 million in 2010) and "The Departed" (\$26.9 million in 2006). Though Scorsese's latest opus, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Lily Gladstone and Robert De Niro. will have a hard road to reaching profitability, it's a successful launch for a 206-minute-long adult-skewing drama - a type of

LOS ANGELES, Oct 23, (AP): Errol Morris's conversation with the late David Cornwell in "The Pigeon Tunnel" is fascinating even without the filmmaking start in Apple Studios' first major flourishes theatrical gambit. Cornwell, better known by his pen name John le Carré, was the spy-turned-novelist whose tales of es-

After a record-breaking opening Thursdays through Sundays.

Most Swifties rushed to see phenomenon

But "The Eras Tour" has still

pionage and betrayal defined an era, gave literary heft to a genre and inspired numerous adaptations. And here, Morris challenges him to reflect on his unconventional childhood - his con-man father, his mother who left him at 5 never to return - on through his time in the secret services and beyond. You hear how he quite literally began life on the run, how he learned to be a "little spy" from quite a young age, how his father loomed so

large in his imagination and how untrustworthy his own memory even turned out to be. It could have been just a transcript; It would have been a must-read. Cornwell died in 2020 at 89, and this film which will be streaming on Apple TV+ Friday, is said to be his final and "most candid" interview. That might simply

be marketing-hype but, of course, this is not just an

interview. It's an Errol Morris film, right down to the

Philip Glass score. And while the Interrotron and the

reenactments might not be the revolutionary storytell-

ing devices they once were, they're almost comforting

at this point and no less effective at creating a mood and

an emotional experience around a sharp conversation. Morris turns "The Pigeon Tunnel" into a le Carréstyle thriller itself - a probing examination at the man behind George Smiley, the betrayals of his life, both to him and by him, and up through his fascination with spies and double agents. It scarcely matters if you've never read or even heard of "The Spy Who Came in From the Cold." At the heart of "The Pigeon Tunnel" are some wonderful, and chilling, observations about life and the nature of man, and a fascinating story about

a master storyteller. Like any good spy or novelist for that matter, Cornwell is as equally interested in his interviewer - or interrogator. He cheekily uses these words almost interchangeably. The nature of any interview has as much to do with the subject as it does the questioner.

"This is a performance," Cornwell says. "You need to know something about the ambitions of the people

you're talking to.' And to understand Cornwell, or at least poke at some truths about him, you have to look at this father, Ronnie Cornwell. Ronnie was a con man straight out of a novel - charming, contradictory, always on the brink of success, sometimes on the run, occasionally in jail and never second guessing himself. He taught Cornwall the art of the performance and made childhood for him and his brother "terribly exciting," if fraught and false. Later in life, he asked his now wealthy son to repay him for costs spent on his education.

Targets

Once, at a hotel in Monte Carlo as a child, Cornwell remembers fixating on the tunnel that pigeons would fly through to provide ample shooting targets for paying men. They were bred on the roof, sent through the tunnel to either die or go back to the roof once again to tempt death all over again. Many of his books, he said, had the working title "The Pigeon Tunnel," which he found to be a metaphor for a lot of things. It took until his memoir in 2016 for it to stick to publication.

There might not be anything quite so shocking as Robert McNamara admitting mistakes, but Cornwell has his own crosses, including regrets about painting the secret services as "so bloody brilliant" at the wrong time. He even wonders if he'd have been a traitor in a different life. But, he says, "luckily I found a home for

Cornwell also seemed at peace with himself and his purpose (looking in the mirror was only hard, he said, when he had a hangover). He'd discovered that writing was his freedom and he was happiest when doing so - a revelation that everyone should be so lucky to have for themselves. That, or, to have Errol Morris oversee their last interview.

"The Pigeon Tunnel," an Apple Original Films release streaming Friday on Apple TV+, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for "brief language, some violence, smoking." Running time: 93 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

Also:

KEY WEST, Fla.: A decade after swimming the treacherous passage from Cuba to Key West, Diana Nyad returned Sunday to the beach where she completed her epic feat, joining in the release of a sea turtle rehabilitated at the Florida Keys' Turtle Hospital

Nyad and her Cuba swim expedition leader Bonnie Stoll helped return "Rocky," a 120-pound (54 kilogram) female green sea turtle, to the Atlantic Ocean at Key West's Smathers Beach as they marked the anni-

versary with her former support team. On Labor Day 2013, nearly 2,000 people had lined the beach to welcome Nyad as she came ashore after her 111-mile (178-kilometer) odyssey, a nonstop swim lasting 52 hours and 54 minutes across the Florida

Straits from Havana. Succeeding on her fifth attempt at age 64, Nyad became the first person to swim from Cuba to the Keys without a shark cage - despite battling stinging jellyfish, nausea and other physical and mental challenges. She joined personnel from the Turtle Hospital to carry Rocky across the sand on Sunday to the water's

edge.
"The thing I like about them is that they eat jellyfish,"
"The diet of green sea turtles quipped Nyad, referring to the diet of green sea turtles in the wild. "I wish we could have trained Rocky to swim right next to me and eat all the jellyfish that we came upon going across."

Rescued in January by Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission officers and transported to the hospital, Rocky required an eight-hour intestinal surgery, breathing treatments, a blood transfusion and months of medications to survive.

After being guided into the water, Rocky swam away from the beach before diving down into the Atlantic as Nyad, Stoll and several hundred spectators applauded. Among them were more than 30 of Nyad's Cuba swim support crew that returned to Key West for the 10th anniversary celebration.

Other weekend events in Key West also marked the anniversary including a Saturday beach party where Nyad and team members took turns sharing their memories of the swim.

movie that, outside "Oppenheimer," has struggled mightily at the box office in recent years.

And "Killers of the Flower Moon," with rave reviews, an "A-" CinemaScore from audiences and the backing of a robust Oscar campaign, should continue to play well over the long haul. It added \$21 million overseas.



Scorsese

"Killer of the Flower Moon" also marks the best wide-release debut for a film from a streaming company. While Netflix (which backed Scorsese's last narrative feature, "The Irishman," in 2019) has charted a mostly limited approach to theatrical release, Apple and Amazon, which last year closed its purchase of MGM, have

pursued more expansive theatrical

Earlier this year, Apple said it plans to spend \$1 billion a year making movies that will have theatrical releases before reaching its streaming service. Apple is also behind Ridley Scott's upcoming "Napoleon," with Joaquin Phoenix, which Sony Pictures

will distribute Nov. 22; and has partnered with Universal for Matthew Vaughn's "Argylle," due out

Feb. 2. Paramount had initially signed on to produce and distribute "Killers of the Flower Moon," but transitioned into the deal with Apple when costs of project - shot during the pandemic - rose. (AP)

People & Places

Books

A 'must-read'

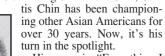
Curtis Chin's 'memoir' serves up life lessons

NEW YORK, Oct 23, (AP): Many parents tell their children never talk to strangers. But **Curtis Chin's** parents urged their six kids to ask customers at their Chinese restaurant about their background.

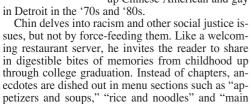
It was their way of showing the children a world outside the Detroit restaurant's four walls.

"That is something my parents taught me - not to be afraid of people, not to be afraid to ask questions, not to be afraid of asking for help even," Chin said in a phone interview from his Los Angeles home. "I would have to say that the Chinese restaurant and my parents are probably my greatest teachers in life.'

