



FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MARCH 29-30, 2024 / RAMADAN 19-20, 1445 AH

emergency number 112

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NON-COMPLIANCE COULD RESULT IN ARRIVALS RETURN TO ORIGIN No biometrics, no transactions

Deadline alert

Kuwaiti athletes call on Assembly hopefuls to address sports development

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, March 28: With the end of the first month of the time period set for citizens and residents to undergo enrollment biometric process, the Ministry of **Interior** has affirmed that it will stop all of the ministry's transactions for those who do not undergo this process within the time period granted from March 1 to June 1.

In this context, a security source revealed to Al-Seyassah that all travelers coming to the country, irrespective of whether they are Gulf Arabs, residents, or visitors, via the airport and land ports in Abdali, Salmi, and Nuwaiseeb, are subject to a biometric fingerprint procedure.

He said this procedure is considered obligatory, and whoever refuses to undertake it will be sent back to where he came from, with the exception of citizens.

During His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's recent visit to the Ministry of Interior on the occasion of Ramadan, Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf announced the ministry's plan to implement the biometric fingerprint system across all ports of the country by mid-May 2023. This initiative involves the General Administration of Information Systems, the General Administration of Forensic Evidence, and the Ports Security Sector. Data for 1,694,000 individuals, including citizens, Gulf citizens, residents, visitors, and Bedouns, has been created and updated. Efforts are underway to collect fingerprints from the targeted groups through designated centers.

The Ministry of Interior revealed the designated centers and commercial complexes for biometric enrollment, including the governorate security directorates and the personal identification sections in Ali Al-Sabah and Jahra areas for residents. Additionally, biometric services will be available at the Avenues Mall, 360 Mall, Kout Mall, Capital Mall, and the Ministries Complex.

Most election candidates turn diwaniyas into campaign hubs

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Most of the 2024 National Assembly election candidates have opted to use their diwaniyas as campaign centers where they hold meetings with their constituents, instead of setting up tents for this purpose as practiced in previous elections.

In the 2022 elections, Kuwait Municipality issued 187 licenses for campaign tents or centers; 128 in 2023 and only 86 this year.

Candidates are also keen on visiting the diwaniyas of their constituents in a bid to strengthen communication lines and direct contact with them. In addition, candidates also utilize podcast interviews to reach out to voters. Since the election is being held in Ramadan, candidates have been taking advantage of the occasion to invite people to celebrate Ramadan evenings with them including Ghabqa.

Meanwhile, former MP and Fourth Constituency candidate Mo-

hammad Hayef Al-Mutairi urged Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah to intensify efforts to deal with election violations. He disclosed that in the previous election, the Ministry of Interior focused on combating forgery and vote-buying.

He inquired why the ministry did not launch a hotline for receiving reports on such violations from the citizens.

While the campaigns for the 2024 National Assembly elections, scheduled on April 4, are in full swing, a number of Kuwaiti athletes and officials called on candidates to highlight issues related to sports and its development.

In several interviews with KUNA, they affirmed that development sports in Kuwait was as vital as any other sector in the country, deeming it as a necessity

Lawmakers in Kuwait should and must set their vision on boosting sports in the country to revitalize this important domain, Olympian shooter and champion Abdullah Al-Turqi told KUNA.

Al-Turgi indicated that since Kuwaiti population has a majority of youth, the quest to develop sports in the country was not something trivial.

Those involved in sports, whether athletes or officials, are eager to see Kuwaiti sports soar high, the Kuwaiti athlete indicated, noting that 2024 National Assembly candidates have the chance to bring such issues into the limelight.

He stressed that sports occupied the youths' time and made them veer off illicit activities such as reckless driving and God forbid narcotics.

On his part, President of the Kuwaiti Winter Games Club Fehaid Al-Ajmi affirmed that sports must take center stage in political discourse, expressing bewilderment over the lack of sports issues in some of the candidates' rhetoric.

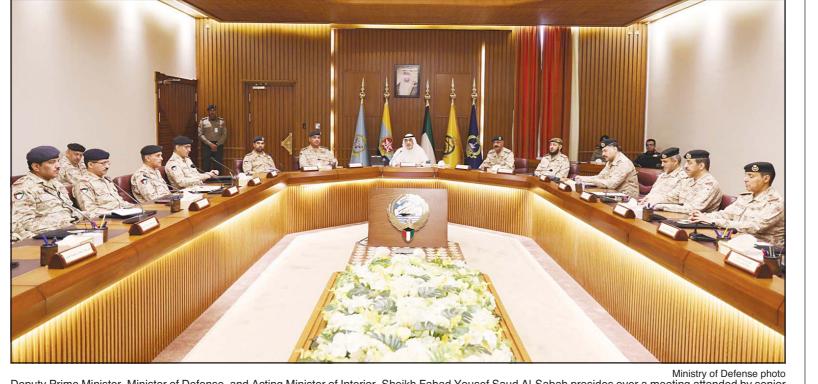
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Mixed weather over weekend

KUWAIT CITY, March 28, (KUNA): The Meteorological Department has provided an extended forecast for the upcoming weekend, offering insights into the expected

weekend is anticipated to bring a blend of hot daytime temperatures and cooler evenings, accompanied by the possibility of sporadic light rain evolving into thunderstorms. This weather pattern is projected to commence on Saturday, extending through to the early hours of

Sunday before dissipating. Director Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi elaborated on the atmospheric dynamics driving these conditions. The department's assessments, based on weather maps and numerical models, indicate the influence of an air high gradually retreating to make way for the advancement of a surface low-pressure system. This low-pressure system is expected to usher in a humid air mass, coinciding with the expansion of an air low in the upper atmospheric layers. These atmospheric interactions are likely to foster the proliferation of low and



Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Acting Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah presides over a meeting attended by senior military leaders.

Kuwait Defense Minister urges top brass to boost cooperation

nilitary sectors. Identified were key obstacles and reme Commander of the Armed Forces, Sheikh Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Deputy Acting Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Yousef difficulties hindering the execution of assigned Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. These directives, articulated during His Highness's visit to Saud Al-Sabah, urged military leaders on Thurstasks and duties within these sectors. day to strengthen cooperation and coordination Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef emphasized the imthe Ministry of Defense on the occasion of Ramaportance of intensified follow-up efforts, direct dan emphasized the establishment of justice and across various sectors of the Kuwaiti army while monitoring of workflow mechanisms, and efforts impartiality, the implementation of legal measures accelerating work pace and achievements. to enhance the capabilities of unit members acto safeguard public funds, and the inspection of The call was made during a meeting chaired by Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, as stated in a press cording to the highest technical and technological camps' infrastructure. Additionally, they stressed standards. This is aimed at keeping pace with adrelease from the Ministry of Defense. The meetthe intensification of training and joint exercises ing, attended by senior military leaders and Chief vancements in armament and military equipment. to enhance the performance and readiness of Kuof the General Staff of the Army, Lieutenant Gen-Furthermore, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef reiterwaiti army members, along with providing support and encouragement to Kuwaiti cadres from within eral Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, focused on discussated the Ministry of Defense's commitment to following the directives of His Highness the Amir, Suing and reviewing programs and plans for various the country. (KUNA)

weather patterns across the country. According to their analysis, the

medium clouds interspersed with cumulus formations.

For the immediate forecast, Al-Qarawi outlined the weather expectations for Thursday, characterized by warm temperatures accompanied by light to moderate northwesterly winds. These winds may intermittently reach speeds rang-ing between 12 and 40 kilometers

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War toll stuns doctors

Other Voices

WASHINGTON: The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) announced, late Wednesday, the successful engagement and destruction of four long-range unmanned aerial systems (UAS) targeting US warships launched by Houthis in the Red Sea.

Newswatch

In a statement by CENTCOM, the incident took place between 2:00 and 2:20 a.m. (Sanaa time), where the "UAS were aimed at a US warship and engaged in selfdefense over the Red Sea. There were no injuries or damage reported to US or coalition ships." (KUNA)

HEBBARIYE, Lebanon: A series of Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon killed 16 people and a barrage of rockets fired by the militant group Hezbollah killed one Israeli man, making Wednesday the deadliest day in more than five months of fighting along the border.

Since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, concerns have grown about further escalation along the Israel-Lebanon frontier. Tens of thousands of people on both sides have been displaced by the violence. (AP)

NAIROBI: The world wasted an estimated 19% of the food produced globally in 2022, or about 1.05 billion metric tons, according to a new United Nations report.

The U.N. Environment Programme's Food Waste Index Report, published Wednesday, tracks the progress of countries to halve food waste by 2030.

The U.N. said the number of countries reporting for the index nearly doubled from the first report in 2021. (AP)

Ramadan Timings

Iftar	Friday	18:05
Imsak	Saturday	04:17
Iftar	Saturday	18:06
		04:16

Hamas's strategic pivot to territorial claims

In an era where global and local forces intertwine, the conflict between Israel and Hamas takes on new dimensions. Dr. Enrico Molinaro's groundbreaking research unveils a pivotal shift in Hamas's strategy, from its roots in Glocalist ideology towards a Westphalian model of statehood and sovereignty. Through an in-depth exploration of Hamas's transition, Dr. Molinaro navigates the complexities of identity, power, and ambition that define the struggle for a nation. As the world watches the unfolding events in Gaza and Israel, understanding these strategic shifts becomes crucial for grasping the future trajectories of this enduring conflict.

By Enrico Molinaro, Ph.D.

President of Mediterranean Perspectives, National Coordinator of the Anna Lindh Foundation in Italy

Did the Hamas' military wing, the Ezzedin al-Qassam Bri-gades, launch the Al-Aqsa Flood Operation of October 7, 2023, for territorial or religious motivations? An innovative epistemological perspective distinguishing two opposite Glocalist or Westphalian collective identity models may help understanding the events occurring in Israel and Gaza.

The Westphalian identitary vision relates to well-defined State physical boundaries, while the opposite Glocalist model highlights on the contrary communities within ideological, economic, theological, or spiritual intra- or trans-national virtual borders.

Since they revised their organization's Charter in 2017, the Hamas leadership has apparently been shifting from the original Glocalist approach to the Westphalian model, aiming at establishing (art. 20) "a fully sovereign and independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital along the lines of the 4th of June 1967".

On January 21, 2024, Hamas released the "Our Narrative" Report, officially claiming its goal for the 10/7 attack of "stopping the expansion of West Bank settlements and bringing an end to the blockade of the Gaza Strip".

Hamas denied allegations of war crimes, such as rapes and intentional mutilations, adding that its members were "keen to avoid harming civilians" and that any such targeting was by accident. In fact, all the acts of cruel violence that Israelis experienced as a result of the 10/7 attack are under the moral, legal, and political responsibility of Hamas, including those in which they were not directly involved, because their decision to breach the defensive fence protecting the State of Israel facilitated the entrance of thousands of additional armed violent Palestinians from Gaza.

Did Hamas plan, years earlier, such horrible rapes and similar unspeakable inhumane violence in order to spread psychological terror, or did its fighters transgress their initial orders? In the aforementioned Report Hamas admitted that "maybe some faults happened", but explained the killing of innocent civilians with "the rapid collapse of the Israeli security and military system, and the chaos caused along the border areas near Gaza".

Its 18-page report describes the current war as part of a 105-year-old struggle of the Palestinian nation against "colonialism", 30 years against the British mandate, and 75 years against the State of Israel.

"Israel has destroyed our ability to create a Palestinian state by accelerating the settlement enterprise," Hamas said, blaming the United Nations for failing to stop the process. "Were we supposed to continue waiting and relying on the helpless UN institutions?" the document asked. After the 10/7 Al-Aqsa Flood op-

eration Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared a "right

war against Hamas' monsters", comparing their brutal actions to those of the Islamic State (ISIS/Daesh): "Hamas is ISIS". The two organizations, in fact, are quite different from each other.

ISIS is composed mainly of Iraqi and Syrian fighters, or from other areas of the world (Europe, Asia, North Africa), while Hamas has exclusively Palestinian members. Hamas' attacks are aimed at Israeli targets; ISIS on the contrary has declared religious goals, as its propaganda is aimed at the entire Muslim community scattered around the globe, urging them to fight against the "infidels", and carrying out attacks in Europe or other countries.

These significant differences, in light of the aforementioned Westphalian/Glocalist epistemological methodology, help understand why the Glocalist Islamic State carried out on January 3, 2024, the Suicide Bombing on the Memorial Route for the Assassination (by former Glocalist U.S. President Trump) of Westphalian Qasem Soleimani within the City of Kerman, in Iran, claiming the attack through its social networks.

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Kuwait condemns Israel's land seizure in West Bank

KUWAIT CITY, March 28, (Agencies): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed Kuwait's condemnation of the Israeli occupation's decision to seize 8,000 dunams of the Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank.

This is a blatant violation of international law and norms as well as relevant UN resolutions, the Ministry said in a statement.

It reaffirmed reiterated that the Israeli occupation's continued confiscation of Palestinian land and deprivation of the Palestinian people of their rights and possessions under the watchful eyes of the international community would not serve the international efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

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KUNA photo

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Mousherji receives US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara.

Bid to strengthen bonds

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Mousherji met on Wednesday with US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara on ways of promoting distinguished relations between both friendly countries in all domains.

During the meeting, they also looked into several issues and topics pertinent to further promoting bilateral cooperation and bolstering bonds of friendship between Kuwait and the US, the minister's office said in a press statement.

The Political Officer at the US Embassy in Kuwait Kelly Wood was present at the meeting, according to the statement. (KUNA)



Prayer Timings						
Fajr 04:23 Sunrise 05:43 Zohr 11:53	- J					



Expected weather for next 24 hrs: By Day: Rather hot and partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times north-westerly wind, with speeds of 10-40 km/h. By Night: Rather cold and part-

Weather ly cloudy with light to moderate Kuwait Airport

northwesterly wind to light vari- able wind, with speeds of 08-30		Abdaly	31	15	
		Jahra	31	18	
km/h.			Salmiyah	21	19
Station	Max Exp	Min Rec	Nuwaisib	29	17
Kuwait City	28	19	Wafra	31	15

2

17

29

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

Amir's visits to deaf, disabilities clubs 'supportive' gesture: Minister

KUWAIT CITY, March 28, (KUNA): State Minister for Youth Affairs Dawoud Ma'arafi said that the two visits of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Disabled Sport Club and the sport club for the Deaf embodied His Highness's interest in supporting athletes with disabilities. Minister Ma'arafi, also State Minister for National Assembly Affairs and

State Minister for Communication Affairs, told KUNA on Thursday that these two visits, on the occasion of Ramadan, had a positive impact on all members of the two clubs.

He praised His Highness's initiative in taking these visits, adding that the Public Authority for Sport will continue supporting athletes with disabili-

ties and motivate them for greater achievements.

He added that the Kuwaiti champions with disabilities of all kinds achieved great victories and medals in various Paralympic games and in international and continental championships, praising their determination and keenness to raise the name of their country high in major sporting forums.



Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Mousherji meets with French Charge d'Affaires in Kuwait Bassam Khadrawi.

Bilateral ties mulled over

Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereeda Al-Mousherji met on Wednesday with French Charge d'Affaires in Kuwait Bassam Khadrawi on ways of promoting distinguished relations between both friendly countries in all domains. During the meeting, they also looked

into several issues and topics pertinent to promoting bilateral cooperation and bolstering bonds of friendship between Kuwait and France, the minister's office said in a press statement. The Second Counsellor at the French Embassy in Kuwait was present at the meeting. (KUNA)

MEW boasts of 97% Kuwaiti workforce; strength 34,417

Electricity surplus witnessed as temperatures fall

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: According to the latest statistics released by the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, the percentage of national workers employed in the ministry during February was 97%, with expatriate workers making up the remaining 3%. The total number of employees in the ministry was reported to be 34,417, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Regarding electricity exchange operations, the country's electrical network exported 13,651 megawatts/ hour to the Gulf network while receiving 11,726 megawatts/hour through the interconnection network during February. This resulted in a net benefit of 1,925 megawatts/hour for the country's electrical network within the joint exchange operations between Kuwait and the Gulf network.

The statistics further revealed that the exchange rates between the Kuwaiti electrical network and the Gulf network remained consistent compared to January. This stability was attributed to decreased weather temperatures and the Ministry of Electricity and Water conducting various annual maintenance works for energy production units within stations during the winter season.

The energy exchange rates were reported to be consistent throughout the month, with minor differences observed on some days, typically around 200 megawatts, between the two networks. Additionally, efforts are underway to increase the exchange capacity between Kuwait and the Gulf network through Gulf interconnection projects, which currently aim to raise the capacity to approximately 1,000 megawatts.

It is noteworthy that the Ministry of Electricity and Wa-ter is prioritizing the reintroduction of electrical power production units, which underwent maintenance during the winter season, into service before the onset of the summer season and the subsequent rise in weather temperatures. This initiative aims to support local energy consumption and ensure reliable electricity supply during peak demand periods.

Ministry finds 16 violations



South Korean Ambassador Chung Byung-ha speaking at the event.

'Iftar' gathering held for media persons

South Korean, Kuwaiti relations historic, advanced: ambassador

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

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait, Chung Byung-ha, speaking at the 'iftar' gathering for local media personnel, reiterated the strength and depth of bilateral relations between South Korea and Kuwait, describing them as historic and advanced across various sectors.

The Korean envoy highlighted the diverse areas of cooperation between the two countries, including emerging secthe presence of Kuwaiti students in South Korea, Ambassador Chung encouraged Kuwaitis to visit his country as a unique tourist destination, boasting its natural beauty, rich civilization, and cultural diversity. He also noted that Kuwaiti citizens enjoy visa-free entry to South Korea.

Furthermore, Ambassador Chung expressed his appreciation for the spiritual atmosphere of Ramadan in Kuwait and praised the social cohesion demonstrated through traditional gatherings such as diwaniyas and ghabqas. He expressed his eagerness to engage with various segments of Kuwaiti society by visiting diwaniyas regularly, highlighting the warm hospitality and generosity he has experienced. Overall, Ambassador Chung's statements reflect a commitment to strengthening the longstanding partnership between South Korea and Kuwait, fostering cultural exchange, and promoting mutual understanding and cooperation across various fields.

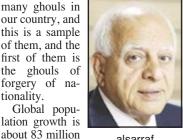
Other Voices

Ghouls...and boycotting polls

By Ahmad alsarraf

G houls are the plural of ghouls. They are what appear to people in the desert, and take different forms to them and deceive them, that is, mislead them, destroy them, ruin their conditions, and destroy their homelands. There are

many ghouls in our country, and this is a sample of them, and the first of them is the ghouls of forgery of nationality.



I, along with an influential group of citizens, intended to issue a statement announcing a boycott of the upcoming parliamentary elections, due to our despair over the current situation, and the government's continued reluctance to move, act, and resolve outstanding issues, most of which require only a little determination and some wisdom.

Then hope began to emerge, with the issuance of "Communication Number One" by the Interior Ministry, asking citizens to cooperate with the authority and report any information related to forgers of national citizenship, through a hotline, and the Interior Ministry had already received many reports.

alsarraf

people annually, meaning an annual increase of 1.1%, but in Kuwait for years it was 4.4%. This means that the increase in our numbers was not natural as a result of an increase in births, but rather as a result of random naturalization and tampering with the national identity, and it is necessary to reveal the identity of the population.

The second ghoul: the ghoul of fake educational certificates.

It is said that there are tens of thousands of government employees who hold unaccredited and forged certificates, including educators and teachers, and those who hold the most dangerous positions in various state agencies. A large portion of them retired, after receiving millions of dinars from public money in exchange for their degrees.

Another part chose to resign, after the razor approached their beards, and others were referred to the judiciary, but a large percentage still clings to its government job, and continues to sabotage everything around it, and every failed administration there is a holder of a forged certificate standing behind it.

The third ghoul: the ghoul of administrative corruption

This is the reason for all our moral backwardness in government administration, the delay in citizen and resident transactions in the corridors of service ministries, the reason for the spread of nepotism in the government apparatus, and the spread of bribes to pass transactions.

Several decrees were also issued regarding the cancellation of citizenship for hundreds of people who do not deserve it. The Interior Ministry announced that no nationality will be withdrawn unless the Supreme Committee reviews it, as it is unreasonable for these counterfeiters to enjoy benefits they do not deserve.

The Interior Ministry said that what it is doing is combating crime and corruption and preserving national identity and the public interest, in accordance with the law!

On the other hand, the Council of Ministers announced the start of examining the educational certificates of all state employees, those with high school diplomas and above, from the year 2000 until today, and no entity will be excluded from this examination and scrutiny.

The wheel of development and mechanization of the government apparatus has also begun to move rapidly, and we hope to find greater acceleration in this field, to reduce the risks of nepotism and reduce dependence on the human factor in completing the work of government agencies.

Therefore, we decided to return home, refrain from boycotting the elections, and participate strongly in supporting those who deserve to reach Abdullah Al-Salem Hall, while calling on all those who are hesitant to cast their votes, each according to his convictions.

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

Mol seeks better law control

Security sector reshuffle continues

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Acting Minister of the Interior, Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, continues the restructuring of the security sectors within the Ministry of Interior, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Yesterday, the minister issued a decision appointing the following individuals to key positions within the ministry:

Brigadier General Muhammad Qabazard has been appointed as the Director of the General Directorate of Narcotics Control

Brigadier Hamad Al-Yousef has been appointed as his assistant.

Brigadier Pilot Salem Al-Shehab has been appointed as Assistant DirectorGeneral of the Anti-Narcotics Wing in the General Administration of Central Operations.

Brigadier General Jamal Al-Foudari has been appointed as the Director of the General Traffic Department.

Brigadier Generals Muhammad Al-Adwani, Muhammad Al-Otaibi, Munif Al-Mutairi, Saad Al-Qatwan, and Ghazi Bourqaba have been appointed as assistants to the Director of the General Traffic Department.

These appointments signify the ministry's commitment to enhancing security measures and combating narcotics trafficking and traffic-related issues in Kuwait.

in second week donations

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Inspection teams from the Ministry of Social Affairs uncovered 16 violations of regulations on collecting donations in the second week of the holy month of Ramadan alone, reports Al-Seyassah daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed these violations include collecting donations without a license and publishing donation advertisements on social media for a number of people and entities. All those proven to have committed violations were referred to the Public Prosecution.

