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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-

hibited by law.

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 job market across various sectors,

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KUWAIT RELIEF PLANE AT AL-ARISH AIRPORT

Gaza awaits aid amid ongoing Israel attacks



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

KUNA photo

Opinion

Palestinian cause needs a man like Sadat, not militia that accepts and another rejects

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

IT is necessary to speak frankly, as the crises taking place in Gaza are unbearable. Traders of the issue have appeared in public in an attempt to exploit the bloodshed 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 Israel has created around them.

Four of them who knew about the Operation 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, Mishaal, and others who, according to what the information says, were woken up by their aides to see on the screens what was happening on the borders of the Gaza Strip.

This is enough to determine the extent 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 son Abdul Salam.

As for Khaled Meshal, after he was rescued 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 million dollars.

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 luxurious palaces in Doha, and only eats caviar and drives the latest models of cars.

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 many years. He is Muhammad Deif.

As for Yahya Al-Sinwar, he was also imprisoned and suffered bitter torture, while outside leaders were leading the revolution of statements and declarations from hotels and traveling on private planes.

That is why the leaders of the field today feel that their rights are violated, and their blood has been spilled, while the hotel warriors are protected in the countries where they reside.

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 Palestinian action, rather than the "Fatah" movement.

They began issuing treasonous statements to all other factions, with the support 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 region.

That is why, for 17 years, foreign leaders 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 "national unity government."

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NewsWatch

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)

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 "nefarious" 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 Tehreek-e-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 preliminary 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)

Fears of escalation mount

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 occupation forces.

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 neighborhood 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,

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 devel-

opments 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 will end soon."



Dr. Fatma H. Al-Awadhi (center) of Kuwait has been selected as one of the 2023 winners of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science grant.

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Sadu House, KRCS weaving for peace

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.

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.

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

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SPECIAL REPORT



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.

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 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. Winning 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.



Dr. Fatma H. Al-Awadhi

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?

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.

Arab Times: "Liquid biopsy" methods for detecting cancer-specific 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: 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.

Arab 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.

Dr. Noha Mousaad Elemam – UAE

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 to advancements in both cancer detection 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 therapy to enhance the immune system's ability to recognize and destroy cancer cells. Since 2020, breast cancer has become the most diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of global cancer incidence. This study will utilize the knowledge from immuno-modulation to develop novel early biomarkers 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 of molecular and cellular immunological pathways. Eventually, this will benefit the patients and the community by improving the patient's survival and reducing the financial impact.



Dr. Noha Mousaad Elemam

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editor's choice



7 yrs jail, KD 128m fine for citizen

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 companies.

Additionally, the prosecution accused the defendants, who were authorized to manage 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 (Tmkeen).

The guests included founders of startups that participated in past editions of the KIPCO Tmkeen 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-

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 economy."

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

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.

diwaniya

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 survival, no matter how harsh their living conditions are," columnist **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The First Deputy Premier realizes that the security of Kuwait cannot be stable as long as citizens constitute a minority that does not exceed 31% of the population, and there is no reassurance with the continuation of the sponsorship system, which gives the citizen the right to bring a number of citizens from labor-exporting 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 enmeshed 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.

"This disturbing situation does not benefit 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 join 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 internal stability.

"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 subjugating 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 Premier 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 societies.

"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 whippers 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."

Also:

"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 vacancies. 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



October

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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 energy.

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 season.

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.

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 Murooj, 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.

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 Maqseed. "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.

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-Aroui 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.

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 the ministry's employees in all departments and divisions.

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 departments.

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 university.

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

Finance minister promises to study demands of labor union

'Education deals with complaints seriously'



Photo by Rizk Taufiq

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.




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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.

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 government 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 dominate politics.

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 have 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 Council.

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 family.

The Liberals, however, are staying on in the three-party 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, 2019. (AP)



Sciarini

Politics

Presidential hopeful lagging poll numbers

Former US VP Pence faces cash shortage

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

NEW YORK, Oct 23, (AP): With three months to go before the Iowa caucuses that he has staked his campaign on, former US vice 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 long-term 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

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 masterminds of the Sept 11, 2001 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 ill-planned, 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 Stefan, 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 decade-long war in Afghanistan during the 1980s only to pull out in defeat 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 first-in-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.



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

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 disappeared under "suspicious circumstances"

while traveling through several communities. Efforts to find them included a week-end 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

and Stowe, officials said.

Vermont State Police said investigators are concerned about the well being of the pair. (AP)



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)

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)

Rockers' new album is tight, focused, full of heart and swagger

Stones show time's on their side with 'Hackney Diamonds'

LOS ANGELES, Oct 23, (AP) - Near the end of the exultant "Sweet Sounds of Heaven," the penultimate track on The Rolling Stones' terrific new album "Hackney Diamonds" (yes, NEW), we hear what sounds like a vocal contest between two up-and-comers: one Mick Jagger and one Lady Gaga.