From co-founding the Asian American Writers' Workshop to producing documentaries like "Vincent Who?" about the 1982 killing of Vincent Chin, Cur-



His memoir, "Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant," released on Oct 17. The book, his first, has made several fall "must-read" lists including in The Washington Post and Time magazine. It's a candid, sometimes funny reflection on growing up Chinese American and gay



large, including epidemics of crime, drugs and AIDS. Despite all this, it's not a "misery memoir," Chin

entrees." They just happen to be stories that are emblematic of that time in Detroit and the country at

"While the city did have a lot of challenges, I also wanted people to see the other side of Detroit, which is the good that came out of it," Chin said. "I wouldn't trade my childhood for anything. I really loved growing up in Detroit.'

Cuisine

The trajectory of the Chin family business matches the ups and downs of the city's Chinatown. Chin's great-grandfather opened Chung's Cantonese Cuisine in 1940 in Detroit's original Chinatown. The restaurant became a community hub and, like other businesses, relocated in 1960 when the city demolished the area for a highway and other development.

Chung's moved to Cass Avenue. The Cass Corridor became a second Chinatown. That's where Chin, born in 1968, spent his formative years. Chung's closed in 2000, after 60 years and an estimated "10 million eggrolls.'

In its heyday, Chung's drew in customers who varied across race and class. Local politicians, journalists and drag queens are among the patrons Chin recalls in the book. How his parents treated each per-

son made an impression. "It didn't matter if you were the mayor of Detroit or if you were the pimp and prostitute standing on the street corner," Chin said. "They really tried to judge each customer for who they were as a person. And that's a value that my parents really taught me."

Roland Hwang, a Detroit native who co-founded American Citizens for Justice a year after Vincent Chin's racially motivated killing, has fond childhood memories of a bustling Chinatown. He would watch butchers chopping up chickens, or get a dragon puppet and play with other Chinese American kids. Chung's was among the restaurants he ate at. It wasn't until 1999 that he met Curtis Chin and they became friends. Hwang thinks the memoir does a service for the community.

"This book sort of raises the profile of this aspect of history of Chinese Americans in Detroit. Physically speaking, there's not much left of the Chinatown," Hwang said. "People don't realize how fragile ethnic enclaves are whether it's Chinatown or J-Town (Japantown).'

When Chin started writing a decade ago, he envisioned a "family comedy" memoir with his grandparents as a focal point. But when the national conversation shifted in 2020 with George Floyd's killing and pandemic-driven anti-Asian hate, he shifted his focus to growing up Asian American and working class.

Competition

Recent hate crimes have evoked comparisons to Vincent Chin's beating death at the hands of two white autoworkers outside his bachelor party. The assailants blamed foreign competition for the auto industry's hardships and assumed he was Japa-

The slaying was personal for Curtis Chin. Their families were not related but knew each other. Curtis Chin's uncle was Vincent Chin's best man. In his memoir, Chin describes the sadness and outrage in the community when the attackers only got probation and a \$3,000 fine for a manslaughter plea. It was a watershed moment for Asian Americans nationwide, including Chin, then a high school freshman.

"I feel like that's why I've spent so much of my life trying to open up opportunities for more people of color or more Asian Americans to tell our stories, because I feel like that's what's going to improve our lives or help prevent the next Vincent Chin," Chin

His book has inspired an exhibition at the Detroit Historical Museum. "Detroit's Chinatowns" opened earlier this month. Lily Chen, who curated the exhibit, said 20 people were interviewed for oral histories. Several others contributed artifacts, including a 70-year-old mahjong set, as well as videos and photos. Chin will give a talk on the book there on

"When older generations of people tell their story, it is so incredibly powerful for younger generations because it says not only are we here today, we've

Chin's work elevating Asian Americans is coming full circle as many want to show up for him on his book tour. Asian American and Pacific Islander groups are behind several upcoming events.

"I just can't impress upon it enough how much I feel like my whole community is rallying behind me for this book," Chin said. "In some ways, being an older author coming out with my first book in my 50s, it's been easier because of this.'



Film director Wim Wenders, (center), of 'Perfect Days', actors including Koji Yakusho, (third left top), and his film staff members pose for a photo on their arrival for the opening ceremony of the 36th Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) in Tokyo, Japan, Monday, Oct. 23. (AP)



This cover image released by Warner Music shows 'Christmas,' a holiday album by Cher. (AP)



Variety



Rushdie

BERLIN: Author Salman Rushdie called Sunday for the unconditional defense of freedom of expression as he received a

prestigious German prize that recognizes his literary work and his resolve in the face of constant danger. The British-American author decried the current age as a time when freedom of expression is under attack by all sides. including from authoritarian and populist

voices, according to the German news He made his remarks during a ceremony in St. Paul's Church in Frankfurt, where he was honored with the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade for continuing to write despite enduring decades of threats

and violence. In August 2022, Rushdie was stabbed repeatedly while on stage at a literary festival in New York state.

Rushdie has a memoir coming out about the attack that left him blind in his right eye and with a damaged left hand. "Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder' will be released on April 16. He called it a way "to answer violence with art."

The German prize, which is endowed with 25,000 euros (\$26,500), has been awarded since 1950. The German jury said earlier this year that it would honor Rushdie "for his resolve, his positive attitude to life and for the fact that he enriches the world with his pleasure in narrating." (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Hollywood's TV and film actors have been striking for 100 days now, and there's no end in sight.

The strike began July 14 at what should have been a celebratory time for many performers and the industry. Nominations for the Emmy Awards had just been announced, heaping praise on shows like "Succession," "The Last of Us" and "The White Lotus." The #Barbenheimer craze was in full swing and poised to set the box office on fire, giving another jolt to stillrecovering movie theaters.

While the writers strike - declared more than two months before - had slowed the industry, it immediately ground to a halt with a fiery speech from actors guild President Fran Drescher. Actors joined writers on the picket lines for the first dual strike in more than 60 years.

Work on new seasons of shows like "Abbott Elementary" and shooting on films like "Deadpool 3" stopped. Outside studio offices in California and New York, and at filming hubs around the country, actors have picketed, rallied and called on entertainment companies to share in a bigger share of streaming successes and give them protections from the use of artificial

Premieres were canceled, or featured only directors - some of whom found creative ways to spotlight the actors missing

Music

Singer pays tribute to mother with 'Christmas'

Cher explores new musical territory

LOS ANGELES, Oct 23, (AP): There isn't much Cher hasn't done in her career. She's achieved EGOT status, she's the only artist to have a No. 1 song in each of the past six decades - heck, she's got her own gelato business, Cherlato. But a Christmas album? That's new territory.

So, why now?

"I just didn't want to do one," she told The Associated Press. "I didn't know how I was going to make it a 'Cher Christmas album.'"

The secret, of course, was to lean into the incredible eclecticism of her career, all while avoiding the sleepy, saccharine pitfalls of a "Silent Night" -heavy holiday release. Her first new album in five years,

the appropriately titled "Christmas," released Friday. In some ways, it required Cher to find her voice again. She hadn't sang since a March 12, 2020, performance in Oklahoma City was canceled when a Utah Jazz basketball player tested positive for the coronavirus.

So she called up her vocal teacher, "Adrienne Angel, who's 96, who came out and hung with me and we worked every day.

"And then I went to the mic and I was able to sing," she says. "I have very young vocal cords."