Sources affirmed the ministry is implementing the 'zero tolerance' policy in arresting those who collect donations without obtaining a license, stressing that it is prohibited to collect cash donations.

Sources added the inspection teams also discovered 29 violations in the mosques; such as publishing advertisements to collect donations for Iftar, implementing charitable projects without a license, and failure to follow the schedule for the collection of donations in mosques. Sources said the ministry has asked its Endowments and Islamic Affairs counterpart to take the necessary measures.

Sources stated that two volunteer groups were also found to be calling for collecting donations for Iftar and charitable projects without a license. The inspection teams contacted the Community Development Department in the Ministry of Social Affairs to take action.

Sources went on to say that the inspection teams carried out 597 field visits to mosques and 44 to the headquarters of charitable organizations, and checked 39 kiosks for collecting clothes -- 21 of which were removed due to violations.

Sources added the inspection teams checked 28 restaurants, five commercial companies and a central market; urging the owners and those in charge of these establishments to refrain from collecting donations through social media. Sources confirmed the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been asked to take the necessary measures in this regard.

Meanwhile, proceeds of the second day of Al-Gharameen campaign - launched by the Ministry of Social Affairs in cooperation with the ministries of Justice, Information, Endowments and Islamic Affairs, and the Consumer Cooperative Societies Union and the Union of Charitable Societies and Charities - reached more than KD467,000 from 5,168 donors, reports Al-Anba daily.

A source from the Ministry of Social Affairs stated that the ministry will issue a detailed weekly report on the results of the campaign. The source affirmed that the files of the debtors are ready in the Judgments Implementation Department. Once the campaign concludes at the end of the holy month of Ramadan, the work mechanism and the beneficiaries will be established by the special committee tasked to supervise the campaign. The committee consists of the representatives of the concerned authorities, the source added.

Pure cocaine found with passenger from Europe

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Kuwait Customs General Administration (KGCA) has confirmed the arrest of a traveler from a European country for the possession of five ampoules of pure cocaine weighing 80 grams and other types of psychotropic substances, reports Al-Anba daily.

It has been reported that the drugs, which were hidden in different parts of the traveler's body and his luggage, were uncovered when customs officers at the Terminal Four in Kuwait International Airport searched him. He was referred to the concerned authorities, along with the confiscated items.

tors such as airport management, smart agriculture, smart cities, healthcare, medicine, and renewable energy. He also emphasized the significant volume of trade between South Korea and Kuwait, exceeding \$13 billion last year, and expressed efforts to further enhance this economic exchange.

Acknowledging the interest in Korean language studies at Kuwait University and



Photo by lehab Qurtal

Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Tuba Nour Sönmez with guests at the 'ghabqa'.

Turkish envoy hosts 'ghabqa'

'In Kuwait I feel like I'm at home'

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: "Ghabqa is a wonderful Kuwaiti tradition that brings us the blessings of Ramadan," reports Al-Rai daily quoting Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Tuba Nour Sönmez.

Sönmez made the statement in a gathering she organized recently at her residence during which she affirmed: "In Kuwait, I feel like I am at home." A huge crowd of Arab and foreign ambassadors and diplomats; in addition to several officials, citizens and members of the Turkish community attended the event.

Addressing the guests, the Ambassador stated: "Here, we come together to go beyond borders and cultures. Together, we celebrate in the spirit of unity, compassion and contemplation. As someone who has lived the month of Ramadan in different countries, I can confirm that being away from home during this blessed month arouses feelings of nostalgia. Fortunately, I am in Kuwait, which is rich in traditions that make me feel at home.'

She also pointed out that "Turkey is famous for its vibrant Ramadan traditions, festive atmosphere and lively events. During the month of Ramadan, Turkish cities come alive with colorful lights adorning the streets; and markets are crowded with shoppers buying special foods and sweets for breaking the fast. In Kuwait, we gather almost daily in ghabqas and diwaniyas. We see children dressed in 'girgian' costumes, distribute sweets to them, and enjoy traditional Kuwaiti dishes during iftar and suhoor."

She added: "Behind the colorful customs lies the essence of the blessed month of Ramadan. It is more than just a month. It is a time for self-discovery, compassion, and renewal. As we fast from dawn until sunset, we empathize with those who are less fortunate. This enhances feelings of compassion and commitment to helping those in need. We find ourselves in the middle of this holy month, so let us embody its full spirit and carry it with us throughout the year."

She concluded: "Allow me to end my speech by quoting the Ramadan statement of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, 'Let us make the most of the merciful atmosphere of Ramadan by imploring Allah Almighty to put an end to the suffering, systematic atrocities, torture and oppression in various parts of the world, especially in Palestine'... Ramadan Kareem!'

LOCAL



A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Need to balance businesses and its effect on environment'

"INDEED, the integration of environmental, social, and corporate governance practices (ESG) has become increasingly vital in the modern business landscape -- the recognition that companies must balance profit-making with their impacts on the environment and society reflects a broader understanding of sustainability and responsible business practices," columnist Dr Muhammad Al-Sayegh

wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"In the environmental realm, companies are realizing that their operations have significant implications for ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate change.



"The traditional

focus solely on financial profit is no longer sufficient or acceptable, given the pressing environmental challenges we face. Instead, businesses are expected to consider the full spectrum of their activities and strive to minimize their negative environmental footprint.

"One key aspect of environmental responsibility is reducing carbon emissions. This involves implementing measures to decrease the release of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, which contribute to global warming and climate change.

"Companies can achieve this by adopting cleaner technologies, increasing energy efficiency, transitioning to renewable energy sources, and imple-menting sustainable transportation practices.

"Furthermore, improving the efficiency of natural resource utilization is essential for environmental sustainability. This entails minimizing waste, optimizing resource extraction processes, and recycling materials whenever possible. By doing so, companies can reduce their environmental impact and contribute to the conservation of finite resources like water, minerals, and forests.

"Enhancing biodiversity is another critical aspect of environmental stewardship. Companies can support biodiversity conservation by preserving natural habitats, mitigating habitat destruction caused by their operations, and implementing sustainable land-use practices.

"Protecting biodiversity not only helps maintain ecosystem health but also supports essential ecosystem services upon which human well-being depends, such as pollination, water purification, and soil fertility.

"In summary, integrating ESG principles into business strategies is essential for achieving long-term success while minimizing negative impacts on the environment and society. By prioritizing environmental sustainability, compaMohsen Hamada wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"It is important to recognize the longstanding history of cooperation and partnership between the ruling family and the people of Kuwait, which spans over three centuries since the establishment of the state.

"Throughout this time, Kuwait has thrived as a nation, with the ruling family playing a significant role in its development and progress.

"While no society is without its challenges and crises, Kuwait has demonstrated resilience and the ability to overcome obstacles through dialogue and understanding between the government and its citizens.

"It is essential to uphold these principles of cooperation and mutual respect to ensure the continued prosperity and well-being of Kuwait and its people.

"Moreover, it is worth noting the positive achievements of Kuwait, such as being ranked as one of the cheapest cities in terms of the cost of living and among the best Gulf countries in healthcare, according to the World Health Organization.

"These accomplishments reflect the commitment of Kuwait to the welfare of its citizens and highlight the potential for further progress and advancement.

"In times of political discourse, it is crucial for leaders and representatives to prioritize unity and harmony, refraining from divisive rhetoric that undermines the fabric of society. By fostering a culture of respect, cooperation, and dialogue, Kuwait can continue to thrive as a nation and uphold the principles of democracy and inclusivity for all its citizens

"The insults and dangerous rhetoric directed towards the state's future and reputation by certain candidates are indeed alarming and have the potential to undermine the security and stability of Kuwait. It is essential to recognize the immense value of Kuwait's sovereign fund, which has been diligently managed to ensure a prosperous future for generations to come.

"The behavior of these individuals reflects their character and intentions, as "every vessel exudes what is in it." Those who resort to negative and divisive language demonstrate a lack of concern for the well-being of the state and its people. It is imperative to remain vigilant against such individuals and their detrimental impact on the nation's

"Despite the challenges posed by such rhetoric, Kuwait has a history of resilience and cooperation that has enabled it to overcome crises in the past. Through the collaboration of the wise leaders of the ruling family and the conscientious citizens of Kuwait, the country has consistently navigated through difficult times and emerged stronger.

"As Kuwait continues to progress, it is crucial to preserve and develop its democratic system, ensuring that the voices of all citizens are heard and respected. By upholding democratic principles and fostering unity among its people, Kuwait can safeguard its future and protect itself from the influence of malicious actors. "Ultimately, it is the collective responsibility of all Kuwaitis to safeguard their country's democratic values, promote social cohesion, and work towards a prosperous and harmonious future. With the grace of God and the determination of its people, Kuwait will undoubtedly overcome any challenges it faces and continue to thrive as a beacon of democracy and stability in the region.'



What's left of the car after the accident. Inset: Dr Al-Tabtabai (left) and Dr Al-Shatti

Mad rush to reach home for 'iftar' leads to accidents and loss of life

Traffic chaos, zig-zag driving, against faith: Sharia scholars

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Numerous drivers rush recklessly to reach home for 'iftar' without regard for road etiquette or the safety of others, resulting in tragic traffic accidents where lives are lost. What is the stance of Sharia scholars on such reckless driving before breaking the fast? Is it considered both morally and legally wrong?

Dr. Sayyed Muhammad Al-Tabtabai, reports Al-Anba daily, stresses that a Muslim should maintain composure and dignity in all situations, especially during fasting, a time dedicated to worship and connection with the Almighty. The haste displayed by drivers, particularly before iftar, is deemed inappropriate as it often leads to horrific accidents mere minutes before breaking the fast. Islam does not demand such recklessness in the pursuit of iftar.

Excessive speed, running red lights, and similar behaviors during the traffic rush before iftar significantly increase the risk of accidents. Dr. Al-Tabtabai advises Mus-

lims to either leave early for their destina-tions or wait until after iftar, aligning with the Prophet's (PBUH) guidance on the importance of early breaking of the fast. He suggests carrying dates in the car for breaking fast, all of which are permissible until one frees themselves from haste before the Maghrib call to prayer.

Dr. Al-Tabtabai underscores the media's responsibility in highlighting tragic accidents as cautionary tales for drivers. He emphasizes the need for learning from others' mistakes, citing the numerous families who lose their providers or individuals who suffer permanent disabilities due to speeding and reckless driving during Ramadan.

On the other hand, Dr. Bassam Al-Shatti condemns behaviors like rushing, arguing, and gossiping, which are contrary to Muslim ethics year-round, let alone during the month of Ramadan, characterized by mercy, tolerance, and cooperation. He questions why drivers fail to heed the call of God to avoid self-destruction, opting instead for reckless speeding, especially before iftar.

Dr. Al-Shatti emphasizes that driving fast contradicts the values of mercy and tolerance espoused by Islam, particularly during Ramadan. He deems the traffic chaos before iftar impermissible under Islamic law due to its potential for catastrophic accidents, labeling it as sinful and a disobedience to God



Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf during the visit.

'Guards committed to get foreign expertise'

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf has confirmed the National Guard's commitment to cooperate with brotherly and friendly countries in the security and military fields, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf made the statement when he visited the Computer and Languages Center at the National Guard, accompanied by Undersecretary Lieutenant General Eng Hashem Âl-Rifai and senior officials. In a press statement, the National Guard revealed that Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf was briefed on the courses offered by the center and the 'Capabilities 22' program; which aims to qualify members in various foreign languages like English, French, Spanish, German, Chinese, Russian and Turkish, as well as to send a number of them abroad to learn lowing investigations, it was determined these languages until they master the skill of simultaneous that both parties are sticking to their respectranslation. tive statements. Consequently, the case has It added Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf was also informed about been referred to the appropriate jurisdiction the center's teaching of sign language in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Center for the Deaf, as it held courses in various The plaintiff, a Gulf national born in parts of the country. It affirmed the leadership's keenness 1971, reported the incident, alleging that the to provide full support for the qualification of members with woman, driving a Japanese car, insulted him the aim of keeping pace with development in various fields. Meanwhile, Sheikh Faisal Al-Nawaf praised the efforts while attempting to overtake his vehicle on of those in charge of the center in refining the skills of the Subsequently, the woman was identified members and granting the International Computer Driving based on the provided car plate number. She License (ICDL). He said the National Guard focuses on cowas interrogated by the Maidan Hawalli deoperating with brotherly and friendly countries in all militectives, where she reiterated her denial of tary and security fields, and seeks to build bridges of joint cooperation.

nies can demonstrate their commitment to responsible stewardship and contribute to a more resilient and prosperous future for all.

"Social responsibility is a critical component of ESG practices, requiring companies to consider the broader societal impacts of their decisions and actions. This includes initiatives to promote social justice, support local communities, and improve the well-being of workers and employees.

"Companies can demonstrate social responsibility by engaging in various initiatives and projects aimed at benefiting society. This may involve financial support for social programs, volunteering efforts, or partnerships with nonprofit organizations. Additionally, companies can prioritize fair labor practices, ensuring that workers are treated ethically and in accordance with international standards and conventions.

"Patagonia and Microsoft serve as exemplary models of companies that prioritize environmental and social responsibility. Patagonia's commitment to sustainability, evidenced by its extensive use of recycled materials in its products, demonstrates a dedication to environmental stewardship.

"Meanwhile, Microsoft's initiatives to promote social justice and contribute positively to society showcase its commitment to social responsibility.

"Effective corporate governance is essential for ensuring that companies operate transparently and accountably, balancing profit-making objectives with environmental and social considerations. This requires strong management structures, clear accountability mechanisms, and collaboration among various stakeholders.

"Furthermore, governments play a crucial role in fostering a regulatory environment that incentivizes responsible corporate behavior. Laws and regulations should be enacted or updated to discourage actions that harm the environment or exploit workers, while also providing mechanisms to hold companies accountable for their actions.

"By adopting transparent and accountable practices, fostering social responsibility, and adhering to environmental sustainability principles, companies can contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future for both the planet and society.

Also:

"The statements made by the former representative and minister, attacking members of the ruling family, are deeply concerning and have the potential to sow division and discord within the Kuwaiti society. Such rhetoric, which incites hatred and promotes animosity towards a particular group, is not conducive to fostering unity and stability within the nation," columnist Dr Abdul

"Further study ... Whenever the distinguished Council of Ministers meets, we start with good news, and then we wait for decisions while holding our breath as the 'rational' government will achieve for the citizen something creditable to it in the absence of the National Assembly. If the result is nothing, we await the achievement with deep regret, and then they postpone it for further study!" columnist Talal Al-Saeed wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily. "Further study means 'rubber' in our

current custom. This phrase means referral to a committee, and the committee is exactly the 'freezer' of decisions! This stage, gentlemen, requires resolution. Decisions should be made and implemented by force! This is the most important move.

"If you look into the issue of potholes on the streets and the flying gravel, you will see the resulting condition -- destroyed streets, especially after the recent rain. Despite the damage caused to every street in Kuwait -- internal or external, the government just keeps on watching. There is no 'red eye' ordering the restoration of streets, as if such a situation does not concern them, or as if they are not present in this country and are not the owners of the house, even the landlord is better than them!

"Yesterday, they told us: 'We would bring foreign companies and eliminate the problem, invent a new mixture for bitumen, and benefit from the experi-ence of others.' We believed them, but the matter is nothing more than a dream, for which we could not find an explanation. The government did not apologize to us for not implementing it, on the basis that it was a previous government, a minister has departed and 'we have no job'

"So, what did you do to protect lives and properties as a result of the destruction of the streets and the presence of potholes? All we hear is 'more study'. Our situation reminds us of the proverb: 'When he was told to divorce her and marry her sister, his answer was...' The government knows the answer well!

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes

Almighty

for further resolution.

the accusations against her.

Tunis Street.

I did not insult elderly man: woman

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: In a recent incident, a 24-year-old woman has vehemently denied allegations leveled against her by a 50-year-old man, claiming that she insulted him while driving, reports Al-Anba daily.

The woman refutes the accusation, stating that she did not utter any insults towards the plaintiff. She explained that she was engaged in a phone conversation at the time, and the plaintiff may have misinterpreted her words as directed towards him.

Despite the woman's denial, the plaintiff maintains his accusations against her. Fol-

Fire directorate refutes claims on social media

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The Public Relations and Media Department of the Directorate-General of Fire Department (DGFD) has issued a statement refuting claims circulating on social media regarding the response time of firefighters to a vehicle fire in Wafra Farms, reports Al-Anba daily.

The statement asserts that these claims are inaccurate and misleading.

Furthermore, the DGFD has emphasized that legal action will be taken against individuals responsible for spreading false information about the incident.

The department urged citizens and residents to refrain from sharing unverified news and to verify the authenticity of sources before disseminating information on social media platforms.

The statement clarifies that the DGFD responded promptly to the vehicle fire incident in Wafra and refutes any allegations suggesting otherwise. They have urged the public to rely on official channels for accurate information regarding firefighting operations and emergencies.

Drug addict nabbed: The Mubarak Al-Kabeer police have arrested an unidentified person for possessing and consuming drugs, reports Al-Anba daily. The daily said the man was caught at a police checkpoint in Al-Qurain and that at the time of arrest he was under the influence of drugs. Police found in his car narcotic substances and drug paraphernalia. He has been handed over to the Directorate-General for Drugs Control.

Fake goods seized: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has shut down two stores in Mubarakiya Market for selling counterfeit goods bearing the trademarks of the most famous international brands, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a press statement, the ministry confirmed the implementation of the immediate closure order for these two stores, and that the necessary legal procedures are being completed.

The ministry added its inspection teams are carrying out their tasks daily to ensure strict compliance with the regulations.



LOCAL

Trainees awarded certificates along with cash rewards

LOYAC concludes 'Green Trail' program sponsored by IHS

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The LOY-AC Foundation recently held a ceremony to honor 24 trainees who participated in the Green Trail Program, sponsored by "IHS," at the foundation's headquarters in the tribal school, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This edition of the program took place between February 2 and 18 last year and aimed to educate young people aged 16 to 22 about scientific facts related to agriculture, its various types, and their impact on climate change. The program, which lasted for one month with training sessions held four hours a day from Sunday to Wednesday, involved both theoretical lectures and practical field training conducted

by specialists.

At the conclusion of the program, the trainees received certificates of completion for 70 environmental hours along with cash rewards. The field training included planting activities in the Sidra Reserve, where participants learned how to renew nutrient-deficient desert areas. Over 2,000 training hours

were completed during the program, and around 1,000 plants were planted, including 200 palm trees and 500 apple trees.

Muhammad Al-Kulaib, the leader of renewable environmental programs at LOYAC, expressed satisfaction with the program's success, emphasizing the significance of training youth to become future leaders and advo-cates for a sustainable environment. He highlighted the importance of the partnership between LOYAC and IHS, emphasizing their shared commitment to empowering youth and fostering environmental awareness.

Dr. Khaled Al-Banna, the Executive Director of IHS, expressed pride

in sponsoring the Green Trail Program, emphasizing the company's dedication to initiatives that promote environmental awareness and combat climate change. He emphasized the importance of empowering young people and reiterated the company's commitment to contributing to a more sustainable future through such initiatives.

MoSA's request to allocate site for new bank in Mishref B-4 gets nod

KPC, MEW sign agreement on joint road map

By Inaas Awadh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff & Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Kuwait Municipality approved the request of the Ministry of Social Affairs to allocate a site to build a bank in Mishref Block 4 with dimensions of 20x10m on a total area of 200 square meters.

The technical recommendation for the transaction, endorsed by Kuwait Municipality's Director General Saud Al-Dabbous, emphasized compliance with the feedback provided by the members of the Public Facilities and Services Subcommittee during the meeting on May 2, 2023. It also required coordination with them prior to implementation, with a key aspect being the confirmation from the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation to uphold its services and avoid disrupting the rain drainage system.

The Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy recommended coordination prior to starting work with Salmiya Emergency Services Department to improve the water services in the area without any conflict with their paths at the specified location.

It recommended that the Ministry of Pub-

lic Works maintains its services in the area, without disruption and without bearing any costs for transferring other services to the ministry, as well as conducting a traffic study for all entrances and exits in the event of a drivethru self-service, placing a distance of three meters between the bank location

It authorized the competent departments to move and modify the dimensions and area of the site to no more than the designated areas, in the event that it conflicts with any existing infrastructure services or any regulatory reasons during installation.

KPC, MEW sign deal: The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy have reached an agreement on a joint road map aimed at enhancing cooperation and overcoming obstacles hindering the implementation of collaborative projects between the two sectors, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This agreement includes the formation of a higher energy committee comprised of leaders from both sides, tasked with developing plans to ensure the efficient supply of energy to consumers.

The agreement was reached during a meeting chaired by Dr. Imad Muhammad Al-Ateeqi, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, along with Dr. Salem Falah Al-Hajraf, Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, and Minister of State for Housing Affairs.

Also present at the meeting were Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, CEO of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, and other relevant leaders from both sides.

Various topics of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting, reflecting the ongoing coordination and collaboration between the two entities. Dr. Imad Al-Ateeqi commended the continuous and fruitful cooperation between the oil sector and the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy, emphasizing that such collaboration is in the best interest of the country.



LOYAC tree planting.

Al-Jarida photo



Ambassador Dr Swaika with Info-Minister Al-Mutairi.

Indian envoy calls on Minister Al-Mutairi

The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika called on HE Abdulrah-man Baddah Al-Mutairi, Kuwait's Minister

of Information & Culture, and discussed ways of further strengthening cooperation in media, information and cultural domain.

Achievement significant breakthrough

Climate change insights from Kuwaiti student's research on 'flying dragonfly'

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The scientific achievement led by Kuwaiti student Dalal Ali Hamada at the University of Colorado, Denver, in collaboration with

university scientists and professors, marks a significant breakthrough in the field of



Dalal

understanding nature and living organisms for scientists worldwide.

The discovery of the waxy substance and its protective function against the sun's ultraviolet rays not only expands our knowledge of insect biology but also has implications for addressing climate change and global warming.



Al-Dabbous and the sidewalk stone.

RAMADAN

Special Promotion

biology report Al-Qabas daily.