"Oh yeah!" they sing, with escalating urgency. "Come on!" Are they tussling here? Actually, Jagger has confirmed there were competitive juices flowing as they completed the track.

To which we say, let the games continue! The competition is emblematic of the joyous energy that infuses the Stones' first collection of original music in 18 years, out Friday. It's their best new work in decades - tight, focused, full of heart and swagger.

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 you 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 out-

ing: "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.

MUSIC

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

LOS ANGELES, Oct 23, (AP) - Errol Morris's conversation with the late David Cornwell in "The Pigeon Tunnel" is fascinating even without the filmmaking flourishes.

Cornwell, better known by his pen name John le Carré, was the spy-turned-novelist whose tales of espionage 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 Intertron and the reenactments might not be the revolutionary storytelling 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 Carré-style 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 Cornwell 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 my larceny."

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 anniversary 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," 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.

NEW YORK: In a movie match-up 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 start in Apple Studios' first major theatrical gambit.

After a record-breaking opening 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 Thursdays through Sundays.

Most Swifties rushed to see 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 phenomenon.

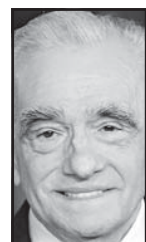
But "The Eras Tour" has still proved to be a movie event unlike any other. Within days, it became the highest grossing concert film ever in North America, not accounting for inflation. It's quickly accumulated \$129.8 million domestically.

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

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



Swift

"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 strategies.

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)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023

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 Hussein, 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 sectors.

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 and sessions.



Al Khashti delivering his opening speech.



Al Hussein, Al Salman and Mahdi honor Al Khashti in recognition of Zain's support.



Al Hussein and guests with Zain team.



A photo from the Dasman Diabetes Institute's cybersecurity awareness program.

'Protection of patients' data vital'

DDI holds cybersecurity interactive awareness event for its employees

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 session.

The Information Technology Department in the Institute conducted an educational interactive session for all staff consisting of different presentations on the top-

ic 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.

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 collaboration 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



Mai Al-Musallam, Senior Manager of Public Relations and Marketing at AU.

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 two-year 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 full-time study to complete a Bachelor's degree in Business or Engineering Technology.

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Several Kuwaiti male and female refs honored

Kuwaiti referees selected for Men's World Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 23: The President 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



Honored referees display their certificates as officials look on.

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 experiences in the game. She extended her heartfelt appreciation to the club for its consistent support of Kuwaiti referees, facilitating their participation in domestic and international training programs, which have substantially enhanced the referees' proficiency 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 266 Test wkts with dazzling spin, dies

NEW DELHI, Oct 23, (AP): Bishan Bedi, the India cricket great whose dazzling left-arm spin claimed 266 Test wickets, has died. He was 77.

The death of Bedi, who underwent 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 Monday.

"The BCCI mourns the sad demise of former India Test Captain and legendary spinner, Bishan Singh Bedi," the BCCI wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and fans in these tough times."

Bedi was part of the famous Indian spin quartet with Bhagwath Chandrasekhar, Erapalli Prasanna and Srinivas Venkataraghavan in the 1970s.

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 England.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

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 victories."

"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

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, 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 controversies.

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."

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, Amman.

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



Kuwaiti celebrates after scoring.

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 Arabia.

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 back-

line. Nevertheless, the team showcased exceptional technical prowess.

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.

during the Khaitan match, while Al-Zenki is committed to work-related duties, and Al-Khubaizi has special circumstances preventing his participation.

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 Mar-

hoon, Moroccan Mahdi Barahma, Tunisians Yassine Al-Khanisi and Yassine Amri, along with Mohamed Dahham, Faisal Zayed, Fahd Al-Hajri, Reda Hani, and Fahd Hammoud.

On the opposing side, Al-Ittihad Al-Ahly Aleppo's Syrian coach, Maan

HANDBALL

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 Persepolis.

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.



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, China. (AP)

Sports

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



The Kuwait Club dominated Al-Qadisia 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-Qadisia 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 game-winning 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

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



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

transform Riyadh into the capital of electronic gaming. The tournament will be held in state-of-the-art facilities, accompanied by a multitude of activities and events, presenting a unique opportunity to attract a new demographic of visitors with a vested interest in the electronic gaming sector. This initiative is poised to invigorate the tourism sector in the city of Riyadh during the summer months.

Rayo Vallecano ended a streak of four consecutive draws with a 1-0 win at Las Palmas, with Bebé converting a penalty kick in second-half stoppage time. The victory moved

Rayo to seventh place, while Las Palmas - coming off two consecutive victories - stayed 12th. Las Palmas forward Munir El Haddadi missed a first-half penalty kick.



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 sweat.

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 Prost (51) and Sebastian Vettel (53) for third. Michael Schumacher has 91.

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 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 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 race.

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 car can run to the ground. If the plank is 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 men.

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 Juventus.

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 lineups.

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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