On "Christmas," Cher enlists an all-star list of collaborators. There's Cyndi Lauper on "Put A Little Holiday In Your Heart," Stevie Wonder on "What Christmas Means to Me," Darlene Love on "Christmas (Baby, Please Come Home)," Michael Bublé on "Home," and even the rapper Tyga on "Drop Top Sleigh Ride" - you read that last one correctly.

But working with others in this way is something she says she's never done before. When you're Cher, do you really need a featured voice? "Well, with Darlene, I wasn't going to sing her song without her," she says of the song they first sang together 60 years ago on "A Christmas Gift for You From Phil Spector."

"With Stevie, I did the song, I loved the song, but there were just things I couldn't do, that were just Stevie," she says. "So, I called him and just said, 'Stevie, I've done it. I'm pretty proud of it. But there are things I can't do, and I need you."

'I was still trying to sell him when he'd already said yes," she says. "At some point he asked me, 'Is this my And I went, 'You think I could call you to ask you to sing on someone else's song?" Alexander Edwards, Cher's romantic partner and a credited producer on the project, is best friends with Tyga, who helped make the most unexpected and delightful collaboration happen.

Dedicated

"Christmas" is dedicated to Cher's late mother, Georgia Holt, who died just before the holidays last year. But don't mistake this album as therapy the act of reclaiming Christmas in the face of loss, or a way to memorialize

"I think about my mom all the time," she says. She doesn't need an album to remind her of her mom; her mom is everywhere.

"I don't have a bit of regret that my mom is gone because my mom was such a vibrant woman and she didn't like what was going on in her life," she adds.

Cher says her mom sends her messages all the time - like recently when she rediscovered a huge plate she made her mom, flipped it over, and read what it said: "Dear mom, I love you, Merry Christmas.'

"And it was like, 'Mom, you're just not going to leave me alone, are you?" she says.

that Gronkowski has signed a multiyear

Hosted By Gronk will take place at SoFi

agreement to partner with the college

Stadium on Dec. 16 and match teams

from the Mountain West and Pac-12

football postseason game. LA Bowl

In addition to the album, Cher is preparing to release a 25th anniversary edition of her Grammy-winning album "Believe" on Nov. 3. Its title track is credited as the first use of autotune - though, as she recalls, it was termed a "pitch machine" at the time.

She was arguing with her longtime producer Mark Taylor about the track, and he brought up the new technology.

'It started and it was like, 'Oh my God, this is the best thing ever.' And I thought, 'You don't even know it's me. This is the best thing ever.' And then we high fived," she recounts.

But don't mistake an openness to technology and musical innovation as an openness to artificial intelligence.

Of the technology, Cher is quick to say: "Not AI. Someone did me doing a Madonna song and it was kind of shocking. They didn't have it down perfectly. But also, I've spent my entire life trying to be myself, and now these a----- are going to go take it? And they'll do my acting and they'll do my singing?"

"I'm telling you, if you work forever to become somebody - and I'm not talking about somebody in the famous, money part - but an artist, and then someone just takes it from you, it seems like it should be illegal," she

For those keeping count: It is also the 35th anniversary of Cher winning the best actress Oscar for her role in "Moonstruck." When asked if she will act again, she's quick to point out the necessity of a resolution to the ongoing Hollywood actors strike.

She was asked to do a special, she says. "They said, 'Well, we can do it in England.' I said, 'We can do it on the moon, but I'm not doing it," she says, not until an agreement is reached.

Spoken like, well, Cher.

BYU 31-21 in the 2008 Las Vegas Bowl, which hosted the Mountain West-Pac-12 matchup before it was relocated to Los

Rob's brother, Chris Gronkowski, caught a 24-yard touchdown pass in the third quarter to give the Wildcats their first bowl victory and winning season in 10

It also ended up being Rob Gronkowski's final collegiate game. He sat out the 2009 season due to back surgery before being drafted in the second round by the New England Patriots in 2010. He won four Super Bowl titles during an 11-year career - three with New England and one with Tampa Bay.

Kimmel, who hosted the first two editions of the LA Bowl, had a vomiting camel - "Jimmy Camel" - as a mascot and an official sandwich as ways to keep the fans entertained.

Gronkowski didn't mention anything about a mascot, but he did say he was coming up with a special performance either at halftime or during the game along the lines of when he performed on "The Masked Singer" in 2020.

The winning team, along with the offensive and defensive MVPs, will continue to receive their own championship belts. The game will feature the top selection

from the Mountain West and the Pac-12's No. 5 pick after the College Football Playoff and New Year's Six matchups are set. The Mountain West has won the past two games, including Fresno State's 29-6 victory over Washington State last

With 10 schools leaving the Pac-12 at the end of the season, the future lineup for the LA Bowl will be determined next year.

their moment. The actors whose work got guild permission to promote projects used their voices and clothing to show support for the strike. Cast reunions - like Bryan Cranston,

Aaron Paul and other "Breaking Bad" actors - melded fans' affection for shows and their stars to the actors' demands. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Goodbye, Jimmy Kimmel. Hello, Rob Gronkowski to the world

conferences. "Jimmy was a fantastic host and brought

The LA Bowl announced on Saturday

a lot of elements to the game. But it's my turn now and I'm going to turn it up, that's for sure," Gronkowski said.

Gronkowski said having this bowl game named after him is in some ways a fullcircle moment. His Arizona squad defeated



From left: Actress Margherita Corradi, director Edoardo Gabbriellini and actress Giorgia Frank pose during the photo call for the movie 'Holiday', at the 18th Rome Film Festival, in Rome, Sunday, Oct. 22. (AP)

Company sponsors 10th edition of eGovernment Forum

Zain highlights cloud, digital transformation leadership

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: For the sixth time running, Zain announced its sponsorship of the eGovernment Forum, which came this year in its tenth edition under the title "Future of the Cloud in Kuwait". The event was organized by the Kuwait Federation of Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses in collaboration with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), and came under the patronage of H.E. Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahad Al Shula.

Zain joined the event's opening ceremony at Crowne Plaza Hotel, attended by the representative of the event's patron, CAIT Acting GM Dr. Ammar Al Husseini, along with Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr. Khalid Mahdi, Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed Al Khashti, Director of the Kuwait Federation of Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses Bader Al Salman, and many prominent executives and leaders from the local public and private

During his opening speech, Waleed Al Khashti said: "Today we celebrate 10 years of this unique gathering as one of the most insightful platforms that have effectively contributed to growing e-government services in our nation.

"We're proud to continue supporting this event, where we seek to showcase our leadership as Kuwait's top digital service provider. Zain continues to play a pivotal role by being the nation's strategic partner to contribute to achieving the New Kuwait vision and building a solid digital infrastructure." He added.

Al Khashti further noted: "The cloud market is still emerging and rapidly developing, and that's why such platforms are necessary to bring together decision makers and experts to exchange information, share expertise, set up priorities, learn the market's needs, and explore opportunities to bring the best out of this revolutionary technology."

Priority

He concluded by saying: "It will always be a top priority for us to contribute to preparing and upskilling local talents, paving the way for them to play their part in supporting the nation's cybersecurity ecosystem. The creation of specialized teams and setting up procedures for cybersecurity readiness are essential factors for the success of cloud computing and digital transformation.'

EGOV10 reflected a pivotal stage in the future of cloud computing in Kuwait. The event ran for two days, and was joined by the biggest cloud computing, telecom, digital, and ICT service providers from the nation and the world. The forum was attended by over 500 guests, over 30 experts, 10 government partners, and witnessed tens of informative panels



Al Khashti delivering his opening speech



Al Husseini, Al Salman and Mahdi honor Al Khashti in recognition of Zain's



Al Husseini and guests with Zain team.