The research, which focused on the waxy substance secreted by the "flying dragonfly" or "popshir" insect in Kuwaiti dialect,

sheds light on how these insects adapt to climate changes and rising temperatures in their environment

Published and approved in the prestigious American scientific journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, the research highlights the importance of

Dalal Hamada emphasized the significance of such research in aiding scientists' efforts to combat climate change and its effects. By uncovering the mechanisms through which insects adapt to environmental changes, researchers can develop strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change and protect biodiversity

Overall, this scientific achievement underscores the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and the contributions of young researchers like Dalal Ali Hamada in advancing our understanding of the natural world and addressing pressing global challenges.

MEED mag's report on energy in MENA region provides broad analysis for 2024

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The MEED magazine's report on energy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region for 2024 provides a comprehensive analysis of investment expectations, demand and generation capacity, future project plans, and initiatives to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, reports Al-Anba daily. Key highlights of the report include:

Population Growth and Industrial Expansion -- The MENA region is experiencing increased energy consumption due to population growth and industrial expansion. This trend underscores the importance of prioritizing electricity generation capacity

Investment Opportunities -- With approximately \$30 billion in annual capital spending on major projects, the energy sector remains a robust source of business and investment opportunities in the region. However, the nature of investments is evolving due to the energy transition.

Energy Transition -- Governments in the region are shifting their focus towards reducing carbon emissions and greenhouse gases. This transition includes reforms aimed at reducing energy subsidies and waste, reflecting a broader commitment to sustainability.

Diversification of Energy Mix --Countries in the MENA region are diversifying their energy mix to address shortages in gas supplies and leverage cost-effective renewable technologies. Solar and wind projects are particularly popular, with growing interest in other forms of renewable and alternative energy such as wasteto-energy and nuclear power. Green hydrogen facilities are also gaining traction.

Technological Innovation -- Utilities are investing in digital data technologies like the Internet of Things, smart grids, artificial intelligence, and digital twins to enhance efficiency and minimize waste.

Overall, the report emphasizes the region's transition towards a more sustainable and diversified energy landscape, driv-

Minister Dr Mashaan issues two decisions

By Inaas Awadh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The Minister of Public Works and the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan vesterday issued two ministerial decisions to implement Civil Service Council's Resolution No. 2/2024 regarding the rules, provisions, and controls of the official work in the oversight and inspection sector.

The decisions will also apply to the departments affiliated with the minister, the Legal Department, the executive body of Kuwait Municipality, and the General Secretariat of the Municipal Council, all of which are meant to implement the automated interface between the finger scan system for registering attendance and departure of all employees in the municipality and Municipal Council, and the integrated systems of the civil service.

According to the two decisions, municipal leaders must take all necessary measures to implement the finger scan system for recording attendance and departure of employees, and implement the rules, provisions and controls of official work. The responsibility for ensuring employees' presence at their jobs falls on the direct official. The official working hours are in accordance with the decisions and circulars issued in this regard.

The concerned sectors in the two entities, each according to their specialization, are responsible for following up their implementation mechanism to complete the utomated interface.

en by both economic and environmental imperatives.

One Night Stay in a Queen Cabana for 2 persons inclusive of Suhoor BHD 46/- net

- One Night Stay in a 2 Bedroom Chalet for 4 persons inclusive of Suhoor BHD 102.148/- net
- Andalucia Café serves a selection of Ramadan Specials and its open from Iftar time until 02:00hrs

Group/Family Bookings for Iftar and Gabgha with Traditional Ramadan dishes for BD8.000 Net per person with a minimum of 25 people

5

LOCAL



Ambassador Dr Swaika with some of the guests at the event.

Ambassador's wife interacting with some of the female guests.

Gathering features an exquisite blend of Indian culture, music and cuisine

Ambassador of India to Kuwait hosts 'Ramadan Ghabqa'

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The Ambassador of India to Kuwait, HE Dr. Adarsh Swaika, hosted a 'Ramadan Ghabqa' at India House on March 27, (Wednesday) to celebrate the festive spirit of the holy month of Ramadan with friends of India in Kuwait, including members of the diplomatic corps and the Indian community. During the event, the ambassador conveyed heartfelt Ramadan Mubarak greetings to all attendees and well-wishers in Kuwait.

Intifada held in Israeli jails for 21 years - apparently the only one capable of acting as

The gathering featured an exquisite blend of Indian culture, music, and cuisine. Indian classical music on sitar, table, and flute filled the air, creating a special atmosphere. The culinary experience was enhanced by an eclectic menu

of Indian dishes popular during the Ramadan month in India. Ramadan holds a significant place in India, a country

known for its rich tapestry of diverse religions and cultures, and home to the world's second-largest Muslim population. Throughout India, Ramadan is celebrated with streets adorned with lights, delicious delicacies sold in markets, and people of all faiths exchanging greetings with each other.

The month of Ramadan in India showcases the vibrant mosaic of the country, highlighting its ethos of unity in diversity, where individuals from various socio-cultural and religious backgrounds coexist harmoniously. In Kuwait, the tradition of hosting 'Ghabqa' during Ramadan is also observed by several Indian community associations, reflecting the deep cultural and people-to-people ties between India and Kuwait.

The ambassador's Ramadan Ghabqa was attended by Kuwaiti dignitaries, including ministers, senior government officials, ambassadors, and High Commissioners of various countries, as well as distinguished members of the Indian community.

Most election

Continued from Page 1

Finding solutions to problems plaguing sports development in the country and boosting the "soft power" impact of sports are indicators of countries that seek true progress, he stressed.

Public and private sports clubs and entities all deserve attention, affirmed Al-Ajmi, adding that the youth of Kuwait were worthy of such care.

Also giving a similar input, head of the women committee at the Kuwaiti Karate Federation Souad Al-Roumi indicated that sports was sort of a language that connected nations and reflected positively on overall development.

She said that recent upsets in Kuwaiti sports might attribute to lack of attention on part of lawmakers who should do their utmost to address all challenges facing athletes in the country and finding means to overcome them.

She also stressed that women sports must also be included in the discussion to have an overall impact on the development of Kuwaiti sports.

Candidates might have a lack of knowledge when it came to sports, Dr. Hamad Majed -- a sports consultant -- told KUNA.

The absence of a clear national program for sports also might contribute the seeming disinterest in sports by some candidates, Majed said, calling on lawmakers to set aside their political a go-between to achieve peace and leading the united Palestinians after the end of the war, thus facilitating the aforementioned Westphalian Two-States peace solution for Palestinians and Israelis in conflict.

Mixed weather

Continued from Page 1

per hour, while scattered clouds dot the skies. Maximum temperatures are anticipated to range between 28 and 29 degrees Celsius, with sea conditions described as light to moderate, occasionally rising to between 2 and 6 feet

As night falls, the weather is expected to transition to cooler conditions, with light to moderate northwesterly winds persisting at speeds ranging from 10 to 32 kilometers per hour. Scattered clouds will continue to adorn the night sky, with minimum temperatures projected to range between 17 and 19 degrees Celsius. Similar sea conditions are forecasted, maintaining a light to moderate state with wave heights between 2 and 4 feet.

On Friday, the forecast predicts hot weather accompanied by partly cloudy skies. Moderate northwesterly winds are expected, occasionally reaching speeds between 10 and 40 kilometers per hour. Maximum temperatures are forecasted to range from 29 to 31 degrees Celsius, with sea conditions remaining light to moderate, occasionally witnessing wave heights between 2 and 6 feet. Heading into Friday night, the weather is anticipated to turn cooler and partly cloudy, with light to moderate northwesterly to variable winds prevailing. Wind speeds may fluctuate between 8 and 28 kilometers per hour, with minimum temperatures ranging from 17 to 19 degrees Celsius. Sea conditions are projected to persist in a light to moderate state, with wave heights varying between 1 and 4 feet. Anticipating Saturday's weather, Al-Qarawi emphasized a continuation of hot and cloudy conditions, accompanied by variable winds shifting to northwesterly directions. Wind speeds are expected to remain light to moderate, intermittently reaching speeds between 10 and 40 kilometers per hour. The likelihood of scattered rain, possibly thunderous at times, adds a dynamic element to the forecast. Maximum temperatures during the day are estimated to hover between 29 and 31 degrees Celsius, while sea conditions are expected to maintain a light to moderate state, with wave heights periodically reaching heights of 2 to 6 feet. As Saturday transitions into night, the weather is forecasted to revert to cooler and cloudier conditions, with light to moderate northwesterly to northeasterly winds prevailing. Wind speeds may vary between 8 and 40 kilometers per hour, with the potential for scattered rain, occasionally thunderous. Minimum temperatures are projected to range from 16 to 19 degrees Celsius, while sea conditions are anticipated to persist in a light to moderate state, with wave heights fluctuating between 2 and 6 feet.

Kuwait contract awards rebound in Feb 2024, shows MEED report

MoE sets aside KD 60m for excellent job bonus

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: MEED magazine's report highlighted the fluctuating trend in contract awards in Kuwait, noting a decline in January 2024 followed by an increase in February 2024, reports Al-Anba In February 2024, Kuwait awarded contracts totaling \$144 million, marking a 14% increase compared to the previous month. These contracts were divided into three main

differences when it came to this vital issue for many of the youths in the country.

He stressed that winners of the elections must include sports development in their agenda when reaching parliament, saying that developing sports was part of Kuwait Vision 2035.

Hamas's strategic

Continued from Page 1

The events developed over almost half a century in Iran since the death of Glocalist Ayatollah Khomeyni can explain this ISIS attack. The current Iranian President Ebraim Raisi has been basically following the Westphalian-oriented policy of his predecessor (since 2013) Hassan Rouhani, expressing the desire to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear deal signed in 2015 with Westphalian US President Obama, ending decades of tensions over Iran's controversial nuclear program, which Glocalist US President Donald Trump boycotted in 2018, and, on the suggestion of the Westphalian Chinese leader Xi, took the historical decision to normalize relations with Sunni Saudi Arabia, joining together the Westphalian BRICS Group.

ISIS, on the contrary, follows the opposite transboundary Glocalist model. Its spokesman Mujahid Abu Hudhayfah Al-Ânsari, while inviting Muslims to eliminate Jews around the world, accused Hamas of not establishing Islamic rule or the Sharia legal system in Gaza. According to the Glocalist Islamic State, Westphalian Hamas has prevented the Islamization of Gaza in every possible way: "Hamas is not a party worthy of leading Gaza and in whose ranks the Muslims of Gaza should fight", Al-Ansari said.

Moreover, the ISIS spokesman stressed that with Israel there is first and foremost a religious war, while Hamas' goals are "the liberation of the homeland, patriotism and strengthening their own power, which is why they believe that blood must be shed", calling Hamas the 'guardian', Al-Ansari called on Gaza fighters to "fight the Jews as Allah has ordained and for what Allah has established (i.e. Islamic rule and the Sharia system), and not for the establishment of the land (i.e. patriotism and the rule of Hamas), to govern according to the laws established from above by Allah and not laws invented by men"

Whatever will be the outcome of the current war, an analysis of the ongoing Westphalian world historical cycle offers new scenarios where a radical change in the leadership of the two sides in the conflict may soon occur.

On the Israeli front, several demonstrations are clamoring for the resignation of the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

On the Palestinian side, the Hamas' 10/7 attack also aimed at freeing Palestinian national leader Marwan Barghouti, - the charismatic leader of the first and the second

Kuwait condemns

Continued from Page 1

It urged the UN Security Council to assume its responsibility and take firm actions to stop these Israeli violations and the occupation's illegal settlement policy.

Meanwhile, an international team of doctors visiting a hospital in central Gaza was prepared for the worst. But the gruesome impact Israel's war against Hamas is having on Palestinian children still left them stunned

One toddler died from a brain injury caused by an Israeli strike that fractured his skull. His cousin, an infant, is still fighting for her life with part of her face blown off by the same strike.

An unrelated 10-year-old boy screamed out in pain for his parents, not knowing that they were killed in the strike. Beside him was his sister, but he didn't recognize her because burns covered almost her entire body.

These gut-wrenching casualties were described to The Associated Press by Tanya Haj-Hassan, a pediatric intensive-care doctor from Jordan, following a 10-hour overnight shift at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the town of Deir al-Balah.

projects: Public Buildings in Al-Mutlaa Residential City - The largest contract, worth \$60 million,

daily.

was awarded by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare to the local United Construction Company.

This project involves the construction of public buildings in Al-Mutlaa Residential City.

Construction Work in Al-Mutlaa Residential City – Another contract, valued at \$45 million, was awarded for construction work in Al-Mutlaa Residential City. This project is also initiated by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare.

Ground Cable Extension in Jahra Governorate – The third contract, worth \$39 million, was awarded by the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for extending ground cables at a power station in the Jahra Governorate.

Despite the increase in contract awards, Kuwait ranked fifth in the Gulf and sixth regionally in terms of the value of contracts awarded in Febru-

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia led the region with contracts worth \$5.024 billion, followed by the UAE, Oman, and Qatar. Bahrain ranked sixth in the Gulf and ninth regionally with contracts worth \$58 million.

The report underscores Kuwait's ongoing efforts to invest in infrastructure projects and stimulate economic growth through strategic contract awards.

KD60m set for bonus: The Ministry of Education has allocated KD60 million for the excellent job performance bonus of eligible employees for the year 2023; including the administrative staff and teachers, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed to the daily that the ministry will ask the educational districts to send the list of administrative employees entitled to the bonus next week in order to review the list before submission to the Financial Affairs Sector.

Sources clarified that the performance of teachers will be evaluated at the end of the current academic year and those eligible among them will receive the bonus either at the end of August or the beginning of September.



A photo from some of the activities.

'Bank committed to empower future leaders of Kuwait'

ABK supports Kuwaiti students through sponsorship of EGNUKS confab in Egypt

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is pleased to announce its sponsorship of National Union of Kuwaiti Students – Egypt's (EGNUKS) recent conference.

Held over a period of two days in March 2024, the event

welcomed esteemed guests, includ-Minister ing Plenipoten-Mishari tiary Al-Nibari, the acting Charge d'Affaires of the Kuwait Em-Behbehani bassy in Cairo,

Egypt and Dr. Khaled AlMuharib, Head of the Cultural Office. From ABK, Mohammed Talib Behbehani, Head of Private Banking, attended in addition to a representative from Corporate Communications.

Highlighting the significance of their involvement, Behbehani emphasized, "This sponsorship underscores our unwavering commitment to empowering Kuwaiti students pursuing education abroad. This initiative reflects our commitment to social responsibility, aimed at guiding students on their academic journey and equipping them with valuable experiences to navigate challenges



Honoring the bank for sponsoring the conference.

successfully.'

During the conference, ABK curated a range of engaging activities tailored to Kuwaiti students in Egypt, including exciting cash prizes and an informative segment by ABK-Egypt staff introducing students to the Bank's diverse products and services

In line with its dedication to fostering educational opportunities, ABK has been a strong supporter of Kuwaiti students both locally and internationally. Behbehani concluded, "Sponsoring the EGNUKS conference is a testament to ABK's enduring dedication to fostering educational excellence and empowering the future leaders of Kuwait."

The Bank's holistic approach not only encompasses current students but also extends support to fresh graduates by providing job opportunities and tailored training through ABK Academy. Since its inception in 2009, the academy has been instrumental in developing the skills of aspiring banking professionals, aligning with ABK's steadfast commitment to nurturing national talent and driving employment opportunities through targeted initiatives like job fairs and youth development programs.

Project valued at approximately \$380 million

KOC extends pressure systems project tender deadline

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The MEED magazine reported that the Kuwait Oil Company has extended the deadline for submitting bids for a project involving the installation of pressure and depletion systems and sulfur recovery units in several early production facilities, reports Al-Anba daily.

The project, valued at approximately \$380 million, had its deadline extended until April 21. This extension follows multiple previous postponements, with deadlines set for December 17, March 19, and February 18.

The latest extension comes amidst efforts by contracting companies to secure approvals amid the country's political situation.

The project entails installing compression systems and recovery units at the Early Production Facility 50 and Jurassic Production Facility 3 Bidding documents were initially released on September 17, 2023, with December 17 set as the initial deadline for bids.

However, sources indicated that delays were expected due to an expanded scope, which included additional pressure systems, potentially increasing the project's value beyond the initial estimate.

INTERNATIONAL

World News Roundup

Europe

Ukraine FM in Delhi to boost ties with India: Ukraine's foreign minister arrived in New Delhi on Thursday for a two-day visit to boost bilateral ties and cooperation with India, which considers Russia a time-tested ally from the Cold War-era.

Dmytro Kuleba will meet with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar on Friday, as well as the deputy national security advisor, according to India's Foreign Ministry. On Thursday,

Kuleba will pay his respects to Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi at the Rajghat memorial site.

His visit comes a week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladmir Putin, whom India has so far avoided criticizing over the war in Ukraine. Instead, New Delhi has stressed the need for diplomacy and dialogue on ending the war and has expressed its willingness to contribute to eace efforts On March 20, Modi posted on social

Kuleba

media platform X, formerly Twitter, to

say he had expressed to Zelenskyy "India's consistent support for all efforts for peace and bringing in an early end to the ongoing conflict," adding that the country will continue to provide humanitarian assistance. (AP)

Zelenskyy replaces top security official: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has replaced one of the country's top security officials with the head of Ukraine's foreign spy agency in a new reshuffle that comes as Russian forces press ahead with

ground attacks along the front line. Zelenskyy dismissed Oleksii Danilov, who served as secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, thanking him for his service in a video address late Tuesday. He gave no reason for the shake-up and said, without providing details, that Danilov will be "reassigned to another area."

Zelenskyy replaced Danilov with Oleksandr Lytvynenko, who served as the head of Ukraine's Foreign Intelligence Service.

The National Security Council is a policy coordination body that includes top officials and is chaired by Zelenskyy. Danilov had held his position since October 2019, a few months after Zelenskyy became president. (AP)

US journalist marks a yr in Russian prison: For Evan Gershkovich, the dozen appearances in Moscow's courts over the past year have fallen into a pattern.

Guards take the American journalist from the notorious Lefortovo Prison in a van for the short drive to the courthouse. He's led in handcuffs to a defendants' cage in front of a judge for yet another hearing about his pretrial detention on espionage charges.

The proceedings are always closed. His appeals are always re-jected, and his time behind bars is always extended. Then it's back to Lefortovo.

Gershkovich was arrested a year ago Friday while on a reporting trip for The Wall Street Journal to the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg. The Federal Security Service, or FSB, alleges he was acting on US orders to collect state secrets but provided no evidence to support the accusation, which he, the Journal and the U.S. government deny. Washington designated him as wrongfully detained. (AP)

Russia strikes Kharkiv with aerial bomb: Russia struck the northeastern city of Kharkiv with aerial bombs Wednesday for the first time since 2022, killing at least one civilian and wounding 16 others, local officials said.

The airstrikes caused widespread damage, hitting several residential buildings and damaging the city's institute for emergency surgery

Russia has escalated its attacks on Ukraine in recent days, launching several missile barrages on the capital Kyiv and hitting energy infrastructure across the country in apparent retaliation for recent Ukrainian aerial attacks on the Russian border region of Belgorod. Such sporadic attacks, however, have been common throughout the war

The Kharkiv region cuts across the front line where Ukrainian and Russian forces have been locked in battles for over two years since Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. (AP)

2 portraits of Navalny painted in Vienna: Two large portraits



US President Barack Obama, flanked by Vice President Joe Biden, (left), and former president Bill Clinton, (right), pose for a photo with the US World Cup soccer team under the North Portico of the White House in Washington on May 27, 2010. Biden will share a stage with Obama and Clinton on March 28 in New York as he raises money for his reelection campaign. It's a one-of-a-kind political extravaganza that will showcase decades of Democratic leadership. (AP)

Politics

Trump remains isolated from other GOP leaders

Biden leans on his Democratic predecessors

WASHINGTON, March 28, (AP) When US President Joe Biden needs advice, there are two people he can turn to who know what it's like to sit in his chair. Sometimes he will invite Barack Obama over to the White House for a meal or he will get on the phone with Bill Clinton.

The three men share decades of history at the pinnacle of American and Democratic leadership, making them an unusual trio in presidential history. Although there has sometimes been friction as their ambitions and agendas have diverged, they have spent years building toward a similar vision for the

country. On Thursday, their partnership will be on display in what has been described as a one-of-a-kind fundraising extravaganza in New York City to help Biden build on his already significant cash advantage in this year's presidential election. It's a dramatic show of force intended to rally the Democratic Party faithful to secure a second term for Biden despite his stubbornly low poll numbers and doubts due to his age (81).

Joe Lieberman, former Connecticut senator, Dems VP pick in 2000, dies

HARTFORD, Conn., March 28, (AP): Former US Sen Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, who nearly won the vice presidency on the Democratic ticket with Al Gore in the disputed 2000 election and who almost became Republican John McCain's running mate eight years later, has died, according to a statement issued by his family. Lieberman died in New York City

on Wednesday due to complica-tions from a fall, the statement said. He was 82.

The Democrat-turned-independent was never shy about veering from the party line.

Lieberman's independent streak and especially his needling of Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama during the 2008 said it will offer as-yet-unnamed candidates for president and vice president this year. Some groups aligned with Democrats oppose the effort, fearing it will help presump-tive Republican nominee Donald Trump win the White House.

The group on Wednesday called Lieberman's unexpected death a "profound loss," describing him as "a singular figure in American political life who always put his country before party." Lieberman came tantalizingly

close to winning the vice presiden-cy in the contentious 2000 presidential contest that was decided by a 537-vote margin victory for George W. Bush in Florida after a drawn-out recount, legal challenges and a Supreme Court decision. He was the first Jewish candidate

on a major party's presidential tick-

et and would have been the first

Wednesday night that he was pro-foundly saddened by the death

of his one-time running mate. He

called Lieberman "a truly gifted

leader, whose affable personality

and strong will made him a force

to be reckoned with" and said his

Gore said in a statement

Jewish vice president.

media as he leaves the West Wing of the White House in Washington on May 17, 2017. (AP)

Lieberman waves to members of the



of the late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny have been spraypainted on a property owned by the family of a former Czech foreign minister behind a monument to Soviet soldiers in Vienna.

The portraits were completed Wednesday on the wall behind the monument, which was already painted in Ukraine's blue and yellow national colors after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The wall belongs to the Palais Schwarzenberg, owned by the noble family of former Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg, who died in November.

The monument portraying a Soviet soldier was built after Soviet troops took Vienna in 1945. Austria, which was annexed by Nazi Germany in 1938, was divided into occupation zones until the country was granted full sovereignty in 1955. (AP)

Greek police clash with demonstrators: Police in Greece clashed late Wednesday with Communist-backed demonstrators who tried to prevent a concert by US military cadets.

The violent protest occurred in the central Greek city of Larissa ahead of a concert by members of the West Point Glee Club, a musical group of the US Military Academy which is currently on tour in Greece

Videos and photos shared on social media show police firing tear gas to hold back the demonstrators outside a municipal theater, while officers also clashed with a smaller number of protesters as they entered the building.

It was not immediately clear if the concert took place. Authorities and the venue couldn't be reached for comment. (AP)

Protesters form humain chain in Slovakia: Protesters in Slovakia formed a human chain around the country's public television and radio building Wednesday in anger over a takeover plan by the government whose populist, pro-Russia prime minister re-

cently labeled several private media outlets his enemies. The takeover plan was drafted by Culture Minister Martina Šimkoviová, who represents an ultra-nationalist member party of the coalition government and has worked for an internet television outlet known for spreading disinformation.

The plan has been condemned by President Zuzana Čaputová, opposition parties, local journalists, international media organizations, the European Commission and others who warn that the government would be taking full control of public broadcasting. Slovak journalists have called the plan an attack on all free media. (AP)

Portuguese Parliament elects house speaker: Portugal's newly-elected Parliament on Wednesday voted in a new house speaker, following a potentially important deal between the country's two main centrist parties.

The chamber elected José Aguiar Branco of the Social Democrats by 160 votes in favor, well above the 116 needed.

The vote came after the Social Democrats reached a deal whereby Aguiar Branco will hold the post for two years after which a Socialist Party candidate will take over.

The agreement indicates the Social Democrats and Socialists could work together to guarantee government without the far-right Chega (Enough) party intervening. (AP)

Eurocorps reaction unit commander dismissed: Poland has dismissed the Polish commander of the European rapid reaction military unit, the Eurocorps, amid a recently launched military counterintelligence investigation involving him, authorities said Wednesday.

A Polish Defense Ministry statement said that new information regarding Lt. Gen. Jarosław R. Gromadziski had been revealed and an investigation into his security clearance had been launched.

Gromadziski was ordered to urgently return from the Euro-corps' headquarters in Strasbourg, France, and a replacement will be appointed immediately, the ministry said. No further details were provided, and Gromadziski wasn't available for comment.

Germany and France founded the corps in 1992 to support various European Union and NATO missions. Its six framework nations also include Belgium, Spain, Luxembourg and Poland, while Austria, Greece, Italy, Romania and Turkey are associate nations. (AP)



Merchan Bider

America

Ship had engine maintenance: The cargo ship that lost power and crashed into a bridge in Baltimore underwent "routine engine maintenance" in port beforehand, the U.S. Coast Guard said Wednesday, as divers recovered the bodies of two of six workers who plunged into the water when it collapsed. The others were presumed dead, and officials said search efforts had been exhausted.

Investigators began collecting evidence from the vessel a day after it struck the Francis Scott Key Bridge. The bodies of the two men were located in the morning inside a red pickup submerged in about 25 feet (7.6 meters) of water near the bridge's middle span, Col. Roland L. Butler Jr., superintendent of Maryland State Police, announced at an evening news conference.

He identified the men as Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, 35, who was from Mexico and living in Baltimore, and Dorlian Ronial Castillo Cabrera, 26, who was from Guatemala and living in Dundalk, Maryland. (AP)

Illinois stabbings kill 4: Four people were killed and seven were hurt when a man went on a stabbing rampage Wednesday across multiple locations in a northern Illinois community, authorities said.

A 22-year-old man is in police custody and was being questioned, according to Rockford Police Chief Carla Redd. She said one of the people who was wounded remained in critical condition.

"My heart goes out to the families right now that are suffering a loss," Redd told reporters.

She said the Rockford Police received a medical call at 1:14 p.m. followed by additional calls for police and paramedics.

"We don't believe there's any other suspects that are on the run or at large at this particular time," Redd said. "Right now, we don't have a clear motive as to what caused this individual to commit such a heinous crime." Not all of the victims found at multiple addresses in the city had stab wounds and none were shot, according to Redd. (AP)

'Toss out tax charges': Attorneys for Hunter Biden asked a judge Wednesday to toss out the tax case accusing him of a fouryear scheme to avoid paying \$1.4 million in taxes while living an extravagant lifestyle.

President Joe Biden's son has pleaded not guilty to the nine felony and misdemeanor tax offenses. His attorneys argued the prosecution is politically motivated, was tainted by leaks

Gained

"There is everything to be gained by Joe Biden standing next to Bill Clinton and Barack Obama," said Leon Panetta, who worked in the administrations of both former presidents. "That picture is worth a hell of a lot in politics today."

The display of solidarity is a sharp contrast to Donald Trump's isolation from other Republican leaders.

Although Trump has solidified his grip on his party on the way to becoming the presumptive nominee, not even his own former vice president, Mike

Pence, is willing to endorse Trump's bid for another White House term. The only other living Republican president, George W. Bush, is not a supporter, either.

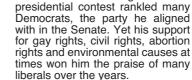
It's a far different situation with Biden, Obama and Clinton. When they haven't been campaigning against each other, they've been working together.

At one point, all three of them were on a collision course during the Democratic presidential primary in 2008. Biden and Obama sought the nomination, as did Clinton's wife, Hillary. Obama came out on top, and chose Biden as his vice president and Hillary Clinton as his secretary of state.

As Obama's two terms were ending

from IRS agents who claimed publicly the case was mishandled and includes some allegations from before he moved to California.

Prosecutors framed the claims as far-



"In an era of political carbon copies, Joe Lieberman was a singularity. One of one," said Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, a Democrat. "He fought and won for what he believed was right and for the state he adored."

Over the last decade, Lieberman helped lead No Labels, a centrist third-party movement that has

and the 2016 election was approaching, he nudged Hillary Clinton to the forefront as his preferred successor and dissuaded Biden from running after Biden's elder son died of cancer. Clinton lost to Trump, who lost to Biden in 2020. Obama privately helped clear a path for Biden to the Democratic nomination that year.

There have been notable splits between the presidents on key issues. Biden was unsuccessful in persuading Obama not to send more troops to Afghanistan in 2009. U.S. forces remained in the country until 2021, when Biden withdrew them during his first year in office.

The three presidents have often fo-

fetched during the three-hour hearing. Prosecutor Leo Wise scoffed at the idea that the case was tainted by the IRS agents "who I couldn't have picked out of a lineup."



Britain's Queen Camilla smiles as she meets well-wishers during her visit to the Farmers' Market in Shrewsbury, England on March 27, 2024. (AP)

dedication to equality and fairness started at a young age, noting Lieberman traveled to the South to join the civil rights movement in the 1960s. cused on the same goals in a sort of

legislative relay race. Clinton failed to significantly expand health care access during his presidency, which ran from 1993 to 2001. Obama picked up the baton when he took office in 2009 and signed the Affordable Care Act into law in 2010.

Biden called the law a "big ... deal" - inserting an infamous expletive in the middle of that thought - and built on it when he began his own term in 2021. He signed legislation that included financial incentives for states to expand Medicaid, prompting North Carolina to take the belated step last year, more than a decade after the Affordable Care Act made it possible.

Defense attorney Abbe Lowell, on the other hand, maintained the case was hopelessly contaminated by partisan politics, calling it "the least ordinary prosecution a person could imagine."

US District Judge Mark C. Scarsi appeared to be skeptical, telling Lowell the hard evidence for some of his claims was lacking. "You cite to a lot of things on the internet," he said.

Scarsi said he would likely rule on motions to dismiss by April 17. (AP)

Trump assails judge: Donald Trump lashed out Wednesday at the New York judge who put him under a gag order ahead of his April 15 hush-money criminal trial, making a fallacious claim about his daughter and urging him to step aside from the case.

In a social media post, the former president suggested without evidence that Judge Juan M. Merchan was kowtowing to his daughter's interests as a Democratic political consultant. He also made a claim - later repudiated by court officials - that she had posted a social media photo showing Trump behind bars.

Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, complained on his Truth Social platform that the gag order issued Tuesday was "illegal, un-American, unConstitutional." He said that Merchan, a veteran Manhattan jurist, was "wrongfully attempting to deprive me of my First Amendment Right to speak out against the Weaponization of Law Enforcement" by Democratic rivals. (AP)

INTERNATIONAL

Africa

'Security deteriorating' Opposition leaders in Togo call for protests

LOME, Togo, March 28, (AP): Activists and oppo-sition leaders in the West African country of Togo called on Wednesday for protests to stop the country's president from signing off on a new constitution that would scrap future presidential elections and could extend his decades-long rule until 2031. The constitution, which was passed by the country's

lawmakers earlier this week but now awaits President Faure Gnassingbe's final approval, grants parliament the power to choose the president, doing away with direct elections. This makes it likely that Gnassingbe would be reelected when his mandate expires in 2025.

Some legal experts say the constitution actually restricts the power of future presidents as it introduces a one-term limit and hands over greater power to a figure similar to a prime minister. But opposition fears the role - officially, the presi-



dent of the council of ministers - could become another avenue for Gnassingbe to extend his grip on power.

The new constitution also increases presidential terms from five to six years. The almost 20-years that Gnassingbe has served in office, after taking over from his father, would not count toward that tally.

Gnassingbe The opposition and the clergy say the legislation is an effort by Gnassingbe to prolong his rule. Some have

promised to stop it from becoming law by calling on the people to rise up and protest. "We know that the struggle will be long and hard, but together with the Togolese people, we will do

everything we can to prevent this constitutional coup d'état," said Eric Dupuy, a spokesman for the opposi-tion National Alliance for Change party.

Reject

"We're calling on the population to reject this, to oppose it massively," he added. However, police on Wednesday broke up a news

conference called by the opposition, throwing leaders and journalists out of the venue.

A group representing Togo's Catholic bishops said the parliament's mandate had expired in December ahead of the country's April 20 parliamentary elections and that the lawmakers had no right to adopt a new constitution.

The bishops urged Gnassingbe to delay signing off on the new constitution and instead engage in an inclusive political dialogue after next month's balloting.

"The Assembly has no power to revise a constitution," said Zeus Ajavon, a lecturer in Constitutional Law at the University of Lome. "The power to revise the constitution is vested in it during its term of office.

'Security in Congo's east deteriorating': Security

in Congo's mineral-rich east has deteriorated since recent elections, with a rebel group allegedly linked to neighboring Rwanda making "significant advances and expanding its territory," the UN special envoy for the conflict-wracked African nation said Wednesday.

Bintou Keita told the UN Security Council this has created "an even more disastrous humanitarian situation, with internal displacement reaching unparalleled



In this photo released by the Taiwan Presidential Office, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen, (center right), listens as Rep. Jack Bergman, R-Mich., speaks in Taipei, Taiwan on on March 28. Bergman leads a bipartisan US congressional delegation that pledged continued support for Taiwan on Thursday, days after Congress approved \$300 million in military aid for the self-governed island that's claimed by China. (AP)

Asia

Japan, South Korea discuss security cooperation

US vows continued defense support for Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan, March 28, (Agencies): A bipartisan US congressional delegation pledged continued support for Taiwan on Thursday, days after Congress approved \$300 million in military aid for the self-governed island that's claimed by China.

Congress also approved \$400 million on Saturday to counter the Chinese government's influence in the region, as part of its Defense Appropriations Act.

China regards Taiwan as a breakaway province to be brought under its control, by force if necessary. Beijing sends warships and fighter jets near the island daily, as it ramps up its military pressure.

The United States, like most nations, doesn't recognize Taiwan as a country. However, it is bound by U.S. laws to ensure the island can defend itself and considers all threats to Taiwan as a matter of "grave concern."

The delegation led by Republican Congressman Jack Bergman, who chairs the House Intelligence and Special Operations Subcommittee, sought to reassure Taiwan's leadership of continued support.

Marcos warns of 'countermeasures' in response to China sea aggression

MANILA, Philippines, March 28, (AP): The Philippine president said Thursday that his government would enforce a "countermeasure package" in response to "aggressive and dangerous attacks" by the Chinese coast guard and suspected militia ships in the disputed South China Sea, saying "Filipinos do not yield." Ferdinand Marcos Jr. did not provide details of the actions his government would take in the succeeding weeks but said these would be "proportionate, deliberate and reasonable in the face of the open, unabating, and illegal, coercive, aggressive and dangerous attacks by agents of the China coast guard and Chinese maritime militia.

"We seek no conflict with any nation," Marcos wrote on X, formerly Twitter, but said the Philippines would not be "cowed into silence."

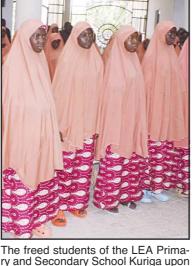
Marcos's warning is the latest sign of the escalating disputes behina and

as Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei, have overlapping claims in the resource-rich and busy waterway, where a bulk of the world's

commerce and oil transits. Chinese officials in Manila or Bei-jing did not immediately respond to Marcos's public warning, which he issued during Holy Week - one of the meet accord religious periods in the most sacred religious periods in the largely Roman Catholic nation.

Marcos said he issued the state-ment after meeting top Philippine de-fense and national security officials, who submitted their recommendations. He added without elaborating that he has also been in constant talks with "allies, partners and friends in the international community," who he said had offered to help the Philippines protect its sovereignty.

In the latest hostilities on Saturday, the Chinese coast guard used water cannons that injured several Philippine navy crewmen and heavmaned ilv d heir wood



ry and Secondary School Kuriga upon their arrival at the state government house in Kaduna, Nigeria, on March 25. More than 130 Nigerian schoolchildren rescued after more than two weeks in captivity have arrived in their home state in northwestern Nigeria ahead of their anticipated reunions with families. (AP)

Last month, the United States told Rwanda and Congo that they "must walk back from the brink of war," the sharpest warning yet of a looming conflict.

US deputy ambassador Robert Wood again condemned "the aggressive military incursion" into eastern Congo by the M23 rebel group and the Rwandan Defense Force and attacks including on U.N. peacekeepers.

Ĥe called on the leaders of Rwanda and Congo "to make the decision to pursue peace - for the sake of their people, the region and the world."

Wood described M23 as "a group which has perpetrated appalling human rights abuses against civilians, including sexual and gender-based violence.'

He called the international community's failure to condemn the actions of Rwanda, which is a major troop contributor to UN peacekeeping forces, "dismaying" and said "the UN should reevaluate Rwanda's credibility as a constructive partner in peacekeeping."

Senegal's Fave won over 54% of vote: Senegal's little-known opposition figure who was elected president this week in a tightly contested race won over 54% of the votes, according to results released on Wednesday.

The presidential election on Sunday marked a stunning victory for 44-year-old Bassirou Diomaye Faye, who was freed from prison less than two weeks ago and is now due to be the youngest leader of the West African nation.

The government-backed candidate, former Prime Minister Amadou Ba, conceded to Faye on Monday. President Macky Sall, who had backed Ba, also declared Faye the winner.

At a news conference in Dakar, the court of appeals announced Wednesday that Faye won 54.28% of the vote. Ba garnered 35.47% of the votes cast.

The results are preliminary - after all the votes have been counted - but are expected to be confirmed on Friday.

Faye's release from prison followed a political amnesty granted just in time for the balloting. He was little known until popular opposition leader Ousmane Sonko, who was barred barred from running due to a prior conviction, chose Faye to run in his place.

In his first speech as president-elect, Faye promised to fight corruption and reform the economy.

Nigeria parents get chance to see kids: Parents of more than 130 Nigerian schoolchildren who were rescued after more than two weeks in captivity said they saw them on Wednesday and that they couldn't hold back tears of joy during the long-awaited reunion

The meeting, three days after the children were freed, took place at a government facility in the city of Kaduna, where the children are staying while receiving medical support, the parents and a teacher told The Associated Press.

The parents said they cried and danced as they hugged their children for the first time since March 7, when motorcycle-riding gunmen seized them from their school in the remote town of Kuriga in the northwestern Kaduna state, and forced them to march to nearby forests amid gunfire.

"I am very happy and filled with joy," Shittu Abdullahi, whose 14-year-old daughter was among those kidnapped, said after the meeting.



Obrador

Lat/Am

Venezuelans stuck in Mexico: Ven-

ezuelan migrants often have a quick answer when asked to name the most difficult stretch of their eight-country journey to the US border, and it's not the dayslong jungle trek through Colombia and Panama with its venomous vipers, giant spiders and scorpions. It's Mexico.

"In the jungle, you have to prepare for animals. In Mexico, you have to prepare for humans," Daniel Ventura, 37, said after three days walking through the Darien Gap and four months waiting in Mexico to enter the US legally using the government's online appointment system, called CBP One. He and his family of six were headed to Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, where he has a relative. Mexico's crackdown on immigration in

recent months - at the urging of the Biden administration - has hit Venezuelans especially hard. The development highlights how much the US depends on Mexico to control migration, which has reached unprecedented levels and is a top issue for voters as President Joe Biden seeks reelection. Arrests of migrants for illegally crossing

the US-Mexico border have dropped so this year after a record high in December. The biggest decline was among Venezuelans, whose arrests plummeted to 3,184 in February and 4,422 in January from 49,717 in December.

While two months do not make a trend and illegal crossings remain high by historical standards, Mexico's strategy to keep migrants closer to its border with Guatemala than the U.S. is at least temporary relief for the Biden administration.

Last week, Mexico said it would give about \$110 a month for six months to each Venezuelan it deports, hoping they won't come back. Mexican President Andres Manuel López Obrador extended the offer Tuesday to Ecuadorians and Colombians. (AP)

Families mourn missing workers: The construction workers who went missing in the Baltimore bridge collapse came to the Marvland area from Mexico or Central America, including an enterprising Honduran father and husband who started a delivery business before the pandemic forced him to find other work, according to his family.

Police managed to close bridge traffic seconds before a cargo ship slammed into one of the Francis Scott Key Bridge's supports early Tuesday, causing the span to fall into the frigid Patapsco River. There wasn't time for a maintenance crew filling potholes on the span to get to safety.

'We will continue to assure our colleagues that the strategic relationship is key for the future security of the region," Bergman said during a meeting with Taiwanese President Tsai Ingwen.

"This includes a strong Taiwan maritime strategy and how we can work together on shared goals to counter China on their increasingly aggressive actions in the region," he said.

Also:

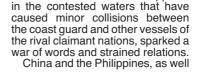
BANGKOK: The head of Myanmar's ruling military council marked Armed Forces Day on Wednesday with a speech claiming that the nation's youth were being tricked into supporting the resistance against army rule, and that ethnic armed groups allied with the resistance engage in drug trafficking, natural resources smuggling and illegal gambling.

Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing spoke in the capital, Naypyitaw, where thousands of military personnel paraded in an annual show of strength, even as the army has suffered a series of unprecedented battlefield defeats that have tarnished their once invincible reputation.

Min Aung Hlaing touched on familiar themes, urging the international community not to support the resist-

At least eight people fell into the water and two were rescued. Two bodies were recovered Wednesday and four remained missing and were presumed dead.

The governments of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras confirmed that their citizens were among the missing.



ance forces, whom he blamed for disturbing the process for planned but not yet scheduled elections. Earlier this month, he told Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency that elections might be held in parts of the country that are peaceful and stable.

Many Western nations have applied sanctions against Myanmar's ruling generals because of their 2021 seizure of power and brutal suppression of opposition. Military offensives since then have displaced more than 2 million people, according to the United Nations.

TOKYO: Top military officials of Japan, the US and South Korea on Thursday discussed trilateral cooperation initiatives, global security issues, and recent North Korea's provocation, according to a joint press release issued by the Japanese Defense Ministry.

During their video talks, Japan's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Chairman

Maynor Yassir Suazo Sandoval, 38, was the youngest of eight siblings from Azacualpa, a rural mountainous area in northwestern Honduras along the border with Guatemala. (AP)



Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing, head of the military council, inspects officers during a parade to commemorate Myanmar's 79th Armed Forces Day, in Naypy-itaw, Myanmar, on March 27. The head of Myanmar's ruling military council marked Armed Forces Day on Wednesday with a speech claiming that the nation's youth were being tricked into supporting the resistance against army rule, and that ethnic armed groups allied with the resistance engage in drug trafficking, natural resources smuggling and illegal gambling. (AP)

boat near the disputed Second Thomas Shoal. The cannon blast was so strong it threw a crewman off the floor but he hit a wall instead of plunging into the sea, Philippine military officials said.

Gen. Yoshihide Yoshida and his US and South Korean counterparts Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr and Adm. Kim Myung-soo hailed mutual efforts in achieving trilateral initiatives on the activation of the real-time missile warning data sharing mechanism, and on establishing a multiyear trilateral exercise plan, the press release said.

The three sides agreed that North Korea's provocative actions including nuclear and missile developments reflect the importance of increasing the depth, scale, and scope of cooperation between the three countries.

They also shared the view that the three-way security cooperation helps ensure peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, in the Indo-Pacific and beyond, the document said. Brown reaffirmed the US commitment to defending Japan and South Korea. In addition, the three leaders plan to hold the next trilateral chiefs of defense inperson meeting this summer.

Haiti council issues statement: Members of a transitional presidential council who will be responsible for selecting a new prime minister issued their first official statement on Wednesday, pledging to restore "public and democratic order" in Haiti.

The statement, although signed by eight members of what is supposed to be a ninemember council, is still considered a sign that a contentious and drawn-out nomination process is ending and that the council might soon assume its official duties.

We are determined to alleviate the suffering of the Haitian people, trapped for too long between bad governance, multifaceted violence and disregard for their perspectives and needs," they said.

The members noted that as soon as the council is officially installed, they would help "put Haiti back on the path of democratic legitimacy, stability and dignity."

Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who re-mains locked out of Haiti, has said he would resign once the council is formally established. Scores of people have been killed, and some 17,000 left homeless.

In recent days, the violence has been largely focused on downtown Port-au-Prince.