Event highlights early detection, support and treatment

AU organizes breast cancer awareness campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: In alignment with Global Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Australian University (AU) proudly presented its Annual "AUGOESPINK" Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign on campus, in collabora-

tion with "ARGAN Riaya". Breast Cancer Awareness Month, observed internationally throughout October, serves as a dedicated time for individuals, organizations, and communities to unite in raising awareness about breast cancer. It provides a crucial platform for educating the public on the significance of early detection, support, and treatment for this prevalent and life-changing disease, which affects millions of individuals and families worldwide. AU is committed to making a positive impact by spotlighting this vital cause

within its community. This year's annual drive encompassed a variety of impactful activities and functions designed to raise awareness and emphasized the importance of early detection and support for those battling this disease. From their end, Argan Riaya made a significant contribution to this year's drive, deploying their expert medical team on campus to engage with the AU community and highlight the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyle to reduce the risk of breast cancer, while also encouraging both staff and students to consider mammography

exams Ms. Mai Al-Musallam, Senior Manager of



Public Relations and Marketing at AU, stressed the value of teamwork in achieving goals and emphasized the need of collective efforts to educate the community, in alignment with AU's Corporate Social Responsibility strategy. Ms. Al Musallam also emphasized the campaign's importance, as it has a significant impact on the wellbeing of community members. She further

added: "Breast Cancer affects many people, and it is important to provide our students with accurate information from reliable resources, educating them about the facts and dispelling myths about this disease. In addition to always encourage them to adopt healthy habits"

The Australian University (AU) (formerly known as the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) is a private university located in Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Area, Kuwait which was established in 2004 as Kuwait's first private technical college. The university started as a vocational education college in Maritime. The Diploma program was started later in different areas, which was then expanded to cover a Bachelor of Technology program (based on a 2+2 model) in areas of Business and Engineering. The university also offers training program in Aviation. It was licensed by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education under Amiri Decree 141/2003 and commenced operation in October 2004.

The university operates on what is called a 2+2 model. Students initially enroll in a twoyear full-time Diploma program after which they can choose to leave AU and commence employment or, if they have achieved the required GPA at the time of graduation with a Diploma, continue for a further two years of fulltime study to complete a Bachelor's degree in Business or Engineering Technology.

DDI holds cybersecurity interactive awareness event for its employees

A photo from the Dasman Diabetes Institute's cybersecurity awareness

'Protection of patients' data vital'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: In response to the increasing prevalence of cybercrimes worldwide, Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), established by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, recently held a cybersecurity ses-

The Information Technology Department in the Institute conducted an educational interactive session for all staff consisting of different presentations on the topic of cybercrime awareness and mitigation strategies.

During the session, the IT staff showcased examples of common and trending scamming and anomalies techniques and how to avoid them among many other related topics.

Holding these sessions stem from the Institute's care to protect its data and patients' information and raise the staff awareness of cybersecurity in general.



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Golovin nets twice as Monaco rally past Metz to retain lead

Villa hammer West Ham to maintain 100% home record

BIRMINGHAM, England, Oct 23, (AP): Aston Villa's incredible home form could provide a platform for a run at the Champions League spots in the Premier League this season.

A 4-1 hammering of West Ham made it four straight wins - and 17 goals in the process - for Unai Emery's team in its four matches at Villa Park

Villa moved a point off the top four after nine games and has a couple of players in strong scoring form.

Brazil midfielder Douglas Luiz scored twice and England striker Ollie Watkins added another, with both moving onto five for the campaign. Substitute Leon Bailey also netted for

Luiz drove home the 30th-minute opener from the edge of the area after a lay-off from Watkins before converting a penalty in the 51st following Nayef Aguerd's trip on Ezri Konsa.

Jarrod Bowen pulled a goal back for West Ham in the 56th when his longrange shot deflected off Pau Torres and span into the far corner.

Watkins, who netted a winner for England against Australia in the recent international break, restored Villa's two-goal lead with the pick of the goals.

He ran onto John McGinn's long

ball forward, performed a step-over to create space, then lashed a left-foot finish into the roof of the net. Bailey struck a finish into the top

corner to crown another impressive



Aston Villa's Ollie Watkins, (front), is challenged by West Ham's Kurt Zouma during the English Premier League soccer match between Aston Villa and West Ham United at Villa Park in Birmingham, England. (AP)

RICHMOND, Va., Oct 23, (AP):

Harrison Frazar won his first PGA

Tour Champions title Sunday when

he birdied the 18th hole for a 3-un-

der 69 to force a playoff with Richard Green, and then made an 8-foot birdie

on the first extra hole at the Dominion

Schwab Cup title with two postsea-

son events still to be played, even

Green also closed with a 69, helped

by a 10-foot par putt on the 15th and

an 8-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole.

But he failed to birdie the 516-yard

closing hole at the Country Club of

Richmond, opening the door for Frazar and Brett Quigley in the final

Quigley birdied the 16th and 17th,

and he had a 10-foot birdie putt on the

final hole that he left inches short for

a 71 to finish alone in third, one shot

GOLF

Frazar didn't make his first birdie

until the 11th hole, but he hit a superb

wedge from 75 yards to short range

for birdie on the 16th, and he two-

putted for birdie from 40 feet on the

Frazar and Green finished at 11-un-

Returning to the 18th for the play-

off, both players missed the fairway.

Green whiffed on his fairway metal,

but it caromed out of the trees into

the fairway and he hit his third to 30

feet. Frazar cleared the cross bunkers,

and his long pitch spun back to 8 feet

He clenched his fist when he saw

it drop for birdie. His first PGA Tour Champions victory came 12 years af-

ter his lone win on the PGA Tour at

now," Frazar said. "I'm so happy and so proud at what I've done.

This means a bunch. You wonder if

you can really do it. You wonder if

you've still got it. To see that putt go

the PGA Tour Champions, winning

six times and three majors, that he

built a lead of just under \$2 million going into the Charles Schwab Cup

playoffs. With only 1,756,000 points avail-

able over the last two events, Stricker

leads Steven Alker by 1,909,065.

Stricker plans to play at least one of

The top 54 players in the Schwab

Cup standings advance to the next

playoff event in two weeks. Four

players moved into the top 54 on

Sunday - Shane Bertsch, John Hus-

ton, Rocco Mediate and Charlie Wi.

the next two events.

Stricker has been so dominant on

in the hole, gosh, what a feeling.'

"Emotions are all-time high right

behind.

der 205.

below the hole.

the St. Jude Classic.

though he skipped the tournament.

Frazar wasn't the only winner. Steve Stricker clinched his first Charles

Energy Charity Classic.

There was a period of applause before kickoff in a tribute to England and Manchester United great Bobby Charlton, who died on Saturday at the age

Nicolo Zaniolo started and played 76 minutes despite the Italy international being involved in a betting investigation in his home country.

Villa said ahead of the game that Zaniolo "is assisting the Italian Football Federation and the relevant authorities' investigation into alleged illegal betting activity.'

Zaniolo and Newcastle midfielder Sandro Tonali were sent back to their clubs from Italy's training camp this month after being notified by police of involvement in the probe.