The council members pledged to "execute a clear action plan aimed at restoring public and democratic order through the restoration of the security of the lives and property of the population, the relief of poverty and the achievement of free elections as well as the reforms necessary to the progress of the nation." (AP)

oil down

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down USD 1.04 to USD 85.40 per barrel on Thursday compared to USD 86.44 pb the day before, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Thurs-

day. The price of the Brent crude went down by 16 cents to USD 86.09 per barrel, the same with the West Texas Intermediate, which went down by 28 cents to USD 81.35 per barrel. (KUNA)

DFM

KSE 100

PHILIPPINES - PSEi

-

UAE

PAKISTAN

Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) has announced impressive financial results for the fiscal year ending on December 31 2023. The company achieved a net profit of 30 million dinars (\$98 million), marking a notable 19 percent increase compared to the previous year's profit of 25.3 million dinars (\$82.5 million), reports Al-Jarida daily

This growth in profitability reflects the success of the strategic initiatives implemented by the company's Board of Directors and Executive Management.

in 2022.

Key highlights of the financial performance include

Revenue Growth -- Total revenues from operations surged by 30 percent, reach-ing 1.3 billion dinars (\$4.2 billion) in 2023 compared to 1 billion dinars (\$3.3 billion)

Shareholders' Equity and Assets --Shareholders' equity increased by 4 per-cent, rising from 587.8 million dinars (\$1.9 billion) to 611.2 million dinars (\$2 billion). Additionally, the company's combined assets grew by 8 percent to 12.3 billion dinars (\$40.1 billion) at the end of 2023, compared to 11.4 billion dinars (\$37.2 billion) at the end of 2022.

Kuwait Projects Company reports strong financial growth

Strategic Initiatives -- The company successfully executed a series of strategic exit, merger, and acquisition deals aimed at diversifying its portfolio and maximizing value for stakeholders. These initiatives contributed to a noticeable improvement in financial indicators, including revenues and profits.

Strategic Exits and Mergers -- The company exited from Gulf Insurance Group and sold its ownership stake in United Petroleum Projects Company, while also announcing an important merger deal between OSN+ and Anghami, which is expected to create the largest online broadcasting platform in the region.

Financial Restructuring -- Kuwait Projects Company executed various financing deals, including purchasing and canceling Kuwaiti dinar bonds, repayment of medium-term Eurobonds, and completing the issuance of five-year sukuks, marking a significant milestone in Islamic finance.

Market Movements 28-03-2024 Change Closing pts Change Closing pts Business +1.15 4,232.94 SAUDI - Tadawul -42.09 12,565.89 6,903.53 JAPAN +5.36 -594.66 40.168.07 Nikkei +578.03 67,166.38

IEA, IEF and OPEC emphasize global energy market stability

Joint workshop highlights energy market dynamics

VIENNA, March 28, (KUNA): The International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Energy Forum (IEF) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) stressed on Wednesday the significance of ensuring stability in the global energy market amid a rapidly changing world.

This came in a joint press release issued at the wrapping-up of the 10th Joint IEA-IEF-OPEC Workshop on the Interactions between Physical and Financial Energy Markets

The high-level technical meeting was chaired by Ayed S. Al-Qahtani, Director of OPEC's Research Division, together with Christof van Agt Ross, Director of the IEF's Energy Dialogue, and Joel Couse, Special Advisor to the IEA.

Discussions during the workshop had three sessions. The first addressed the "Factors driving oil market volatility". This was followed by a second session on "Evolving crude benchmarks, price formation and interaction with derivatives markets"

The third session covered "Ensuring adequate financing to sustain oil and gas developments"

In his remarks, Al-Qahtani said: "Our latest World Oil Outlook puts cumulative oil-related investment requirements from now until 2045 at approximately USD 14 trillion or around USD 610 billion on average per year. This massive spending will be required to meet global oil demand, which is expected to reach 116 mb/d by 2045."

"This must be an industry priority if we are to maintain security of supply and avoid unwanted volatility in the years ahead," said Al-Qahtani, adding that "we must continue to do everything we can to avoid volatility, and this includes speculative positioning, which can adversely impact the global oil market.'

Following to the press release published on Thursday 28 March 2024 regarding the Annual ordinary General Assembly meeting of Kuwait Telecommunications Company (stc), we would like to note that the cash dividends record date and payment date have been amended as follows:

Record date: 18 April 2024 Instead of 15 April 2024 Payment date: 23 April 2024 Instead of 21 April 2024

For further information and details please refer to the company's disclosures available on the Boursa Kuwait website

Van Agt Ross told the workshop that though physical and financial energy market linkages are better understood and have become more transparent, they require constant analysis to support the stability of world energy markets in a rapidly changing world.

For his part, Couse said the continuation of this regular event has contributed to a better understanding of price formation in oil markets, and energy markets generally. Today's workshop demonstrates again the importance of the ongoing dialogue between OPEC, the IEF and the IEA on subjects of common interest to the three parties.

The Joint Workshop is part of the trilateral work program established by the three organizations and endorsed by en-ergy ministers at the 12th International Energy Forum in Cancun, Mexico, in March 2010.

Since then, the joint IEA-IEF-OPEC meetings covering the evolving inter-linkages between physical and financial energy markets have developed into unique, high-level technical events that bring together a diverse range of market participants to discuss issues that are not addressed in other high-level forums

Liquidity hits 52.1 million dinars

Boursa records declines in trading session

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: During yesterday's trading session on the Kuwait Stock Exchange, pressure increased on the indices, resulting in a decrease in the general market index by 0.44 percent to close at 7,367.26 points. Liquidity amounted to 168.5 million shares traded through 9,942 transactions. Out of the 118 shares traded, 42 gained, 57 lost, and 19 remained unchanged, reports Al-Jarida daily.

perienced a decline of 0.27 percent, closing at 8,073.55 points, with liquidity totaling 45.9 million dinars. Trading volume reached 130.7 million shares through 6,997 transactions, with 33 shares traded, 8 gaining, 23 losing, and

through 2,947 transactions. Out of the 85 shares traded, 34 gained, 34 lost, and 17 remained unchanged.

Agility and GFH exhibited good performance at the beginning of the trading session, with anticipation for the announcerofits and dividends for Agility shares. However, the market saw selling pressure, especially on IVA Hotels shares, while other leading stocks remained stable. Agility's stock witnessed significant demand, reaching 620 fils per share.

Company to distribute 49% of share capital of subsidiary

Agility approves interim in-kind dividends at KD 800m & cash dividends of KD 25.5m

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Agility Public Warehousing Company KSCP (Agility) announced that its Board of Directors has approved an interim cash dividend distribution of KD 25.5 million (USD 83 million), equivalent to 10 fls per share. Agility's Board will meet on March 30 to discuss the full year financial results and dividends.

Shareholders approved paying dividends on an interim basis and listing shares of certain Agility assets on foreign stock exchanges at prior general assembly meetings held on May 30 and June 7, 2023.

Agility's Board has also approved an in-kind dividend distribution estimated at KD 800 million (USD 2.6 billion), representing shares forming 49% of the issued share capital of a subsidiary, Agility Global PLC, which is pursuing a listing on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX)

Agility Global PLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Agility that manages certain company operations and assets, notably Menzies Aviation, the company's investment



Agility

in Tristar Transport LLC, the operations of Agility Logistics Parks outside Kuwait, and the DSV investment

Following the distribution, Agility, a listed company on the Kuwait Stock Exchange and Dubai Finan-

cial Market, will remain the controlling shareholder in Agility Global PLC with a 51% stake. Agility will continue to consolidate accounts for Agility Global PLC even after list-

ing. "Over the last 25 years, Agil-ity has grown to encompass global and regional companies that lead in their sectors. We're proud of the value we've created for our 14,000 shareholders. Since the company was privatized in 1997, shareholder value has grown by a multiple of nearly 20 times. Today's dividend distribution is an additional step in that journey. The listing of Agil-ity Global PLC crystallizes the value of assets for shareholders and gives the company access to additional capital markets to fund future growth," said Tarek Sultan, Agility's Vice Chairman. "Agility continues to be a global company proudly based in Kuwait; and will continue to invest and grow locally as well as globally.'

ADX listing is expected May 2, subject to fulfilling certain regulatory requirements.

Project market grows by 1.6%

Kuwait leads project market surge in MENA region, highlighting dynamic growth trends

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The data from MEED Projects Index highlights significant contract awarding activity across various countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, with Kuwait experiencing notable growth in its project market, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In February, Kuwait witnessed contracts worth \$144 million being

Overall, the Gulf project market saw continuous growth for the 12th consecutive month, rising by 1.7% in March. The total value added during this period amounted to \$65.9 billion. The UAE played a significant role in this growth, contributing \$38.5 billion in value, particularly driven by developments such as the expansion of Al Maktoum International Airport and new projects by

gram expansion.

However, Saudi Arabia's project market saw a marginal contraction of 0.3%, resulting in a loss of \$5 billion in value, while Bahrain's market grew modestly by 0.1%. Outside the Gulf, Iraq and Iran recorded growth rates of 1.6% and 1.2%, respectively.

Overall, these developments underscore the dynamic nature of the project market in the MENA region, with various countries experiencing fluctuations in activity influenced by factors such as government initiatives, economic conditions, and strategic investments in infrastructure and development projects.

The Premier Market Index also ex-

Similarly, the Main Market index decreased by 1.28 percent to close at 6,044.90 points, with liquidity at 6.2 million dinars, while the trading volume amounted to 37.8 million shares

Saudi leads in ETF share

awarded, with the largest deal worth \$60 million signed by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare for the Al-Mutla'a Residential City project. This contributed to a 1.6% growth in Kuwait's project market for the month.

Emaar Properties.

Qatar also experienced strong growth in its project market, adding \$13.4 billion in value, largely due to Qatar Energy's announcement of the North West Field development, a \$12 billion LNG production pro-

ETFs tracking emerging markets index vary in Gulf stock exchanges exposure

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: According to an economic analysis cited by the Arabian Gulf Business Insight website, exchange-traded funds (ETFs) tracking the Morgan Stanley Emerging Markets Index (MSCI) exhibit varying levels of exposure to different Gulf stock exchanges, reports Al-Qabas daily.

While they are less exposed to Saudi Arabia, they demonstrate higher exposure to other Gulf markets such as the UAE, Qatar, and Kuwait.

Over the past decade, the inclusion of the stock exchanges of these four Gulf countries in the MSCI index has attracted billions of dollars in investment flows to ETFs tracking the index on these exchanges.

As of February 15, 2024, the Saudi Stock Exchange has the largest share of ETFs for the MSCI index at 4.4%,

followed by the UAE at 1.3%, Qatar at 0.9%, and Kuwait at 0.8%.

Todd Rosenblut, head of research at VitaVI, an ETF analysis company, explained that while some ETFs aim to fully replicate the main index's exposure, investment managers may adjust for liquidity differences among emerging market stocks to closely align with index performance.

An analysis by Arabian Gulf Business Insight revealed that seven large ETFs, collectively managing \$131 billion in assets, track the MSCI index differently, potentially due to custom criteria set by these funds. On average, the Saudi weight among these ETFs is slightly lower than the standard weight of the Saudi Stock Exchange, while it is slightly higher for the UAE and remains comparable for Kuwait and Qa-

Collectively, ETFs own \$9.5 billion in Gulf stock exchanges, with significant holdings in the Saudi Stock Exchange, UAE Stock Exchange, Qatar, and Kuwait. There are anticipated opportunities for increased fund allocations to MSCI traded indices on Gulf exchanges in the future, driven by improving sentiment towards emerging markets and economic conditions in the Gulf region.

The Kuwait Stock Exchange has experienced positive performance since November, with market indicators showing significant gains in February. The Premier Market Index has gained 8.2% since the beginning of the year, reaching approximately 43.8 billion dinars by the end of February.

Kuwait Investment Company elects new board

KIC celebrates phenomenal 1068% profit surge in 2023 amidst global turbulence

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Dr. Yousef Al-Ali, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Investment Company, announced the company's remarkable success in 2023, achieving a substantial increase of 1068% in profits compared to 2022 despite challenges faced in local, regional, and global markets, reports Al-Qabas daily.

He attributed this growth to the company's solid strategy, emphasizing sustainable profitability rates, disciplined investment performance, and balanced risk management.

During the company's general assembly, a new board of directors was elected, and various agenda

items were approved, including the distribution of cash dividends at a rate of 10% for the fiscal year ending in 2023.

Al-Ali outlined the company's strategy for 2024, which focuses on stimulating investment opportunities, providing advanced solutions for clients, and supporting nationally qualified human resources through employment and training programs.

Fawaz Al-Ahmad, CEO of Kuwait Investment Company, highlighted the strong financial results achieved in 2023, providing a solid platform for future progress.

He emphasized the company's

commitment to diversifying revenues, focusing on profitability, capital strength, and sustainable growth. Al-Ahmad also noted the company's ability to adapt to market challenges and maintain sustainable returns for shareholders.

The company aims to achieve sustainable profit rates, maximize assets, and expand its customer base. Al-Ahmad emphasized the company's flexible business model, balanced credit rating, and stable future outlook. Additionally, he highlighted the company's efforts in digital transformation to provide advanced services and products, meeting the

evolving needs of its customers.

Habtoor Group recognizes its outstanding Emirati employees ΑI

DUBAI, March 28: Al Habtoor Group (AHG) celebrated a select group of Emirati employees in recognition of their exceptional contributions, as part of the group's ongoing commitment to support Emiratisation and foster local talent development. This accolade is in appreciation of their excellence and commitment within the framework of the group's Emiratisation programme, which aims to encourage young Emiratis to actively engage in the workforce.

AHG's Founding Chairman Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor recognised fifteen exemplary Emirati employees from various roles across the Group's diverse units, marking a successful exceedance of the required Emiratisation ratio in the private sector. This achievement underscores the AHG's commitment to nurturing local talent and creating employment opportunities for Emirati youth.

During the recognition ceremony, Khalaf Al Habtoor expressed his pleasure over this milestone and thanked the employees for their tireless efforts, urging them to persist in their efforts to ensure the group's continued success in the future. He addressed them by saying: "You represent the future of our national enterprises, which have been established from the ground up by the people of this blessed land. The prosperity of our economy and its sustainability rely on you, aimed at securing your future and that of your children.'

He also encouraged the AHG's Emirati employees to refine their skills and strive for the highest international standards in their work to achieve sustainable growth and excellence in every endeavour, stating: "Our governmental institutions have excelled under the guidance of our



Al Habtoor Group celebrates select group of Emirati employees in recognition of their exceptional contributions, as part of the group's ongoing commitment to support Emiratisation.

men and women, achieving global recognition in a manner that fills us with pride. The chance to expand your expertise and rise to prominent positions awaits you. At the Al Habtoor Group, we are dedicated to supporting every ambitious Emirati keen on learning and progressing in all our operational domains, with the advancement of our sons and daughters always being our foremost concern."

He added: 'We are at present working on one of the world's largest projects, and it fills me with immense pride that our Emirati ID designers are spearheading the design efforts for these projects, which rival the finest and most opulent interior designs globally.

This recognition is aligns with the group's vision to build a sustainable future, provide employment and professional growth opportunities for Emirati talent, thereby enriching the local economy, and contributing to the United Arab Emirates's sustainable development.

The honourees included: Mohammad Alfalasi, Executive Manager in Development & Investment Department; ShammaAlshamsi, Development & Investment Associate; Rashid Rafiee, Manager at the Security Department;HamdaAlmurr, Senior Interior Design Engineer; Anas Almarzooqi, Group Director of Security; Sultan Abdullah, Public Relations Officer; NajilaAlblooshi, Traffic Administrator; Ayesha Ahli, Multimedia Designer; AzzaAlyammahi, Complex Protocol Executive; Mohammed Ibrahim, Complex Assistant Security Manager; Ali Mohammad, Loss Prevention Manager; Maryam Farsi, Senior Maintenance Engineer; and Noora Alblooshi, Manager, HR & Admin.

In 2023, AHG significantly advanced its Emiratisation programme, achieving an Emiratisation ratio between 6 to8% across various sectors. This reflects its serious commitment to enhancing local capabilities and empowering Emirati youth to effective market participation.

9

BUSINESS

Cash dividends of 74 fils per share to be distributed to shareholders on April 24

Boursa Kuwait's Annual General Assembly meeting approves cash dividend of over KD 14.8mn for 2023

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Boursa Kuwait Securities Company (KPSC) held its Annual General Assembly meeting for the year ended 31 De-cember 2023 on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at the Boursa Kuwait building. The Board of Directors' recommendation to distribute cash dividends of 74 fils per share was approved, amounting to KD 14,857,406 (Fourteen million, eight hundred and fifty-seven thousand, four hundred and six Kuwaiti Dinars). Shareholders registered by the end of the record date of 21 April 2024 will receive their share dividends by the end of 24 April 2024, the company's scheduled payment date.

The meeting was chaired by Chair-man Mr. Hamad Mishari Al-Humaidhi, who welcomed the esteemed shareholders and then read the reports issued by the Kuwait Clearing Company regarding the quorum of attendance, which came in at 70.25%, as well as the items on the agenda.

The Board of Directors' report, the Independent Auditor's report and the Consolidated Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended on 31 December 2023 were all approved, as were the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee reports and the remunerations and benefits report for BOD members.

Shareholders agreed to grant the Board of Directors authorization to buy or sell the company's shares, provided they do not exceed 10%, per the provisions of Law No. 7 of 2010 and its executive regulations and amendments. Shareholders also discussed and approved the Related Parties' Transaction Report for 2023 and the related parties' transactions, which are proposed to be conducted during the upcoming 2024 financial year. Finally, the appointment of Mr. Waleed Abdulla Saud Al-Osaimi from Ernst & Young (Al-Aiban, Al-Osaimi & Partners) as the auditor for the fiscal year ending on 31 December 2024 was also approved.

Boursa Kuwait Chairman Mr. Hamad Mishari Al-Humaidhi commented on the results, stating: "Boursa Kuwait recorded a net profit of KD 15.80 million, an indication of the company's robust and effective operational model

Deadline looms

Tax changes 'SBOs' should be aware of

WASHINGTON, March 28, (AP): As Tax Day approaches, there are plenty of things small business owners (SBOs) should keep in mind when fil-

ing taxes this year. April 15 is still the annual tax deadline for many small businesses although, unlike individuals, small businesses can have varying deadlines depending on the type of company, the



Hamad Mishari Al-Humaidhi, Boursa Kuwait Chairman



Mohammed Saud Al-Osaimi, Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer

and its ability to successfully navigate a turbulent year characterized by economic uncertainty and geopolitical tensions. The bourse continued to collaborate with its partners to achieve its strategic goals to develop a strong and efficient financial market that adopts best-in-class standards and practice to achieve a high level of liquidity and transparency.

Al-Humaidhi added, "Boursa Kuwait solidified its role as a leading contributor to the diversification of the Kuwaiti economy and a key cog in the state's plans to transform the country into a cultural, financial and investment pioneer in the region. The company was able to implement its societal and environmental initiatives, aligned with its Corporate Sustainability (CS) pillars and the Unit-ed Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), leveraging its extensive network and resources to support its various stakeholders throughout the past year while maintaining its illustrious record of honors and accolades in the field of sustainability.

The Boursa Kuwait Chairman also extended his sincere gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his continued support of the stability of Kuwait's economy and development and thanked the company's esteemed shareholders for their continuous trust in the company and its objectives, extending his appreciation to his fellow Board members and Executive Management for their diligence and dedication in the realization of the company's strategy and goals as well as to all company employees for their active contribution to the bourse's achievements in 2023

Al-Humaidhi concluded his remarks by showing appreciation to Boursa Kuwait's partners in the Kuwaiti capital market, with special mention to the Capital Markets Authority, the Kuwait Clearing Company, issuers, investors, brokers, and market participants, for their efforts in promoting Kuwait's position as a leading regional market and the State of Kuwait as a prominent destination for international investment.

Mr. Mohammed Saud Al-Osaimi, Boursa Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer also commented on the company's results for 2023, saying, "Boursa Kuwait showcased remarkable agility in dealing with the volatility of the financial scene in 2023 thanks to its robust operational model which allowed Boursa Kuwait to gain prominence as one of the best stock exchanges in the region and the Kuwaiti capital market to cement itself as an attractive investment destination for the world.The company remained steadfast in adapt-



ing to the changes and challenges of the year by ensuring that its products and services adhere to the best-in-class standards and practices of capital markets globally, cementing its collaborative partnerships with the Kuwaiti capital market apparatus and building bridges between itself and the investment community locally, regionally and internationally as well as instilling confidence in its diverse issuer base, its investors and its key stakeholders."

Al Osaimi reiterated the company's commitment to modernizing the Kuwaiti capital market by expanding its offerings and improving market efficiency, enhancing access and reinforcing transparency and governance as well as increasing liquidity and transparency while fortifying investor confidence as part of the company's efforts to enhance the market and offer investors more opportunities to profit. Al-Osaimi concluded his statement

Boursa Kuwait AGM 2024

by thanking the Board of Directors for their unwavering support of the company's strategy and operations, as well as the Executive Management team and every company employee, who played significant roles in advancing the development of the market. He also thanked the Capital Markets Authority, Kuwait Clearing Company, and brokerage firms whose expertise, knowledge and professionalism are reflected in every aspect of the successful development of Kuwait's capital market.

Since its inception, Boursa Kuwait has worked diligently to create a thriving capital market that attracts local and foreign investors through a broad spectrum of new products and services, infrastructure upgrades, and market reform initiatives, as part of its multiphase market development plans.

The company was fully privatized in 2019, the first government entity in the country to successfully undergo the process, bringing about greater levels of efficiency. Boursa Kuwait also self-listed in September 2020 and has made great strides in sustaining its operations and business continuity in the face of uncertainties and challenges.

The company has rolled out numerous market reforms and new initiatives as part of its comprehensive multiphase market development (MD) plans and showcases some of the standout listed companies and the investment opportunities that reside in the Kuwaiti capital market through its series of Roadshows and Corporate Days, putting these companies in touch with some of the world's leading investment firms and financial institutions and highlighting their financial health and business strategies and outlooks, to help investors gain an in-depth understanding of the benefits and opportunities of investing in Kuwaiti companies.

Yellen: China's rapid buildout of green energy industry 'distorts global prices'

US official planning her 2nd trip to China

state the taxes are filed in, and other factors. Quarterly estimated tax payments are generally required throughout the year. And certain types of small businesses had to file by March 15.

Since business tax filing is complex, most experts recommend small business owners work with a professional tax adviser rather than trying to file on their own or even with tax-filing software.

"Taxes should not be scary, especially when you have a certified tax professional or someone who is your trusted adviser," said Amber Kellogg, vice president of affiliate origination and management at business consultancy Occams Advisory. "I always say you don't go to the dentist to get your oil changed, and you certainly shouldn't do (taxes) yourself unless you're an expert."

But even if small business owners aren't filing taxes themselves, it's still important to stay informed about any tax changes during the year. Here are things small business owners should consider as the April 15 deadline looms.

Because of some pending tax legislation in Congress this year, Mitch Gerstein, senior tax adviser at accounting firm Isdaner & Co., said it might be a good idea to file for an extension. When you file an extension you still pay estimated taxes, but final paperwork isn't due until September.

This gives your tax provider adequate time to file a return. And it's cheaper to file an extension than an amended return, which costs more in administrative fees.

One reason Gerstein recommends an extension this year: a bonus depreciation write-off used by many small businesses is set to decrease for 2023. The bonus depreciation allowance was designed to spur capital purchases and it let businesses write off 100% of certain new and used assets in 2022. But beginning in 2023, that will decrease to 80% for used assets, dropping another 20% each year thereafter. However, a tax bill pending in Congress could restore the write-off to 100%. It's rare that there is such a significant tax bill pending in Congress when taxes are due, Gerstein said.

The Secure Act 2.0 passed by Congress in late 2022 gives small businesses some tax advantages if they offer a retirement plan. There's a tax credit for small businesses starting new employee plans. The credit is up to 100% of the startup costs for adopting and maintaining a new 401(k) plan, capped at \$5,000. There's also a tax credit based on employer contribution, up to \$1,000 annually per employee, over the plan's first five years.

Scott Orn, chief operating officer of Kruze Consulting, works with startups backed by venture capital. Orn said the number one concern his clients are calling about is "Section 174," a part of the tax code that involves writing off research and development costs.

WASHINGTON, March 28, (AP): Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen called out China's ramped-up production in solar energy, electric vehicles and lithium-ion batteries, calling it unfair competition that "distorts global prices" and "hurts American firms and workers, as well as firms and workers around the world."

Yellen, who is planning her second trip to China as Treasury secretary, said Wednesday in Georgia that she will convey her belief to her Chinese counterparts that Beijing's increased production of green energy also poses risks "to productivity and growth in the Chinese economy.

"I will press my Chinese counterparts to take necessary steps to address this issue.'

China is the dominant player in batteries for electric vehicles and has a rapidly expanding auto industry that could challenge the world's established carmakers as it goes global. The International Energy Agency, a Paris-based intergovernmental group, notes that in 2023 China accounted for around 60% of global electric car sales.

Yellen delivered remarks Wednesday afternoon at Suniva - a solar cell manufacturing facility in Norcross, Georgia. The plant closed in 2017 in large part due to cheap imports flooding the market, according to Treasury. It is reopening, in part, because of incentives provided by the Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act, which provides tax incentives for green energy manufacturing.

The firm's history is something of a warning on the impact of oversaturation of markets by Chinese products and a marker of the state of U.S.-China economic relations, which are strained due to investment prohibitions, espionage concerns and other issues.

China on Tuesday filed a World Trade Organization complaint against the U.S. over what it says are discriminatory requirements for electric vehicle subsidies. The Chinese Commerce Ministry didn't say what prompted the

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said in response to the complaint that the U.S. subsidies are a 'contribution to a clean energy future' while China "continues to use unfair, non-market policies and practices to undermine fair competition.

Xi meets US business leaders as ties improve

Chinese leader issues a positive message

BEIJING, March 28, (AP): China's nationalist leader, Xi Jinping, called for closer trade ties with the U.S. during a meeting on Wednesday with top American business leaders in Beijing that came amid a steady improvement in relations that had sunk to the lowest level in years.

Xi emphasized the mutually beneficial economic ties between the world's two largest economies, despite heavy U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports and Washington's accusations of undue Communist Party influence, unfair trade barriers and theft of intellectual property.

China's economy has struggled to recover from severe self-imposed restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic that it lifted only at the end of 2022. But Xi said that China was again contributing to world economic growth in the double digits percentage-wise.

"Sino-U.S. relations are one of the most important bilateral relations in the world. Whether China and the United States cooperate or confront each other has a bearing on the wellbeing of the two peoples and the future and destiny of mankind," Xi was cited as saying by China's official Xinhua News Agency.

Participants at the meeting included Stephen A. Schwarzman, the billionaire head of investment firm Blackstone.

Trade and tariffs have increasingly drawn attention in the run-up to the U.S. presidential election, and the Biden administration has shown little sign of moderating punitive measures against Chinese imports imposed by his predecessor and assumed rival in

the November polls, Donald Trump. U.S. officials have renewed concerns over Chinese industrial policy practices and overcapacity, and the resulting impact on U.S. workers and companies, that they blame in part on China's massive trade surplus that amounted to more than \$279 billion last year, its lowest level in about a decade.

Following the meeting, the U.S.-

The European Union, also concerned about the potential threat to its auto industry, launched its own investigation into Chinese subsidies for electric vehicles last year.

"In the past, in industries like steel and aluminum, Chinese government support led to substantial overinvestment and excess capacity that Chinese firms looked to export abroad at depressed prices," Yellen said. "This maintained production and employment in China but forced industry in the rest of the world to contract."

China Business Council said in a

statement that it was honored to have

a dialogue with the country's top

leader to "discuss our concerns over

the decline in trade, investment, and

business confidence, as well as our

desire to help improve engagement

and commercial exchange between

"We stressed the importance of rebalancing China's economy by in-

creasing consumption there and en-

couraged the government to further

address longstanding concerns with

cross-border data flows, government

procurement, better protection of intel-

lectual property rights, and improved

regulatory transparency and predict-ability," the Washington-based coun-

our two countries."

"These are concerns that I increasingly hear from government counterparts in industrialized countries and emerging markets, as well as from the cil said. Its president, Craig Allen, was among the guests that met Xi.

China's economy has been bogged down by a crisis in its property market in which builders are struggling under mountains of debt, and buyers are paying off loans on apartments that may never be completed. Other issues, such as an aging population and high youth unemployment, are prompting China's leaders to lean more heavily on boosting export manufacturing to make up for weak demand at home.

At the same time, scores of foreign firms, including Apple, rely on Chinabased manufacturers as key links in their supply chains, along with the country's 1.3 billion consumers for a high percentage of their global sales.

business community globally," she said.

The tone of Yellen's speech stands in contrast to Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who met with American business leaders in Beijing Wednesday and called for closer trade ties with the U.S. amid a steady improvement in relations that had sunk to the lowest level

in years.

Tibet and Xinjiang.

month.

Xi emphasized Wednesday the mutually beneficial economic ties between the world's two largest economies, despite heavy U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports and Washington's accusations of undue Communist Party influence, unfair trade barriers and theft of intellectual property.

China's formerly highly abrasive

tone toward the U.S. has softened in

recent months, particularly since Xi

and Biden met in San Francisco in

November. Officials such as U.S. Sec-

retary of State Antony Blinken have

visited, and Treasury Secretary Janet

Yellen is reportedly due to to travel to

China again to meet top leaders next

tained a hard line on issues it consid-ers its "core interests." Those include

its claims to virtually the entire South

China Sea, the self-governing island

democracy of Taiwan - a close Ameri-

can ally - and its heavy-handed rule of

outlying regions such as Hong Kong,

But Xi's administration has main-

In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping, center, poses for photos with repre-sentatives from American business, strategic and academic communities at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, March 27, 2024. (AP)

What's On

10

Competition embodied Kuwait's rich cultural heritage and embraced local talents

Zain sponsors Bait AI Othman Museum's carrom tournament

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: For the second time, Zain has sponsored Bait Al Othman Museum's carrom tournament in collaboration with the Volunteer Work Center and the Public Authority for Sports. The competition came under the patronage and attendance of the Director of the Volunteer Work Center Sheikha Amthal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah.

During the awards ceremony held at the museum in Hawalli, Zain was recognized for its support to the competition. In attendance were the tournament's patron, Sheikha Amthal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Hawalli Governor and Al-Asimah Acting Governor Ali Al Asfar, Honorary President of Bait Al Othman Museum Adnan Al Othman, Zain Kuwait Chief Corporate Affairs and Relations Officer Waleed



Sheikha Amthal Al Ahmad honors Al Khashti. Present are Al Asfar and Al Othman.

Al Khashti, Director of Abdullah Al Othman Heritage Center Anwar Al Refaie, along with public figures, dip-

lomats, and participating teams. s Zain's support to this unique local event came to reflect its keenness to



Zain joined a friendly match during the tournament.

support any cultural initiative or program that strengthens belonging to our national identity, promotes Kuwait's values to new generations. Bait Al Othman Museum, part of the Volunteer Work Center, hosted the carrom competition for two consecutive days. Carrom is a tabletop game of Indian origin that is deeply rooted in Kuwaiti heritage and tradition and stimulates mental focus and hand skill. This year's competition featured 240 teams with over 400 players and was supervised and refereed by a team from the Public Authority for Sports. Winners were awarded with valuable cash prizes.

Zain takes pride in supporting the programs and initiatives of Bait Al Othman Museum, one of Kuwait's top cultural and touristic destinations. The museum works to document and preserve Kuwait's rich history, heritage, and tradition, and hosts several cultural and social programs all year round.

As part of bank's 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan' program

KFH continues efforts to distribute Iftar meals across Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is continuing its efforts to distribute Ramadan Iftar meals across various locations in Kuwait as part of its "Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan" 2024 program.

The program champions a diverse range of community initiatives that integrate all segments of society, solidifying KFH's leadership in volunteer work, CSR, and sustainable development. The program also includes distributing Iftar snacks for drivers during Maghrib prayers. This initiative aims to ensure drivers reach home safely and avoid speeding, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior. The program distributes Ramadan baskets in collaboration with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, aiming to foster the spirit of volunteerism and contribute to instilling the concept of giving.

The KFH program also offers



Baitek Volunteer Team

a variety of sports and health activities during Ramadan. These include the V-Fit Virtual Walking Challenge, held in collaboration with the V-Thru App. This challenge encourages participants to walk in Al Shaheed Park and the Avenues Mall before iftar. KFH is co-organizing a sports event for men and women with Circuit+ at Al Hamra Mall. Additionally, it coorganizes another sport event in the Arena Challenge at 360. In addition to its Ramadan initiatives, KFH also organized the Qurra'a Baitek competition, Gergean events, and awareness videos. These videos were created in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the Kuwait Fire Force, nutritionists, and doctors.KFH Ramadan program offers a variety of activities and events, including providing hospitality services in mosques, sharing Iftar meals with various groups during Iftar time, and more.



General photo from the contest.



Sponsorship promotes creativity and skill development

Warba signs strategic partnership with the Marketing Club at GUST

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Warba Bank took a new step in the field of marketing by signing a strategic agreement with the Marketing Club at the Gulf University of Science and Technology (GUST), whereby Warba Bank will sponsor various activities and events of the Marketing Club based on its keenness to support various student activities and events.

Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Director Marketing and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, said: "Warba Bank's sponsorship of the Marketing Club at Gulf University for Science and Technology again proves Warba's keenness to direct students' energies to develop their creativity through its numerous activities and programs specialized in Islamic economic applications and the activity of Islamic banks, especially marketing, in addition to the role of social activities throughout the year, which Warba Bank will provide during the year 2024 in cooperation with the Marketing Club, and will be announced within the monthly plans announced in cooperation with the two parties."

Al-Mutairi added that Warba Bank will sponsor all activities organized by the Marketing Club at the university



Photo during the signing of agreement.

The Marketing Club of the Gulf University of Science and Technology is considered one of the vital student clubs that cares for the learner in his administrative field in general and his marketing field in particular, as the Club pro-

Students receiving awards.

CEAS hosts inaugural programming contest

AUK celebrates student talent and innovation

campus.Warba's team will also be present to support youth events and activities at all levels, stimulate their creativity and abilities, and develop their scientific and practical skills withinits pioneering social responsibility program, through which it approaches all different segments of society, especially the category of students who need all forms of support before starting their professional life.

which it apploaches an different segments of society, especially the category of students who need all forms of support before starting their professional life. In turn, Abdul Aziz Ahmed Malallah - Head of the Marketing Club at Gulf University for Science and Technology, said: "We extend our sincere thanks to Warba Bank for its sponsorship of the Club, which is a usual sponsorship. Warba always communicates and seeks to support youth activities, especially at Gulf University for Science and Technology, and its previous support for the Public Relations Club." He added that this year, Warba Bank is sponsoring the Marketing Club to stimulate the creativity of young students and prepare them for the labor market, in addition to Warba Bank's interest, within its strategic plan, in supporting young people in all fields. vides a comprehensive set of accredited training courses, in addition to seminars, conferences, and field visits, that aims to make the student knowledgeable in his academic and practical specialization in the field of marketing.

Warba Bank is keen to sponsor all youth projects, as it announced last October its strategic partnership with the Kuwait School Sports Federationand Higher Education and its sponsorship of the school league, which comes of its keenness to pay attention to sports and youth activities, develop them, and encourage maintaining a healthy lifestyle for school students at all educational levels.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that has achieved great successes in a short period, as it occupied a leading position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals, and it is one of the largest local banks in the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent components that make the Bank close to all members of society.

Event highlights love, talent, and cultural pride

Royal Britannia Kindergarten blends Mother's Day and Gergean festivity in heartwarming celebration

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Royal Britannia Kindergarten for special needs, proudly hosted a heartwarming celebration on Thursday, March 21st, blending the spirit of Mother's Day with the traditional festivity of Gergean. The event brought together dignitaries from the Kuwaiti Government and diplomatic corps, RB parents, and the community to witness the extraordinary talents of RB students and to honour the invaluable role of mothers.

Dr. Hanan Al Mutawa, chair, and cofounder of Royal Britannia Kindergarten, welcomed guests with warmth and gratitude.

As the stage came alive, the vibrant energy of RB students illuminated the room, showcasing their talents through a series of captivating performances. Led by Ms. Elisa R Isaac, Headteacher at RB, and the dedicated RB team, the event was a testament to the hard work and dedication invested in nurturing the students' abilities.

The program featured a delightful array of performances, including enchanting songs, mesmerising music chairs performance, and captivating oriental melodies. One of the highlights of the event was a touching rendition of "My Sweet Mummy," a heartfelt tribute to mothers everywhere. Dressed in charming attire designed to enhance the synchronisation of movement and rhythm, RB students poured their hearts into every note, leaving the audience spellbound.

In addition to celebrating Mother's Day, the event also paid homage to the traditional festivity of Gergean, a cherished cultural celebration in Kuwait. The auditorium was adorned with intricate decorations, reflecting the vibrant colours and joyous spirit of Gergean. Through this immersive experi-



Photos during the Royal Britannia Kindergarten Mother's Day and Gergean festivity celebration.

ence, RB students had the opportunity to learn about their own cultural identity and take pride in their heritage.

Amidst the festivities, tokens of appreciation were presented to mothers in attendance, symbolising gratitude for their unwavering love and support. The exchange of gifts served as a poignant reminder of the profound bond between mothers and their children, transcending barriers and fostering unity within the RB community.

Dr. Hanan Al Mutawa expressed her heartfelt appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the event, including the dedicated RB team, supportive parents, and esteemed guests. She emphasised the importance of creating inclusive spaces where every child feels valued, nurtured, and empowered to reach their full potential. As the event drew to a close, guests departed with hearts full of joy and gratitude, carrying with them memories of a truly unforgettable celebration. The Mother's Day integrated Gergean festivity at Royal Britannia Kindergarten was not only a testament to the talent and resilience of RB students but also a celebration of the profound love and dedication of mothers everywhere.

neering and Applied Sciences (CEAS), in partnership with the ACM Student Chapter, hosted its first programming contest. The contest brought together students from different disciplines in the college to compete in a challenging yet rewarding environment. Participants competed in trying to solve as many

problems as they could with the 3-hour time frame. The contest drew participation from 25 students, spanning from freshmen to seniors, representing a diverse range of different majors that included computer science, computer engineering, and electrical engineering.

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The College of Engi-

CEAS dean, Dr. Mohammed EL-Abd, remarked on the resounding success of the contest, "We are immensely proud of all the participants for their hard work and dedication. Their passion and enthusiasm are a testament to the caliber of our students. We look forward to building on the success of this inaugural event and continuing to provide opportunities for students to excel and thrive in the ever-evolving world of technology."

The programming contest was organized by a team of faculty from CEAS: Mrs. Dima Aburshaid, senior instructor; Ms. Razan AlFar, instructional assistant; and Mr. David Liang, teaching assistant.

Commenting on the contest, Mrs. Dima Aburshaid stated, "There is a huge learning curve in these contests. Participants are required to skim through a set of several problem statements, identify which problems to tackle first, read text and deduce the requirements, devise a solution, and debug their code to finally have the correct solution."

The contest concluded with an award ceremony recognizing the outstanding performance of seven students. Reem Qasem won first place, followed by MoemenElByah in second place, and Shrouq Abdulsalam in third. Special recognition was also extended to the top three experienced competitors: Yousef Al-Hamad, Bader Al-Otaibi, and Fahad Kalloush. A special recognition of the top novice coder was awarded to Jana Hassan.

Contests such as these foster invaluable skills and camaraderie among students, further enriching their educational experience, while also serving as a testament to the collaborative spirit and dedication of the AUK campus community.

Internet, AI studies among Women's Nonfiction Prize finalists

LONDON, March 28, (AP): Books about the dizzying impact of the internet and artificial intelligence are among finalists for a new book prize that aims to help fix the gender imbalance in nonfiction publish-

ing. The shortlisted six books for the inaugural Women's Prize for Nonfiction, announced on Wednesday, include Canadian author-activist Naomi Klein's "Doppleganger," a plunge into online misinformation, and British journalist Madhumita Murgia's "Code-Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI.'

The 30,000 pound (\$38,000) award is a sister to the 29-year-old Women's Prize for Fiction and is open to female English-language writers from any country in any nonfiction genre.

The finalists also include autobiographical works - poet Safiya Sinclair's "How to Say Babylon: A Jamaican Memoir" and British art critic Laura Cumming's "Thunderclap: A Memoir of Art and Life and Sudden Death.'

Rounding out the list are British author Noreen Masud's traveloguememoir "A Flat Place," and Harvard history professor Tiya Miles' "All That She Carried," a history of American enslavement told through one Black family's keepsake.

British historian Suzannah Lipscomb, who is chairing the judging panel, said that "the readers of these books will never see the world - be it through art, history, landscape, politics, religion or technology - the same again."

The winners of both nonfiction and fiction prizes will be announced

Variety

at a ceremony in London on June 13.

The prize was set up in response to a gender imbalance in the book world, where men buy more nonfiction than women - and write more prize-wining nonfiction books

The company Nielsen Book Research found in 2019 that while women bought 59% of all the books sold in the United Kingdom, men accounted for just over half of adult nonfiction purchases.

Prize organizers say that in 2022, only 26.5% of nonfiction books reviewed in Britain's newspapers were by women, and male writers dominated established nonfiction writing prizes.

Jill Biden has written a children's picture book about her White House cat, Willow, that will be published in June.

Simon & Schuster announced Wednesday that "Willow the White House Cat" tells the story of how the short-haired tabby ended up at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Aides previously had said the cat impressed Jill Biden after it jumped on stage as she spoke at a Pennsylvania farm during the 2020 presidential campaign. Biden later adopted the cat and named it after her hometown of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania.

"As Willow bounds from room to room, exploring history in her new home, she learns quickly about all of the incredible people who make the 'People's House' run," the first lady said in the publisher's announcement. "They welcomed Willow with love and care, just as

they did Joe and me, the First Families who came before us, and all of the people who step foot into this home.

"Making many new friends along the way, Willow's journey gives the world a 'cats-eye' view of all the ins and outs of America's most famous address," she said.

Willow, now 4 years old, is the only Biden pet still living at the White House. They have had three German shepherd dogs. Champ died in 2021, and Major and later Commander were sent away after exhibiting aggressive behavior, including biting Secret Service personnel and members of the White House staff.

Presidential pets are an enduring source of public fascination and often the subject of books. George H.W. Bush's dog, Millie, "opined" on her White House life in "Millie's Book," and first lady Hillary Clinton wrote a book about the letters that were sent to her family pets, cat Socks and dog Buddy. Books have also been written about President Barack Obama's white-chested Portuguese water

dog, Bo. "Willow the White House Cat" will be published by Paula Wise-"Willow the White House Cat" & Schuster Children's Publishing. man Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. It was co-written with award-winning author Alyssa Satin Capucilli and illustrated by acclaimed artist Kate Berube. Jill Biden will donate proceeds from sales of the book to charities that support military dogs. The first lady's previous children's titles are "Don't Forget, God Bless Our Troops" and "Joey: The Story of Joe Biden." She published her memoir, "Where the Light Enters," in 2019.



Film

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MARCH 29-30, 2024

SYDNEY: Taylor Swift's father will not be charged over a paparazzi photographer's claim that Scott Swift assaulted him on the Sydney waterfront hours after the pop star's Australian tour ended last month.

Photographer Ben McDonald had alleged that one of Swift's security guards forced an umbrella into his face and camera and that Scott Swift then punched him at the Neutral Bay Wharf, where the father and daughter had just come ashore from a yacht Feb. 27.

Taylor Swift's representatives responded by accusing members of the media of aggression during the interaction.

Police began investigating the incident at the time and announced Wednesday that "no further police action" would be taken.

"No offences were detected. and the investigation was concluded with no further police action required," said the statement from the New South Wales Police Force.

More than 600,000 fans saw the Australian leg of her Eras Tour at seven Australian stadium concerts.

Her tour shattered records when it reportedly surpassed \$1 billion last year, and her film adaptation of the tour quickly took No. 1 at the box office and became the highest-grossing concert film to date. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Buckle up, cowpoke: On Wednesday, Beyoncé shared the track list for her forthcoming album, "Act II: Cowboy Carter.