Aleksandr Golovin unleashed two powerful long-range strikes to help Monaco retain the lead in the French league by rallying past promoted Metz

SOCCER

Monaco, the most prolific attack in the league this season, are one point clear of Nice and two points ahead of defending champions Paris Saint-Germain after the latest round of matches.

Senegal international Lamine Camara gave Metz the lead with an outrageous 58-meter lob from his own half in the fourth minute. Golovin leveled in the 42nd by cutting inside to fire into the far corner.

Metz had an opportunity to lead 2-1 in the 49th but Monaco goalkeeper Philipp Kohn denied Danley Jean Jacques, who was clean through on goal.

Golovin scored the winner with a curling free kick off the near post in

"I'm happy that my team is able to turn around the game because we've picked up 11 points that way since the start of the season," Monaco coach Adi Hutter told the club's website.

Metz goalkeeper Alexandre Oukidia kept the scoreline respectable by saving a low strike from Takumi Minamino in the 63rd and an angled shot from Folarin Balogun in the 69th.

Metz lost a fourth straight game to fall into the relegation zone.

Warmed Omari endured a nightmarish afternoon, scoring an own-goal and giving the ball away for the other, as Rennes lost ground in the race for European spots after a 2-1 defeat at

Lorient snapped a five-game winless streak to move out of the relegation zone while Rennes dropped to ninth place with just one win in its last eight games.

Stricker clinches Schwab Cup

Frazar wins maiden PGA Tour Champs title

MEMPHIS, Oct 23, (AP): Last

season Grizzlies were 51-31,

earned No. 2 seed in the Western

Conference, lost to the Los Ange-

les Lakers in six games in the first

The Grizzlies are targeting their

They hope one of the NBA's

best defensive units will be even

stingier after trading for Marcus

Smart, the 2022 Defensive Player

of the Year. Smart will be pulling

double duty early as he handles

point guard duties with two-time

All-Star Ja Morant suspended for

the first 25 games for flashing a

handgun on social media for the

second time in three months. The

Grizzlies also will be without cen-

ter Steven Adams needs season-

ending knee surgery, the team an-

right posterior cruciate ligament.

Other nonsurgical rehabilitation

didn't resolve the ongoing instabil-

Adams hurt the knee in late Jan-

uary and missed the remainder of

the season, including the playoffs.

The 6-foot-11 Adams had been a

strong rebounder and defender for

ity of his knee, the Grizzlies said.

Adams will have surgery on his

nounced Sunday.

deepest postseason run since the

2013 Western Conference finals.

Grizzlies target NBA title despite

Morant's suspension, no Adams

Skeet shooter Hancock grabs 3rd Pan American Games title



Colombia's Carlos Ramirez (left), and the United States' Karen Larsen compete in men's BMX racing semifinal at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. Larsen won. (AP)

Chiles leads US team to gold against Brazil

SANTIAGO, Chile, Oct 23, (AP): The two flagbearers for the United States team at the Pan American Games in Chile won gold

the team. He seemed on target to return this season until the surgery

The Grizzlies already are short-

handed without guard Ja Morant

pension for flashing a handgun on

social media for the second time in

three months - and power forward

Brandon Clarke (Achilles tendon).

the start of the 2021-22 season

after one season in New Orleans.

He played in Oklahoma City his

first seven years in the league. The

30-year-old Adams has averaged

BASKETBALL

9.2 points and 8.2 rebounds per

game in his 10-year career.. They

added 2011 MVP Derrick Rose

for more much-needed experience.

But they'll have to prove they can

survive early without Morant and

aren't here to babysit Morant.

Still, they have lots of NBA expe-

rience. Both have played long into

postseasons in the kind of games

these Grizzlies are trying to reach

Smart and Rose insist they

Adams joined the Grizzlies at

serving a 25-game league sus-

announcement.

medals on Sunday.

Veteran shooter Vincent Hancock took his third Pan American Games title in skeet shooting, while gymnast Jordan Chiles led the women's team to the all-round gold in Santiago. The two carried the Star-Spangled Banner during Friday's opening ceremony at the National Stadium.

Hancock, a three-time Olympic gold medalist, defeated Argentina's Federico Gil. Both missed just one of their first 26 shots, but the American eventually won 57 to 55. The 35-year-old Gil won not only a silver medal, but also a quota spot at

PAN AM GAMES

Peru's Nicolas Pacheco took the bronze in Santiago's cloudy afternoon and also secured a place in France since Hancock had already done that at the world champion-

Shortly after putting the gold medal around his neck, Hancock went to social media to repost one of his videos in action from May 2022 with the soundtrack of Sage the Gemini's "Tick Tick Boom."

"What's the key to staying on top? Motivation," he wrote.

The 34-year-old Hancock has been a shooter since he was a child. He used to spend hours taking down inanimate objects with a BB gun near his Georgia home. The American started competing when he was 11 years old. Five years later, he won his first World Championship title in men's skeet.

The U.S. Army veteran has said he wants to compete at two more Olympics before retiring.

A few hours later, Chiles has dreamed about being a flagbearer at a major sports event since she saw her friend Simone Biles do it at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics closing



The United States' team shows their gold medals during the awards ceremony of the women's team artistic gymnastics at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. (AP)

ceremony. The 22-year-old managed to get her wish at the opening of the Pan American Games in Santiago on

On Sunday, the silver medalist at the Tokyo Olympics made another dream come true; to lead the U.S. women's gymnastics team into a continental final and then to a gold medal.

The U.S. topped the all-round women's competition with 165.196 points, with a big push from Chiles to give the Americans their sixth straight women's team Pan American gold medal.

The main rivals for Chiles, Kayla DiCello, Zoe Miller, Kaliya Lincoln and Tiana Sumanasekera were Brazil's team led by Rebeca Andrade, an Olympic gold medalist and also a friend of Biles'.

The Brazilians scored 161.564 points. Andrade sat out the floor exercise to spare her knees and to clear mistakes made by other athletes in the uneven bars. Canada finished with the bronze

medal with a distant 154.230 points. Chiles topped the all-round chart with 54.666 points, 0.101 ahead of 2021 world all-around bronze med-

The 22-year-old American is competing in Chile as she weighs competing in the Paris Olympics or returning for her junior year at the University of California at Los Angeles. Possibly the biggest star compet-

ing in Chile, the 24-year-old Andrade is Brazil's most decorated gymnast in history and is competing at the Pan American Games for the first time. She will be Chiles' rival again on Monday in individual finals. Earlier this month, Andrade

defeated Biles to take the vault gold at the world championship in Antwerp. She won two medals at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago: gold in the vault competition and silver in the all-round individual. She has nine medals in world championships, including three golds.

After beating Biles, the U.S. gymnastics federation published a picture of Andrade and Biles side by side in its social media channels. "Many more battles still to come," the message said.

This Sunday, Andrade's battle ended with Chiles as the winner.

The U.S. finished the second day of competitions in Chile with 46 medals, including 20 golds. Mexico were second at 18 medals, 10 gold.

World Rugby reviewing allegation

PARIS, Oct 23, (AP): World Rugby is reviewing an allegation by England flanker Tom Curry that he was the subject of an alleged discriminatory remark by Springboks hooker Mbongeni Mbonambi in their Rugby World Cup semifinal.

The global governing body said on Monday it was formally looking into the claim, which - if proven - threatens Mbonambi's participation for South Africa in the final against New Zealand

on Saturday.
"World Rugby takes all allegations of discriminatory behavior extremely

seriously," it said. Curry drew the incident to the attention of referee Ben O'Keeffe in the

first half of the match at the Stade de France, which the Boks won 16-15 on

Although the alleged slur is not audible on the referee mic, Curry's subsequent conversation with O'Keeffe is. Curry is heard asking O'Keeffe what he should do after alleging he has been called a racial slur. "Nothing, please," O'Keeffe replied.

"I'll be on it.

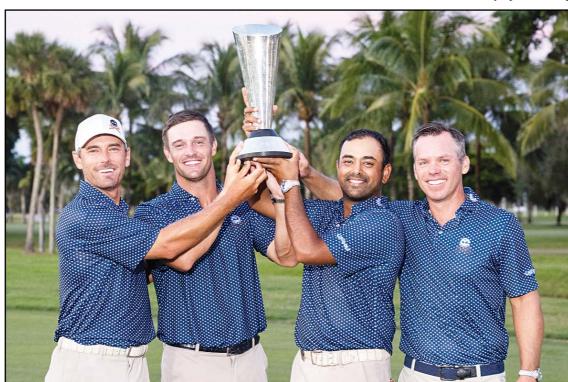
The Springboks said on Sunday they are "aware of the allegation, which we take very seriously," and are "reviewing the available evidence."

'We will engage with Bongi if anything is found to substantiate the claim," SA Rugby said.

RUGBY

When asked after the match if Mbonambi had said something he should not have done, Curry said: "Yeah." He declined to reveal the content of the

Mbonambi took over as captain once Siya Kolisi was replaced early in the second half against England.



2023 Team Champions (from left to right), Charles Howell III, captain Bryson DeChambeau, Anirban Lahiri and Paul Casey, of Crushers GC, pose with the trophy after the finals of the LIV Golf Team Championship at the Trump National Doral golf club Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023, in Doral, Fla. (AP)

Several Kuwaiti male and female refs honored

Kuwaiti referees selected for Men's World Championship

dent of the Kuwaiti Winter Games Club, Fahid Al-Ajmi, proudly revealed that the International Ice Hockey Federation has selected two Kuwaiti referees, Abdullah Al-Zaidan and Shawq Al-Hindal, to officiate matches in the upcoming World Cup events. Al-Zaidan will be presiding over the Men's World Championship (third level), scheduled for Bosnia next February, while Al-Hindal will make history as the first Kuwaiti female referee to manage the Women's World Championship matches set to take place in Hungary during the same month. This achievement signifies a significant milestone for the Kuwaiti ice hockey community.

ICE HOCKEY

Al-Ajmi shared these exciting developments while honoring several Kuwaiti male and female referees at the club's headquarters. He emphasized that the selection of Al-Zaidan and Al-Hindal marks the beginning of an important journey towards seeing more Kuwaiti referees at international tournaments. He acknowledged the remarkable contributions made by Kuwaiti male and female referees to the sport, demonstrated through their exceptional performance in local matches. Al-Ajmi expressed hopes that the two referees would uphold Kuwaiti sports' honor on the global stage.

In response to this momentous opportunity, Al-Hindal expressed her deep pride in being the pioneer Kuwaiti female referee selected to oversee matches at this prestigious level. She vowed to dedicate her utmost efforts to prepare thoroughly and, in doing so, elevate the stature of Kuwaiti ice hockey

in the world championship. Al-Hindal further noted that her

NEW DELHI, Oct 23, (AP): Bis-

han Bedi, the India cricket great

whose dazzling left-arm spin

claimed 266 Test wickets, has

The death of Bedi, who un-

derwent multiple surgeries over

the last two years that included

a knee operation a month ago,

was confirmed by the Board of

Control for Cricket in India on

demise of former India Test Cap-

tain and legendary spinner, Bis-

han Singh Bedi," the BCCI wrote

on X, formerly known as Twitter.

with his family and fans in these

"Our thoughts and prayers are

Bedi was part of the famous In-

dian spin quartet with Bhagwath

Chandrasekhar, Erapalli Prasan-

na and Srinivas Venkataragha-

"The BCCI mourns the sad

died. He was 77.

tough times.

van in the 1970s.

England.

two children.



Honored referees display their certificates as officials look on.

Kuwait eager for victory

Al-Wahdat take on Al-Kahraba

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

SAUDI ARABIA, Oct 23: Al-Kuwait are geared up to add three crucial points to their tally in the ongoing AFC Cup campaign as they prepare to face Al-Ahly Aleppo of Syria at King Fahd Sports City Stadium in the Taif region of Saudi Arabia. The match, part of the third round of the second group competitions, is scheduled for 7:00 pm.

SOCCER

Later at 9:00 pm, Jordan's Al-Wahdat will take on Iraq's Al-Kahraba at King Abdullah II Stadium in the capital, Am-

Al-Abyad currently occupies the second position in the group with 4 points, closely trailing the group leaders, Al-Kahraba from Iraq. Al-Wahdat are in third place with 3 points, while Ahly Aleppo are at the bottom with 0 points.

The encounter offers a promising opportunity for Al-Abyad to secure three points and bolster their chances of advancing to the West Asia semi-finals, particularly given their opponent's modest performance in the previous two rounds, resulting in

two losses. The two teams are set to face each other once again in the return match in the fourth round in two weeks.

On the domestic front, Al-Kuwait have faced some challenges lately, as they managed to secure only a 1-1 draw against Khaitan in the Zain Premier League's fifth round last Friday. This result narrowed the gap between them and their closest rivals, Al-Arabi and Al-Qadisiyah, to just two points. They are also bracing themselves for a crucial showdown against Al-Qadisiyah in the sixth round next Sunday.

Al-Kuwait will be without several key players for today's match, with Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Ali Hussein, Ahmed Al-Zenki, and Youssef Al-Khubaizi sidelined. Al-Dhafiri and Hussein are nursing injuries sustained



Kuwait look to rekindle winning spirit in qualifiers

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Oct 23: Kuwait national handball team will conclude the preliminary round matches of the second group in the Asian qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympics when they face off against the Kazakh national team at 11:00 am.

Kuwait currently occupy fourth place without points while Kazakhstan also languishes at the bottom of the group, yet tied with Kuwait on goal difference.

Bahrain and Iran will also clash within the same group. Meanwhile, in the first group, the UAE will compete against India, China will take on Korea, and Qatar will face Saudi

Over the past three matches, Kuwait struggled to secure positive results against Iran, Japan, and Bahrain, mainly due to the notable absence of key players from the backline. Nevertheless, the team showcased exceptional techni-

Algerian coach Saeed Hegazy is eagerly anticipating a victory that could secure two valuable points, boosting the Blues' position in the consolation rounds. This would not only enhance their standings but also rekindle the winning spirit among the players.

HANDBALL

On the other side of the court, the Kazakhstan national team is the notable guest in the tournament. So far, they have failed to display convincing performances and haven' achieved any positive results. However, they are determined to put their full effort into seeking a historic victory that would leave a lasting mark in their records.

during the Khaitan match, while Al-Zenki is committed to work-related duties, and Al-Khubaizi has special circumstances preventing his participa-

Additionally, Youssef Nasser, goalkeeper Abdel Rahman Kamil, and Ibrahim Kamil are suspended by the AFC, while Amr Abdel Fattah remains sidelined due to an injury.