"Cowboy Carter" arrives Friday, but fans got a sneak peek on the superstar's Instagram account, when she shared an image that appears to include the titles of her songs: from the previously released "Texas Hold previously released "Texas Hold 'Em" and "16 Carriages," now including "American Requiem," "Blackbird," "Protector," "My Rose," "Bodyguard," "Daughter," "Spaghetti," "Alligator Tears," "Smoke Hour II," "Just For Fun," "Il Most Wanted," "Levi's Jeans," "Elamanco," "Ya Ya," "Oh Loui "Flamenco," "Ya Ya," "Oh Loui-siana," "Desert Eagle," "River-dance," "Il Hands Il Heaven," "Tyrant," "Sweet Honey Buckin," and "Amen."

One song appears to be called "The Linda Martell Show," a

A spellbinding journey into folk tale cinema

Rohrwacher's 'La Chimera' is pure magic

By Jake Coyle

When we talk about "movie magic," the first thing **VV** that comes to mind is often something like the bikes achieving liftoff in "E.T." But it applies no less to Alice Rohrwacher's wondrous "La Chimera," a grubbily transcendent folk tale of a film that finds its en-

chantment buried in the ground. "Were you dreaming?" a train conductor asks the sleeping Arthur (Josh O'Connor), a distant, temperamental Brit in Italy with little more to his name than the rumpled cream-colored linen suit he wears. The answer is ves. Radiant memories of Arthur's dead lover, Benjamina, haunt his dreams and propel him on a strange quest into the underground tombs of Tuscany.

A melancholy spell seems to hang over Arthur, who has a mystical gift for finding ancient relics. It's the early 1080early 1980s. Arthur is returning home from a stint in jail for grave robbing. His homecoming is received like a hero's return by the scruffy, carnivalesque band of tombaroli - tomb raiders who plunder Etruscan artifacts - who look on Arthur more like a prince than a destitute thief. They call him "maestro."

With remarkable precision, Arthur is able to point to where to dig. In one scene, he takes a small, bended branch as an instrument for his dowsing. "La Chimera," itself, seems to emerge almost the same way - an earthy, spellbinding buried treasure with a sublime drawing power.

The precise moment I fell totally in love with "La Chimera" - and this is very much a movie to love - is an early montage in which Arthur and his fellow scavengers scamper across the countryside, hiding in fields from bumbling police, while a folk song about the tombarolo Englishman is sung. "La Chimera," the third in a loose trilogy for Rohrwacher following "The Wonders" and "Happy as Lazzaro," is the fullest realization yet of her cinema of "magical neo-realism."

Rohrwacher's great fascination is with the past. The hold it can have on the present. The vast yet minuscule distance between long-ago and today. "Happy as Lazzaro" charmingly walked a 19th century peasant into present day.

"La Chimera" is even more beguiling and mournful.

reference to the groundbreaking country performer who became the first Black woman to play the Grand Ole Opry. There's also mention of "Dolly P" - likely a reference to Dolly Parton - and a track titled

"Jolene," a reference to one of Parton's best-known songs. (AP)

Beyoncé

The tombaroli make a merry band, but Arthur's plight is shadowed by death. "He was looking for a passage to the afterlife," one of his companions says in the film, one of a handful of direct addresses.

Arthur and company make cash by selling their unearthed Etruscan wares. But he's driven less by money than a compulsion to reach the dead, to reach Benjamina. How deep will he dig? Will the darkness of the underworld envelop him?

Arthur also makes occasional visits to the mother of Benjamina, Flora (a typically magnificent Isabella Rossellini), who, like him, has not yet accepted the death of her daughter. She receives him courteously and deferentially, with an old-world manner. Flora's other daughters snicker that she only lets men smoke in the house.

Fable

At her crumbling villa, Arthur meets Italia (Carol Duarte, fabulous), a singing student who, Flora says, is tone deaf. But she might be the sharpest observer in the film. Italia, alone, is horrified by the plundering of the graves. In other ways, she's the embodiment of the time the tombs recall. It's noted that the Etruscans elevated women in society - one of, though not the only, relic of the past that "La Chimera" brings forward to today.

Past and present mingle in mysterious ways in "La Chimera." The greatest Etruscan discovery - a glorious subterranean chamber - is made on a beach with a factory just down the shoreline. But the even more remarkable excavation of the film is of Arthur's grieving soul. O'Connor is exquisite in a role that requires the deftest balance of tangible reality and otherworldly fable.

Like so many things in "La Chimera," O'Connor's performance is entrancing and confounding. How can a movie be so nimbly poised between past and present, you can't help but wonder. The stuff of fairy tales - of a kind of storytelling magic - is what Rohrwacher, herself, wants to unearth. "Were you dreaming?" Good question

"La Chimera," a Neon release, is not rated by the Motion Picture Association. In Italian with English subtitles. Running time: 133 minutes. Four stars out of four.

> television drama "Empire." It will review a December state appellate court ruling that upheld his 2021 conviction by a Cook County jury

The case kicked up an international uproar and produced an intensive manhunt by Chicago police detectives.

A special prosecutor refiled charges against Smollett after Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx dropped the case and Smollett forfeited his \$10,000 bond and conducted community service, which Smollett argues ended the case. (AP)

court to hear arguments in the matter

SPRINGFIELD, III.: The Illinois Supreme Court will hear an appeal of actor Jussie Smollett's disorderly conduct conviction for staging a racist and homophobic attack against himself in 2019, then lying to Chicago police about it.

The court on Wednesday ac-

There is no date set for the high

Also:

NEW YORK: Donald Sutherland has a memoir coming out in November reflecting on his life of nearly 90 years and his 60-year career as one of Hollywood's top actors in films like "M.A.S.H.," "Klute," "Ordinary People" and "The Hunger Games " saga.

Crown announced Wednesday that Sutherland's "Made Up, But Still True" will be published Nov. 12, when the actor will be 89 years old.

"Donald Sutherland has made an indelible mark on the industry since his life-changing role in M.A.S.H catapulted him into the public eye nearly sixty years ago," the publisher said in a statement. "With his raw honesty and wicked sense of humor, the renowned actor chronicles his life in this generation-defining book, cataloging with powerful detail his far too many brushes with death, his loving relationship with his parents, and behind-the-scenes stories of the movies he's starred in.'

A major figure in the New Hollywood of the 1970s who has worked steadily since, Sutherland was long considered among the best actors never to have been nominated for an Academy Award, despite appearing in several films that won the biggest of them. He was given an honorary Oscar for career achievement in 2017. He also has an Emmy and two Golden Globes.

"Made Up, But Still True" will be his first work as an author.

Born in Saint John, Canada, Sutherland barely survived a series of childhood diseases, including infantile paralysis, rheumatoid fever and spinal meningitis.

He chronicles those struggles in the book, along with his burgeoning teenage sexuality and his love for acting. He began acting on screen in the early 1960s.

Sutherland broke through in Hollywood with a small role in the 1967 World War II classic "The Dirty Dozen," and broke big with a starring role as Hawkeye Pierce in Robert Altman's "M.A.S.H.'

He worked with auteurs including Nicolas Roeg in "Don't Look Now" and Federico Fellini in "Fellini's Casanova." And he appeared just as often in more popular fare, playing a spacey tank commander in "Kelly's Heroes," a demented arsonist in "Backdraft" and an authoritarian president in the "Hunger Games" films. (AP)



Swift

cepted the appeal from Smollett, formerly a cast member of the

NEWS/FEATURES

People & Places

Media

Modern media lesson

Royal silence sparks web of 'speculation'

NEW YORK, March 28, (AP): A media frenzy was born on Feb. 27, when the hashtag #WhereIsKate exploded online with speculation about the whereabouts of Britain's Princess of Wales. It opened a rabbit hole of amateur detective work, memes, bizarre theories and jokes - mixed with genuine concern about **Kate**'s health - into which thousands of people descended until her announcement last week that she was recovering from cancer.

The episode offered the royal family - and everyone else - a lesson in the modern world of online media: If your silence leaves an information vacuum, others will rush to fill it. And the results may be messy.

"The royal family's mantra is never complain, never explain," said Ellie Hall, a journalist who specializes in covering Britain's king and his court. "That really doesn't work in a digital age. It doesn't take much to get the crazy things going."



It was, in part, entertainment for some people with too much time on their hands. Except it involved real people with real lives - and, it turns out, real medical challenges. On Jan. 17, Kensington Pal-

ace announced that Kate was in the hospital recovering from a planned abdominal surgery and would not be doing any public events until after Easter. There was relatively little online

Kate

chatter, or official updates, until it was announced on Feb. 27 that her husband, Prince William, would not be attending his godfather's memorial service due to a "personal matter."

That's when the theorizing really began, noted Ryan Broderick, who writes the Garbage Day newsletter about the online environment.

Where was Kate? Was she seriously ill - in a coma, perhaps? Did she travel abroad to undergo plastic surgery? Had she been replaced by a body double? Was there trouble in her marriage? Did she leave William? Had she been abused? Unsubstantiated rumors made it all the way to American talk show host Stephen Colbert. Memes appeared that included putting Kate's picture on the face of an actress in "Gone Girl," a 2014 film about a missing wife.

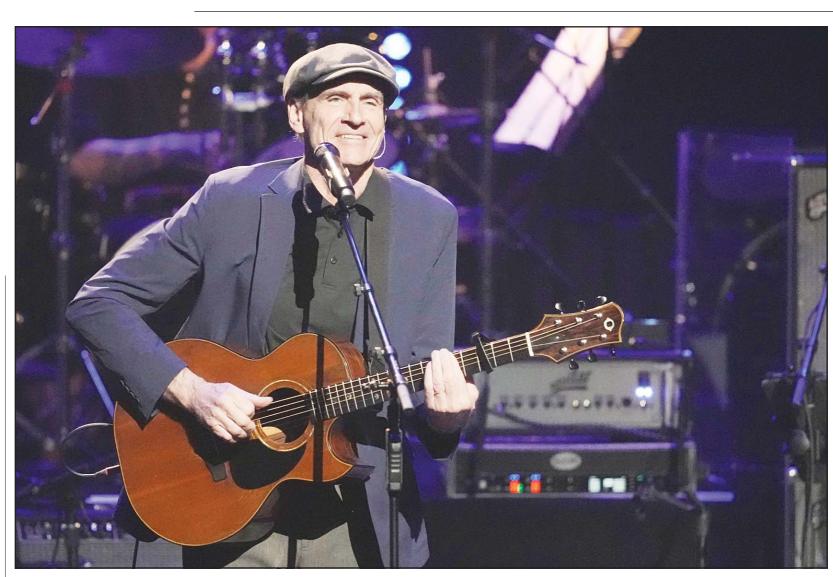
Impulses

After two decades in which people have uploaded their lives to a system of platforms run by algorithms that make money off our worst impulses, "we have wondered what the world might look like when we crossed the threshold into a fully online world," Broderick wrote on Garbage Day. "Well, we did. We crossed it."

"Conspiracy is the Internet's favorite sport," Sarah Frier, author of "No Filter: The Inside Story of Instagram," posted on X, formerly Twitter. "It starts here and becomes mainstream. At one point last week, MOST of the content on my (X) feed was about her. None of it was right. This is just what people do for fun and followers now."

Then came the grand, unforced error - the palace releasing a photo on March 10 of Kate and her children that it later admitted had been digitally manipulated, without leaving clear exactly what was done.

Even before that, a ham-fisted public relations strat-



James Taylor performs at the 7th annual Love Rocks NYC concert in New York on March 9, 2023. Taylor kicks off his North American tour on May 29 at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. (AP)



Gillian Anderson and Rufus Sewell pose for photographers upon arrival at the World premiere of the film 'Scoop' on Wednesday, March 27, in London. (AP)



Legendary musician on new music and his legacy Taylor hits the road again at 76

LOS ANGELES, March 28, (AP): He's gone to Carolina in his mind and on tour for much of 2024.

Music

Not long after his 76th birthday, James Taylor & His All-Star Band will take their show on the road in the United States, hitting 24 cities for 31 shows in five months.

Over Zoom from his studio in western Massachusetts, Taylor tells The Associated Press "It's been September since the last time I've been out." That, he says, is "a long time for me."

The tour kicks off in Los Angeles at the Hollywood Bowl on May 29 and ends at Wolf Trap Filene Center in Vienna, Virginia, on Sept. 15.

The tour hits Salt Lake City; Morrison, Colorado; Kansas City, Missouri; St. Louis; Highland Park, Illinois; Noblesville, Indiana; Nashville, Tennessee; North Little Rock, Arkansas; Thackerville, Oklahoma; Clarkston, Michigan; Darien Center, New York; Syracuse, New York; Bethel Woods, New York; Bangor, Maine; Gilford, New Hampshire; Lenox, Massachusetts; Philadelphia; Wantagh, New York; Saratoga Springs, New York; Bridgeport, Connecticut; Burgettstown, Pennsylvania, and Boston. **Taylor:** I was trying to figure out whether or not it was 50 years or 50 shows that I've been playing at Tanglewood, and it turns out it's both. 1974 was the first time I played there. It averages out to one a year, although at one point we skipped a whole decade.

We had an episode where one of my crew members, in a fit of pique, drove a truck across the Tanglewood lawn and made a mess of it. He was told he had to get the truck off the lawn because it had been raining and it was making an imprint on it. As we were breaking down after the show, he was driving out there to unload the mixing board and stuff. But he put it in reverse, stomped the accelerator and tore a great trough, a great furrow in the Tanglewood lawn. And they never

asked me back. It was only when (my

wife) Kim came along and resurrected

my reputation that I was allowed to

It's been a great privilege... It's

AP: Does an anniversary like that

- 50 years - allow you to reflect on

Taylor: This is the time of life when

you feel like you ought to get in touch

with a lawyer and make a will. You

see, the older generation, the people

that were your friends and mentors,

sort of checking out one by one. It is

a time when you feel as though things

are being summed up a little bit and

you start thinking about, the whole

thing as a totality. You know, a line

from one of my songs, "Copperline,"

is "I'm only living 'til the end of the

week," and I think that really does de-

But, you know, it is a period of time

when you look back and see the whole

thing, it's important not to internal-

ize that idea of being a big deal. It's

important to focus on what it is that

you do - and that thing as a craft that

turned out to be a great thing for me, to

play Tanglewood every year.

come back.

your career?

scribe me.

we can't avoid it. But we should mitigate it by knowing that when we judge someone, we've got it wrong. They know who they are, and not we. But, of course, in a million ways, all day long, we evaluate ourselves and other people and it's complicated. It's not up to me determine what my ultimate position in popular culture turns out to be 50 years from now.

ÅP: That's a value judgment, too. Taylor: I see people selling the rights to their catalogs. That baby boom generation musical expression, which happened between '62 and 1980, that sort of 20 years of amazing activity that happened, I was in the center of it and actually got my start in London with the Beatles. So, I had a real sense of this generational phenomenon that the music that I was part of, was a big feature in the landscape and we were communicating to each other. We invented a kind of music there. It was predicted by rhythm and blues and folk music. And those two resurgences sort of fueled it and supplied it. It was big. You see those people now, being in my sort of age group generally, selling the rights to their catalogs and sort of evaluating what their life's output was worth. You know, David Bowie 's went for like 250 million. I think (Bob) Dylan... got like 300 million... (Bruce) Springsteen is said to have gotten more than that, like half a billion or something. It's sort of like monopoly monev **AP:** What do you hope people take away from your live show, and are you working on a new album?

egy by the royal family's handlers had lost control of the narrative, said Peter Mancusi, a journalism professor at Northeastern University and a lawyer with his own business in crisis counseling.

Providing some proof of life, some morsels of information - even a staged shot of Kate waving from a balcony - would have filled the vacuum, he said. Mancusi contrasted the strategy with that surrounding King Charles, where it was quickly announced around the same time that he was fighting cancer. It has never been made clear exactly what kind of cancer the king has, but people are inclined to grant some degree of privacy with that diagnosis, Mancusi said.

Mancusi frequently deals with clients who resist releasing damaging or uncomfortable information that usually winds up getting out anyway. Best to be proactive or, as Hall said, "feed the beast."

"It's just human nature, and it's the nature of a lot of companies when bad news hits, to go into a defensive crouch," Mancusi said. "But hope isn't a strategy anymore."

Despite the temptation to ignore rumors and conspiracy theories, it's best to respond quickly with clear and verifiable information, said Daniel Allington, a social scientist at King's College in London who studies disinformation. "Once people start speculating that you are lying to them," Allington said, "it's very hard to get them back on board."

In an article published on vulture.com 12 days before Kate announced she had cancer, author Kathryn VanArendonk seemed to anticipate that truth in a discussion about how the monarchy is not built for the modern information era.

Private

"Catherine may be going through some private experiences she does not want to share widely," she wrote, "and the internet has broken everyone's ability to assess what's a supervillain-level coverup and what's more likely to be something sad and mundane."

Cancer is something too many people can relate to. They understand how hard it is to speak those words to loved ones, much less the entire world. Kate's video was a candid, emotional and effective way of sharing very personal information, said Matthew Hitzik, a veteran in crisis communications from New York.

It didn't end wild online speculation, though. Almost immediately, suggestions popped up that the speech was generated by artificial intelligence or, in an unholy alliance of conspiracy theories, that her cancer was caused by the COVID-19 vaccine.

But that was nonsense, and felt churlish. A corner had been turned. The Sun in London now runs daily stories with "Brave Kate" in the headline. Trolls "should hang their heads in shame," the newspaper editorialized. The Atlantic magazine headlined: "I Hope You All Feel Terrible Now."

What shouldn't be lost, however, is how preventable it all was.

"You cannot blame British newspapers for the miseries heaped on the Prince and Princess of Wales," columnist Hugo Rifkind wrote in The Times of London. "Certainly we didn't help, if only because a princess releasing doctored photographs to the public, for reasons at that point unclear, is an objectively grabby and fascinating story. But the conspiracy theories? The juggernauts of dirty speculation? You could argue, I suppose, that papers should have simply pretended none of this was happening.

"But it was, and it wasn't driven by us," he wrote. "It was driven by you." Kahneman Whittaker

Variety

SAN FRANCISCO: Daniel Kahneman,

a psychologist who won a Nobel Prize in economics for his insights into how ingrained neurological biases influence decision making, died Wednesday at the age of 90.

Kahneman and his longtime collaborator Amos Tversky reshaped the field of economics, which prior to their work mostly assumed that people were "rational actors" capable of clearly evaluating choices such as which car to buy or which job to take. The pair's research - which Kahneman described for lay audiences in his best-selling 2011 book "Thinking, Fast and Slow" focused on how much decision-making is shaped by subterranean quirks and mental shortcuts that can distort our thoughts in irrational yet predictable ways.

Take, for instance, false confidence in predictions. In an excerpt from his book, Kahneman described a "leaderless group" challenge used by the **Israeli** army's Psychology Branch to assess future leadership potential. Eight candidates, all unknowns to one another, had to cross a six-foot wall together using only a long log - without touching the wall or the ground with the log, or touching the wall themselves. (AP)

SEATTLE: Lou Whittaker, a legendary American mountaineer who helped lead ascents of Mount Everest, K2 and Denali, and who taught generations of climbers during his more than 250 trips up Mount Rainier, the tallest peak in Washington state, has died at age 95.

RMI Expeditions, the guide company he founded in 1969, confirmed that he died peacefully at home Sunday. "Mountains were the source of his

Mountains were the source of his health, the wellspring of his confidence, and the stage for his triumphs, and he was one of the first to make mountaineering and its benefits accessible to the broader public," the company said in statement posted to its website Wednesday. "His leadership made mountain guiding a true profession, with many of the world's premier mountaineers benefiting from Lou's tutelage."(AP)

LONDON: It was nice while it lasted. An environmentally themed mural by elusive street artist **Banksy** that appeared last week on a London street has been encased in plastic and surrounded by fencing after an apparent act of vandalism. This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Before the continental US tour, you're headed to Japan, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii. What keeps it interesting?

Taylor: The audience, always. The event itself has never failed to supply the motivation and the energy that is required. You know, it's very compelling to go a great distance and to find a crowd of people that have bought tickets to come see me and the band play again.

Over time, it's something you learn to do, to keep your strength up, keep your health... also, I don't do more than a couple of shows in a row without a day off. I'll do more than that if I'm in one town, but generally speaking, we pace ourselves now.

AP: That's good advice. **Taylor:** I definitely burned myself out a few times.

AP: You're performing at Tanglewood, in your home state of Massachusetts, 50 years since you first performed there. What significance does it hold?

The work is on a four-story wall near a public housing project. Beside a real and severely pruned cherry tree, the artist stenciled a small figure holding a pressure hose.

on a four-story wall near a project. Beside a real and d cherry tree, the artist sten-

allows you to have your place in the world. **AP:** What has that allowed you to learn?

Taylor: As time goes by, I think it's wrong for people to judge other people and even to evaluate them, and yet it's something we constantly do, and

including Banksy fans from around the

Taylor: I feel like I've got another one in me — sounds like an egg — but I'm writing a little bit.

And as to what I hope people take away from live performances, I hope they take away a sense of connection. You know, live music — the thing that I'm so attached to about it, why I can't let it go — is that there's something (that) happens when people come together for a couple of hours for two or three hours and have a sort of collective experience.

It's indescribable. You prepare for it, but when it happens, it's spontaneous and, in a way, unique. I love it when that happens, and it does most nights.

world. Two days later, it was splashed with white paint.

The mural was then covered in transparent plastic by the building's owner, and a sign appeared saying the area was under video surveillance. (AP)

SALT LAKE CITY: A Utah woman who authorities say fatally poisoned her husband in 2022, then published a children's book about grief, now faces another attempted murder charge for allegedly drugging him weeks earlier on Valentine's Day.

Kouri Richins, 33, is accused of killing her husband with a lethal dose of fentanyl at their home in a small mountain town near Park City in March 2022. New charging documents filed Monday by Summit County prosecutors allege that was not her first attempt on his life.

They detail the perilous months preceding **Eric Richins**' death, painting a picture of a paranoid man walking on eggshells around his wife as she made secret financial arrangements and bought illicit drugs that were later found in his system.

Prosecutors have said previously that Kouri Richins, who is being held without bail, may have tried to poison her husband the month before his death, but they did not file the additional charges until this week. (AP)



A model is dressed in a traditional Iraqi costume during a fashion show at the Iraqi National Museum during the holy month of Ramadan, in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, March 26. (AP)

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The Conversation

Oncologist explains why some patients receive both chemotherapy and surgery

Cancer often requires more than one treatment: expert

By Alexander Olawaiye

University of Pittsburgh

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

When Kate Middleton, the prin-cess of Wales, announced in March 2024 that she was receiving "preventive chemotherapy" following abdominal surgery, many wondered what that entails. Formally known as adjuvant therapy, administering chemotherapy or other treatments after surgery is a common approach to treating certain types of cancer and is not necessarilv intended to prevent cancer.