Despite these absences, the coaching staff, led by Serbian coach Boris Bunjak, is confident in the potential and experience of their players, including Bahraini Mohamed Marhoon, Moroccan Mahdi Barahma, Tunisians Yassine Al-Khanisi and Yassine Amri, along with Mohamed Dahham, Faisal Zayed, Fahd Al-Hajri, Reda Hani, and Fahd Ham-

On the opposing side, Al-Ittihad Al-Ahly Aleppo's Syrian coach, Maan Al-Rashed, is determined to secure the team's first points in the competition. His squad features experienced players such as Ibrahim Al-Zein, Ahmed Hamo, Abu Bakr Kamara, Victor Abata, Amjad Fayyad, Mahmoud Al-Nayef, Hassan Dahan, Hamza Haj Dibo, and Ahmed Kanu.

Arab showdown: Al-Nassr take on **Al-Duhail in Asian Champs League**

DOHA, Oct 23: The third round of the AFC Champions League group stage sees Arab teams dominating the competitions. Al-Nassr of Saudi Arabia will go head-to-head with Al-Duhail of Qatar in Group Five. In Group One, Al-Ain from the United Arab Emirates will host their Saudi counterparts, Al-Fayhaa. This group will also feature a clash between Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor and Turkmenistan's representative. Additionally, Group Five will witness a match between Iran's Persepolis and Tajikistan's Esteghlal Dushanbe.

SOCCER

Al-Nassr Saudi Arabia aim to strengthen their position at the top of the group as they face Al-Duhail of Qatar at Awal Park in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Al-Nassr currently lead the group with a perfect 6-point record, having defeated Persepolis of Iran 2-0 away and Esteghlal Dushanbe 3-1. On the other hand, Al-Duhail are

in pursuit of their first victory in the competition. They previously had a 0-0 draw against Esteghlal Dushanbe and suffered a 0-1 loss to Perse-

Al-Ain seek to widen the gap between them and their closest competitors at the summit of Group A. They face their Saudi counterparts, Al Fayhaa, in the third round of the competition. Al-Ain are currently leading the group with a flawless 6-point record after defeating Pakhtakor 3-0 and Ahal 4-2.

Al-Fayhaa, on the other hand, are striving to continue their resurgence. They recently secured a victory over Pakhtakor, winning 2-0 in the second round after a loss to Ahal in the first round, where the score was 0-1.



Bahraini Mohammed Marhoon with a teammate during training session.

He grabbed his 266 wickets in 67 test matches, but played only 10 ODIs between 1974-79, picking up seven wickets. He took 1,560 first-class wickets - the most by any Indian bowler ever playing for various teams including Delhi and Northern Punjab in India and Northamptonshire in He is survived by his wife and India Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the tributes, saying on X: "His passion for the sport was

unwavering and his exemplary bowling performances led India to numerous memorable victo-"He will continue to inspire

future generations of cricketers. Condolences to his family and admirers.'

Bedi made an impressive Test debut in a series against Australia in 1969-70 when he picked up 21 wickets. He kept on troubling other major test playing nations

266 Test wkts with dazzling spin, dies like West Indies and England before eventually succeeding Mansoor Ali Khan as India skipper in 1976. His first win as test captain came at Port-of-Spain when India chased down a historic 406. He led India 22 times in total,

prior involvement in managing both

men's and women's local league

competitions had been instrumental

in honing her skills and those of her

colleagues, providing invaluable ex-

periences in the game. She extended

her heartfelt appreciation to the club

for its consistent support of Kuwaiti

referees, facilitating their participa-

tion in domestic and international

training programs, which have sub-

stantially enhanced the referees' pro-

ficiency in the sport.

In this file photo, Former Indian cricket captains, (from left), M A K Pataudi, Chandu Borde, Mohammed Azharuddin, Bishan Bedi, S Venkataraghavan and Ajit Wadekar look on at a ceremony where former Indian cricket captains and other cricketing legends were honored by the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) in Mumbai, India. (AP)

'Passion for the sport unwavering'

Bedi, India cricket great who claimed

winning six of them. Geoff Allardice, chief executive of the International Cricket Council, said Bedi was one of the masters of flight and turn.

"I would like to extend heartfelt condolences from everyone at the ICC to the family of one of the greats of the game and one whose exploits in Test cricket will be remembered for a long time," Allardice said. "He was the kind of spinner who could excel in different conditions and would have been one of the greats in any era.'

Known for wearing colorful patkas and a graceful delivery hiding devastating variety, Bedi was outspoken on the field and often got embroiled in controver-

In 1976 he declared India's second innings early at Kingston to protest intimidatory bowling by Caribbean fast bowlers. With three Indian batters already out of the game after being hit by West Indies pacers, Bedi claimed there weren't enough fit players available to come out and bat. West Indies eventually won the Test match by 10 wickets.

Bedi also criticized Sri Lanka spin great Muttiah Muralitharan for his bowling action. He refused to compete in Kerry Packer's lucrative World Series Cricket in 1978 and claimed that he was approached by the rebel cricket league.

But his love for the game was clear, even when on the receiving end. Cricinfo.com website said Bedi "often applauded batters when they hit him for six."



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, a Kuwait's contingent reacts as they attend the opening ceremony of the 4th Asian Para Games in Hangzhou,

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



The Kuwait Club dominated Al-Qadsia 113-82 to claim their seventh Super Cup title at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Sports Complex. This victory solidified their historical supremacy in this tournament. Kuwait, the reigning league and cup champions from the previous season, established a significant lead throughout the first half of the match. Their agile players exhibited exceptional skills both under the basket and beyond the arc, concluding the

initial half with a commanding 16-point advantage, 60-44. Kuwait retained their dominant position throughout the game, demonstrating the remarkable talents of both their local and professional players. Al-Qadsia made valiant efforts to mount a comeback, but Kuwait's superior defensive and offensive strategies effectively thwarted any such attempt. Players celebrate with the Super Cup.

Teen scores in 'debut' as Barcelona hold off Bilbao

Girona join Real at top

MADRID, Oct 23, (AP): Another teenager has made history for Barcelona in the Spanish league.

Seventeen-year-old Marc Guiu scored about 30 seconds into his first-team debut to give the Catalan club a 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao, becoming the second-youngest player this century to score in his league debut.

"They told me to go out there and give everything I have, that I would have my chances," Guiu said. "I dreamed about this so many times. I won't sleep tonight."

Malaga's Fabrice Olinga was 16 years, 98 days old when he scored against Celta Vigo in his debut in 2012. Barcelona's Lamine Yamal became the youngest scorer in the Spanish league in a 2-2 draw against Granada before the international break at 16 years, 87 days.

Guiu, who is 17 years, 291 days, came off the bench and after two touches was celebrating the gamewinning goal in the 80th minute that moved Barcelona to third place in the standings

Guiu sprinted toward the area after a pass by João Félix and found the net with a low shot that beat Bilbao

SOCCER

goalkeeper Unai Simón for his first goal. The victory gave Barcelona 24 points after 10 matches, one point behind league leaders Real Madrid and Girona.

Barcelona, the only unbeaten team left in the league, got the win despite playing without several regular starters, including Robert Lewandowski, Pedri, Frenkie de Jong, Raphinha, Jules Koundé and Sergi Roberto.

Barcelona have not lost in their last eight league matches against Bilbao, with seven wins and a draw. They have won four straight games against the Basque Country team without conceding any goals since coach Xavi took over.

Barcelona entered a demanding week that includes a Champions League game against Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday and a "clasico" against Madrid on Saturday.

"We have many injured players and today we finished with a titanic effort," Xavi said. "We are one point behind Madrid and it will be crucial to win the clasico."

Bilbao dropped to sixth place with the loss, its second in three matches.

Girona continued their impressive run by coming from behind to beat last-place Almeria 5-2 and join Real Madrid at the top. The Catalan club scored three goals in a six-minute span toward the end of the first half

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announces 'inauguration' of the Electronic Sports World Cup

RIYADH, Oct 23: The Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has officially declared the launch of the Electronic Sports World Cup, an event of unparalleled scale globally. Commencing in the summer of 2024, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, will host this grand annual spectacle.

This tournament marks a pivotal platform for the advancement of the gaming and electronic sports industry, a sector experiencing remarkable growth. It will further cement Saudi Arabia's standing as a premier hub for top-tier sporting and international competitions.

In addition to this announcement, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman revealed the establishment of the Electronic Sports World Cup Foundation, a non-profit organization entrusted with the organization of this tournament. This foundation will serve as the driving force for propelling the gaming and electronic sports sector into a new era of collaboration, uniting all key stakeholders to harness the full potential of this domain and stimulate its growth and sustainability.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman expressed, "The Electronic Sports World Cup represents a natural progression in Saudi Arabia's quest to become the global epicenter for gaming and electronic

to erase a two-goal deficit and went

on to pick up its eighth win in 10

matches. They have 25 points after

10 rounds, the same as Madrid which

Artem Dovbyk scored a pair of

Almeria, the only team yet to win in

goals for host Girona, whose only

loss was to Madrid two rounds ago.

the league this season, surprised with

early goals by Léo Baptistão in the

second and 24th minutes at Montilivi

Stadium. Iván Martín pulled Girona

closer in the 37th and Dovbyk moved

the hosts ahead with goals in the 39th

and 43rd minutes. Sávio and Cristhian

Stuani scored late to seal the victory

for Girona, which is partly controlled

by Manchester City's Abu Dhabi

Villarreal's winless streak in the

league reached five games after a 1-1

Samuel Omorodion put the visi-

tors ahead in the 48th and Gerard

Moreno equalized by converting a

Both teams are near the relega-

tion zone. Alaves hasn't won in six

home draw against Alaves.

65th-minute penalty kick.

straight matches.

were held to a 1-1 draw at Sevilla.



Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman.

sports. It promises to deliver an unparalleled experience, surpassing anything previously witnessed in this realm.

The tournament will be a cornerstone in realizing the strategic goals of the gaming and e-sports sector, aiming to contribute over 50 billion riyals to the Gross Domestic Product by 2030, generating 39,000 fresh job opportunities within the sector. Furthermore, this event will

Rayo Vallecano ended a streak of

four consecutives draws with a 1-0

win at Las Palmas, with Bebé con-

verting a penalty kick in second-half

Rayo to seventh place, while Las Palmas - coming off two consecutive victories - stayed 12th. Las Palmas forward Munir El Haddadi missed a

transform Riyadh into the capital of

electronic gaming. The tournament

will be held in state-of-the-art facili-

ties, accompanied by a multitude of

activities and events, presenting a

unique opportunity to attract a new

demographic of visitors with a vest-

ed interest in the electronic gaming

sector. This initiative is poised to

invigorate the tourism sector in the

city of Riyadh during the summer



Athletic Bilbao's goalkeeper Unai Simon, (left), makes a save in front of Barcelona's Marc Guiu during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao, at the Olympic Stadium of Montjuic in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

Hamilton disqualified from 2nd

Verstappen earns hard-fought win

AUSTIN, Texas, Oct 23, (AP): In a season of easy victories, career win No. 50 finally made Max Verstappen

Even if it was just a little bit.

Verstappen had to work through the field after starting sixth instead of from pole position, then held off the charging Mercedes of Lewis Hamilton over the final laps in the Texas heat to win the United States Grand Prix on Sunday at the Circuit of the Americas.

Hamilton's best finish in five months was wiped out when he and sixth-place finisher Charles Leclerc of Ferrari were disqualified more than three hours after the race for rules violations found with the skid blocks under their cars.

Verstappen's record-tying 15th win of the season also made the Dutch driver just the fifth Formula One driver in history to reach 50 in a career. Hamilton has the most with 103.

Verstappen has four races left this season to leap over Alain Post (51) and Sebastian Vettel (53) for third. Michael

The three-time F1 champion had to work much harder than usual in a season of almost complete domination. But the power of his Red Bull and the right pit stop strategy calls by his team navigated Verstappen to the finish line 2.2 seconds ahead of Hamilton.

MOTOR RACING

Hamilton's Mercedes had been eating up chunks of time while chasing Verstappen over the final laps.

After splitting the first four races with teammate Sergio Perez, Verstappen has won 13 of the last 14 in a run that would have Red Bull on top of the team standings by himself. Red Bull has already won the constructor's championship.

Verstappen also earned his third consecutive win in Austin. He started this one in the middle of the grid because of a rare mistake of exceeding track limits in Friday's qualifying that wiped out his final lap. Race officials then slightly widened the lines at three corners to give the drivers more space on race day.

Every winner at the Circuit of the Americas had started from the front row until Verstappen's charge Sunday. He now has won three times this season from sixth or lower.

With Hamilton in his rearview mirror and his garage updating his lap times, Verstappen scolded his team to "stop talking" to him while he battled with his brakes in the corners.

Hamilton is chasing Perez for second in the drivers' standings. He thought he had a delivered an important podium finish as Mercedes brought what it called its last major upgrade of the season to Austin.

Race officials quickly wiped that out once his car was inspected after the

Formula One cars have a wooden plank, or skid block, under the floor that is used to test if it is within the rules of how low a cars can run to the ground. If the plank is found to found to be worn more than 1 millimeter, the car and driver are disqualified.

A late radio message from the Mercedes garage had expressed hope for second place and "maybe the win" as Hamilton passed McLaren's Lando Norris and closed the gap to the Verstappen.



Red Bull driver Max Verstappen, of the Netherlands, celebrates on the podium after winning the Formula One U.S. Grand Prix auto race at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. (AP)

Juventus boost title credentials

MILAN, Oct 23, (AP): Juventus boosted their title credentials with a 1-0 win at AC Milan, which played the entire second half of the Serie A game with 10

Former Milan player Manuel Locatelli scored the only goal in the 63rd minute after Rossoneri defender Malick Thiaw was sent off shortly before halftime.

The goal came exactly seven years to the date after Locatelli fired Milan to a 1-0 win over Ju-

Milan would have moved back to the top with a win and gone seven points clear of Juventus. Instead, the Bianconeri consolidated third place and cut the gap to one point to Milan and two points to league leaders Inter Milan, which won 3-0 at Torino.

There was a strong American presence at San Siro with four U.S. internationals in the starting

SOCCER

Christian Pulisic and Yunus Musah at Milan were facing Juventus duo Weston McKennie and Tim Weah - the son of former Milan player George Weah.

Both teams were missing a number of players through suspension and injury, including Juventus midfielder Nicolò Fagioli, who was banned for seven months earlier this week for his part in a betting scandal.

Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan had been sent off in the Rossoneri's extraordinary victory over Genoa before the international break and replacement Marco Sportiello was injured so third-choice goalkeeper Antonio Mirante, who is 40, made only his second appearance in three seasons.

Milan almost took the lead in the 14th minute when Rafael Leão sprinted down the left and picked out Olivier Giroud but Wojciech Szczesny pulled off a fantastic save to push the ball away from Pulisic and across the face of goal.

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