As an Oncologist at the University of Pittsburgh let me explain what factors doctors take into account when devising a cancer treatment plan.

There are many types of treatcancer ment, including surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy and hormonal therapy, among others. Sometimes

doctors combine



Olawaiye

multiple types of treatment. Which is the best treatment approach depends on which organ the tumor originated from and how much the tumor has spread at the time of diagnosis.

Broadly speaking, there are two types of cancers: solid tumors - or visible tumors that can be seen by the naked eye or through imaging - and liquid tumors, such as blood cancers. The primary treatment for solid cancers is surgery to physically remove the tumor, with the goal of getting rid of all tissues involved with the tumor.

Diagnosis

For example, in ovarian cancer, surgery often includes removing the ovaries, fallopian tubes and the uterus, along with any visible cancer tissue in the rest of the belly. Sometimes this requires removing the spleen or part of the small intestine or liver.

For skin cancers such as melanoma, surgery involves removing both the tumor and a good margin of normal-looking skin with it to capture any remaining cancer cells that may not be visible in the surrounding healthy skin. Likewise, a surgeon may also remove nearby

aggressive the tumor. When a tumor is more aggressive, it's more likely to invade neighboring tissues and spread to other parts of the body.

Another is the extent the cancer has spread at the time of diagnosis. This is what determines the stage of the cancer. For example, stage 1 cancer refers to a tumor that is confined to the organ it originally developed from. Stage 4 cancer refers to a tumor that has spread far from its origins to grow on other organs. The higher the stage, the higher the risk for a worse outcome.

A third factor is the organ where the cancer first originated. For instance, pancreatic cancers tend to be fatal even when diagnosed early because these tumors don't respond well to therapy. Ovarian cancer can have symptoms that are difficult to recognize, leading to late diagnoses. On the other hand, breast cancer and thyroid cancer tend to be less aggressive for longer periods of time, even when diagnosed at an advanced stage.

Chemotherapy

For patients with tumors that can be surgically removed, they often also receive chemotherapy or radiotherapy before or after the procedure. Doctors prescribe this additional, or adjuvant, treatment depending on the patient's risk of recurrence.

Recurrence typically happens when cancer cells escape from the tumor prior to or during surgical removal. Adjuvant chemotherapy or radiation after the procedure is aimed at killing these cells so they don't settle down and grow somewhere else in the body later on.

In some cases, surgical removal is not feasible or not advisable. This could be because the cancer has spread so much that completely cutting it out is impossible or the risk of complications or disability from the surgery is high.

For example, primary surgery often isn't a good option for ovarian cancer, since most patients are diagnosed in advanced stages; complete surgical removal, even if possible, may involve removing important organs such as the rectum and colon. This can lead to the need for a colostomy or ileostomy, where stool is passed directly from the large or small intestine to a bag outside the belly. Surgical removal of breast cancer may mean losing the affected breast.

The risk of unwanted side effects

Food waste reduction key to environmental preservation

783 million people face chronic hunger amidst 19% global food waste, UN says

NAIROBI, Kenya, March 28, (AP): The world wasted an estimated 19% of the food produced globally in 2022, or about 1.05 billion metric tons, according to a new United Nations report.

gramme's Food Waste Index Report, published Wednesday, tracks the progress of countries to halve food waste by 2030

The 2021 report estimated that 17% of

The report is co-authored by UNEP and Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), an international charity.

Researchers analyzed country data on households, food service and retailers. They found that each person wastes about 79 kilograms (about 174 pounds) of food annually, equal to at least 1 billion meals wasted worldwide daily

Most of the waste - 60% - came in households. About 28% came from food service, or restaurants, with about 12% from retailers.

"It is a travesty," said co-author Clementine O'Connor, the focal point for food waste at UNEP. "It doesn't make any sense, and it is a complicated problem, but through collaboration and systemic action, it is one that can be tackled.

The report comes at a time when 783 million people around the world face chronic hunger and many places facing deepening food crises.

Food waste is also a global concern because of the environmental toll of production, including the land and water required to raise crops and animals and the greenhouse gas emissions it produces, including methane, a powerful gas that has accounted for about 30 percent of global warming since preindustrial times.

Food loss and waste generates 8 to 10 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. If it were a country, it would rank third after China and the US.

Fadila Jumare, a Nigeria-based project associate at Busara Center for ied prevention of food waste in Kenya and Nigeria, said the problem further disadvantages many people who are already food insecure and cannot afford healthy diets. "For humanity, food waste means that less food is available to the poorest population," said Jumare, who wasn't involved in the report.

Japanese supplement recalled after 2 deaths

UK urges vaccination as measles cases surge

TOKYO, March 28, (AP): Health supplement products believed to have caused two deaths and sickened more than 100 people have been ordered to be taken off store shelves in Japan.

The products from Kobayashi Pharmaceutical Co., billed as helping to lower cholesterol, contained an ingredient called "benikoji," a red species of mold

In addition to the products from Osaka-based Kobayashi, more than 40 products from other companies containing benikoji, including miso paste, crackers and a vinegar dressing, were recalled, starting last week, a government health ministry official said Wednesday.

At least 106 people had been hospitalized, and many more are believed to have been sickened, although it's unclear if all the illnesses are directly linked to benikoji (pronounced behnee-koh-jeeh).

The ministry has put up a list on its official site of all the recalled products, them in the future."

Repeated calls to Kobayashi went unanswered. The company president and other top officials held a news conference last week when the problem first surfaced, bowing their heads in apology, as is the standard in Japan.

The ministry official warned there could be more victims in the days ahead. He asked everyone to stop ingesting anything with benikoji in it. Those with health problems, like weak kidneys, could be especially vulnerable, he said.

All the products were made in Japan, although it is unclear if any of the raw materials were imported. A recall of imported health supplements has happened before, but this is the first major recall of a domestically produced supplement, according to Japanese media reports.

Measles: UK health officials on Monday urged millions of parents to book their children for missed measles, mumps and rubella shots during a sharp increase in the number of measles cases and the lowest vaccination rates in a decade.

The combined measles, mumps and rubella, or MMR, vaccine is offered in the U.K. in two doses to all children, first at 12 months and then again at 3 years. Vaccination rates have dropped to about 85% nationally, and far lower in parts of London, according to U.K. Health Security Agency chief executive Jenny Harries.

That is "too low to maintain safe population coverage - we want that at about 95%" as advised by the World Health Organization, she said.

Public health officials say more than 3.4 million children under 16 years old are unprotected or not fully protected and at risk of catching the preventable diseases because they only received one of two vaccine doses.

Measles was declared eliminated in the U.K. in 2017, meaning the disease was no longer native to the country.

But transmissions began again when epidemics broke out in the rest of Europe. Officials said outbreaks can take place anywhere where vaccine coverage is below the 95% needed to achieve herd immunity WHO and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in November that measles deaths globally spiked by more than 40% last year, and cases rose after vaccination levels dramatically dropped during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Garbage is loaded into a landfill in Lenox Township, Mich., July 28, 2022. A new United Nations report estimates that 19% of the food produced around the world went to waste in 2022. (AP)

The U.N. Environment Pro-

The U.N. said the number of countries reporting for the index nearly doubled from the first report in 2021. the food produced globally in 2019, or 931 million metric tons (1.03 billion tons), was wasted, but authors warned against direct comparisons because of the lack of sufficient data from many countries

lymph nodes.

When solid cancer is diagnosed early, the success of treatment following surgery is typically high. For example, an estimated 91% of cervical cancer patients who are diagnosed early are still alive at least five years after diagnosis. Endometrial cancer patients who are diagnosed early have an estimated fiveyear survival rate of 95%.

Despite surgical removal, many tumors come back. Researchers don't fully understand why cancers recur, but there are certain red flags that indicate the potential for recurrence

One is how different the cancer cells look compared with healthy cells. The more different, the more

Call: 24813805

from surgical removal can be reduced through neoadjuvant therapy, or administering chemotherapy or radiation before the procedure to shrink the tumor and reduce the amount of surgery required. Studies have shown that neoadjuvant therapy can help ovarian cancer patients avoid colostomies after surgery and allow breast cancer patients to opt for a procedure that conserves their breast.

Neoadjuvant or adjuvant treatment can include chemotherapy, immunotherapy, hormonal therapy, radiation therapy or a combination of these treatments. Further advances in research will offer doctors and patients even more approaches to effectively treat cancer. (AP)

Brian Roe, a food waste researcher at Ohio State University who wasn't involved with the report, said the index is important to tackling food waste.

"The key takeaway is that reducing the amount of food that is wasted is an avenue that can lead to many desirable outcomes - resource conservation, fewer environmental damages, greater food security, and more land for uses other than as landfills and food production," said Roe, who wasn't involved

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including some that use benikoji for food coloring.

The company is investigating the cause of the problem. The recalled products could be bought without a prescription from a doctor, and could be purchased at drug stores.

Kobayashi apologized and asked in an online statement: "Please stop taking our products, and please do not use

in the report.

The report showed notable growth in coverage of food waste in low- and middle-income countries, the authors said. But it may fall to wealthier nations to lead in international cooperation and policy development to reduce food waste, they said.

The report said many governments, regional and industry groups are using

The National Health Service is launching a publicity campaign after figures showed there were about 250 confirmed measles cases in parts of England last year. Most cases were in children under 10 years old.

public-private partnerships to reduce food waste and its contributions to climate and water stress. Governments and municipalities collaborate with businesses in the food supply chain, whereby businesses commit to measure food waste.

The report said food redistribution including donating surplus food to food banks and charities - is significant

in tackling food waste among retailers.

One group doing that is Food Banking Kenya, a nonprofit that gets surplus food from farms, markets, supermarkets and packing houses and redistributes it to schoolchildren and vulnerable populations. Food waste is an increasing concern in Kenya, where an estimated 4.45 million tons of food is wasted every year.



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Sunrisers record a 31-run win over Indians

Batting records tumble as Hyderabad beats Mumbai in 523-run IPL game

HYDERABAD, India, March 28, (AP): Batting records tumbled as Hyderabad Sunrisers recorded a 31run win over Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League on Wednesday with a record-breaking 523 total runs being scored in a Twenty20.

Hyderabad reach 277-3, the highest total in IPL history, after an electrifying unbeaten 80 off 34 balls by Heinrich Klassen. Travis Head (62) and Abhishek Sharma (63) set the tone with blistering half-centuries.

Hyderabad's beefy total is the third highest in the history of men's

CRICKET

T20 and broke Royal Challengers Bangalore's IPL record of 263-5 scored against Pune Warriors in 2013.

The teams combined to hit a T20 world record 38 sixes.

Mumbai top-order batters were ruthless in the run-chase by the halfway stage with little cameos before Hyderabad came back strongly through skipper Pat Cummins (2-35) and Jaydev Unadkat (2-47) in the second half and restricted the fivetime champion to 246-5.

Mazda leads with Most TOP SAFETY PICK+ awards for 2024

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. (Alshaya & Alsagar) the authorized distributor of Mazda Vehicles, proudly announces Mazda's outstanding achievement in winning the prestigious 2024 TOP SAFETY PICK+ AWARDS OF ANY SINGLE BRAND from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

Mazda has secured 5 TOP SAFETY PICK+ and one TOP SAFETY PICK award for its vehicles. The 2024 model year Mazda3, Mazda3 Sport, and CX-30, when equipped with optional front crash prevention technology, have been honored with the 2024 TOP SAFETY PICK+ award.

Additionally, the CX-50 (built after August 2023) and CX-90 MHEV have also earned the

Rohit Sharma (26) and Ishan Kishan (34) raised Mumbai's half-century in the first three overs before both fell in successive overs while looking for big shots.

Top-scorer Tilak Varma, who made 64 off 34 balls, and Naman Dhir (30) then rattled an 84-run partnership before Unadkat and Cummins pulled the reigns with both batters miscuTSP+ award with standard equipment. Meanwhile, the CX-90 PHEV has earned the nexthighest, TOP SAFETY PICK award.

IIHS's stringent criteria for the awards have set new benchmarks, emphasizing enhanced front and side impact protection, as well as advancements in crash prevention, particularly addressing daytime and nighttime pedestrian scenarios.IIHS President David Harkey emphasizes, "This year's winners are true standouts, offering the highest level of protection for both vehicle occupants and other vulnerable road users.'

In its dedication to safety, Mazda's commitment to safety goes beyond just protecting passengers; it extends to safeguarding pedestrians as well. The company has meticulously refined

ing their big shots.

Tim David made an unbeaten 46 off 22 balls, but Hyderabad was always in control during the death overs in a game where bowlers were punished for plenty.

Earlier, 17-year-old South African fast bowler Kwena Maphaka made his IPL debut with expensive figures of 0-66. Maphaka's

its crash avoidance systems to function effectively in diverse lighting conditions, emphasizing advanced crash avoidance technologies. Furthermore, Mazda has standardized rear seat belt pre-tensioners, load limiters, and advanced side impact airbags across all models, contributing to its position at the forefront of safety standards, and ultimately propelling it to the top of the awards.

David Klan, President and CEO of MCI, underscores Mazda's unwavering commitment to safety: "The most important thing in any of our vehicles are the people who drive them, and they trust our vehicles to keep them and their families safe. This is our utmost priority, and we challenge ourselves daily to keep moving the bar higher so we can con-

countryman Gerald Coetzee (1-57) was also hit as Hyderabad batters dominated the pacers from the onset.

Mumbai's ploy to hold back its ace fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah (0-36) didn't work out well as Head smashed an 18-ball half-century and then Sharma raised the bar when he compiled his fifty off just 16 balls on a perfect bat-

tinue to earn that trust with every vehicle we make."

Ashish Tandon, General Manager of Kuwait Automotive Imports Company (AlShaya and AlSagar), shares his excitement, stating, "As Mazda's representative in Kuwait, we take pride in knowing that Mazda is once again among the most awarded brands. By prioritizing humans at the core of everything we do, Mazda aspires to create uplifting experiences with its vehicles for people.

Marc Ghanimeh, Mazda's business manager, added, "Mazda receiving the Car Top Safety Award is not just a recognition of excellence, but also a testament to Mazda's unwavering commitment to prioritizing the safety of every driver and passenger on Kuwait's roads.'

ting wicket.

South African pair of Klassen and Aiden Markram (42 not out) then continued the acceleration with an unbeaten stand of 116 off just 55 balls as Klassen plundered boundaries at will, smashing seven sixes and four boundaries in his powerful knock and set the stage for Hyderabad's first win of the season.

Chelsea and Lyon advance to the Women's Champs League semis



Liverpool could be the big winners Man City 'host' Arsenal in last clash of EPL big three

MANCHESTER, England, March 28, (AP): Win against Arsenal on Sunday and Manchester City's path to a record fourth straight English Premier League title becomes clearer.

Lose, and Arsenal takes a giant step towards becoming league champion for the first time in 20 years.

Draw, and the big winner this weekend could be Liverpool.

With 10 rounds to go, the clash at Etihad Stadium is the last time any of the three title rivals will go head to head.

Arsenal leads the league. Liverpool is second on goal difference. City is a point behind

both of them. An element of risk and reward hangs over City and Arsenal. History is clearly on City's side.

having won its last eight home games against Arteta Gunners. the

City's last home loss in this fixture was in 2015.

But Arsenal has been better this season after beating City in a penalty shootout to win the Community Shield in August, followed by a 1-0 victory at Emirates Stadium in October.

season suggest Arsenal is more prepared to go head to head against the champion.

Arsenal stands as the last major test for City, which has arguably the smoothest run of games to the end of the league. Arsenal and Liverpool both have to travel to Manchester United and face respective derbies against Tottenham and Everton.

All three teams still have to face Aston Villa and Spurs, who are competing for fourth spot and Champions League qualification.

Liverpool plays Brighton on Sunday with the chance to go to the top of the standings before City and Arsenal kick off

There is little to choose between the challengers.

SOCCER

City is on an ominous 22-game unbeaten run in all competitions, dating to the start of December.

Liverpool has lost two of its last 23 games and already has its first trophy of the season after winning the English League Cup in February.

One of those defeats was Manchester United's extra time winner in the FA Cup quarterfinals this month. The other was 3-1 to Arsenal in the league in February.

Arsenal, meanwhile, has risen to

Chelsea's Catarina Macario controls a ball during the Women's Champions League quarterfinal second leg soccer match between Chelsea and Ajax at Stamford Bridge Stadium in London, Wednesday, March 27, 2024. (AP)

London club seeking first CL trophy

NYON, Switzerland, March 28,

(AP): European Championship or-

ganizer UEFA said on Thursday it

will listen to national team coaches if

they want bigger squads of 26 play-

ers instead of 23 for the tournament

Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman

said this week the number of injuries

in modern soccer meant it was absurd

to return to the traditional squad size

Because of the COVID-19 pan-

demic, increased 26-man squads were

allowed by UEFA at Euro 2020, a de-

layed edition played in 2021, and at

If players were isolated for health

reasons, their replacements were al-

ready in camp and complying with the

after trailing 1-0 at halftime of that

match. And she tightened the French

FIFA's 2022 Ŵorld Cup.

mandatory protocols.

in Germany.

of 23.

LONDON, March 28, (AP): Emma Hayes' hopes of going out on the ultimate high at Chelsea moved a step closer on Wednesday as the London club reached the Women's **Champions League semifi**nals after a 1-1 draw with Ajax.

Chelsea advanced 4-1 on aggregate after winning the first leg in Amsterdam 3-0.

Hayes takes over the U.S. women's national team at the end of the season, when she will lead its bid to win Olympic gold in Paris.

Before that, she is aiming to win a quadruple of trophies with Chelsea - including the Champions League for the first time.

SOCCER

The Women's Super League champion had effectively secured its place in the next round after a dominant performance in the first leg of the quarterfinals at Ajax. And it extended its overall advantage to 4-0 on aggregate after Mayra Ramirez's goal in the 33rd minute at Stamford Bridge.

Chasity Grant scored in the 65th to give Ajax some consolation and a 1-1 draw on the night.

While Chelsea is searching for its first Women's Champions League trophy, Lyon is hunting a recordextending ninth.

The French champion advanced to the semifinals for a record 13th time after a 4-1 win over Benfica.

Cascarino and Delphine Kadidiatou Diani scored two goals each as record eight-time champion Lyon won 6-2 on aggregate at Groupama Stadium after a 2-1 first leg win in Portugal.

Cascarino's goal in the first leg

UEFA decided last year on 23-player squads for Euro 2024.

UEFA will listen if Euro 2024 coaches want larger squads

It will host coaches and officials from the 24 teams in two weeks in Duesseldorf, Germany.

"A workshop with the participating teams will be held on April 8 and on that occasion UEFA will listen to the views of the coaches," the European soccer body said. "Any idea in this respect will then be considered and assessed."

Koeman wants his national federation to ask UEFA for an increase and noted this week "you have to deal more with injuries these days.'

"It is about the load carrying ability of the players," Koeman said on Tuesday after his team's 2-1 loss to Germany, suggesting host team coach Julian Nagelsmann agreed.

England coach Gareth Southgate said there had been a "little bit of talk amongst some of the coaches" to ask for 26.

Southgate said he did not plan to pressure UEFA for an increase, though acknowledged the extra numbers would lessen the risk of selecting preferred players who carried injuries.

"We've been able to give people time," said Southgate, who is taking England to his fourth major tournament as the coach, "but with 23 that's definitely more difficult.'

It is unclear how many of the 24 coaches want a larger squad that would include more players likely not getting game time on the field.

Euro 2024 is from June 14-July 14 in 10 German cities.

chip to put Lyon ahead on the night. Marie-Yasmine Alidou evened the score two minutes later, but Cascarino restored the home team's lead with a powerful effort from distance in the 51st.

Diani put Lyon 3-1 ahead in the first minute of stoppage time and scored her second five minutes later.

Lyon was playing in the quarterfinals for a record-equaling 15th time, while Benfica became the first Portuguese team to advance to this stage.

Lyon last won the trophy in 2022 and will play either Häcken or Paris Saint-Germain in the semifinals. Chelsea faces either defending champion Barcelona or Brann.

PSG and Barcelona both won their quarterfinal first-leg matches 2-1 and will host their respective second-leg games Thursday.

The home-and-away semifinals will be played on April 20-21 and 27-28

City manager Pep Guardiola's preparations haven't been helped by injuries to key defenders Kyle Walker and John Stones during the international break

Mikel Arteta was once Guardiola's trusted lieutenant at City. Arteta was spoken of as a future City manager but is working on creating his own legacy at Arsenal after transforming the club's fortunes since taking charge in 2019.

He has been backed with money and time, and that faith has paid off with Arsenal leading the league and advancing to the Champions League quarterfinals. After falling away badly at the end of last season to allow City to take the English title, it remains to be seen if Arteta and his players have learned from that experience.

Those two wins against City this

the top of the league on the back of an eight-game winning streak. All three teams are battling on mul-

tiple fronts. City is defending its Premier League,

Champions League and FA Cup treble of last season.

Liverpool is no longer competing for a quadruple, but after winning the League Cup it is also still in contention for the Europa League.

Arsenal is in the Champions League quarters, where it faces Bayern Munich.

City was given the toughest draw of all against Real Madrid.

Guardiola could make history by winning back-to-back trebles including an unprecedented fourth Premier League in a row. Not even Alex Ferguson managed that at Man United.

'Let's end racism!'

OM hit by injuri'es ahead of big match versus rivals PSG

MARSEILLE, France, March 28, against Marseille in all competitions. (AP): For Jonathan Clauss, the France friendly against Chile this week was meant to be pure joy in front of his home crowd.

It ended up as a sour 11-minute experience concluded by an injury that ruled out the defender from French soccer's biggest game this weekend.

Clauss, who plays for Marseille, left the pitch with a torn left hamstring and was forced to watch his teammates' 3-2 win from the sidelines.

The former Lens player is expected to be out of action for up to four weeks at a crucial moment of the season for Marseille, which has big matches lined up against Lille then Benfica in the Europa League following the clash with bitter rival Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday.

SOCCER

Marseille was already hit by an injury crisis ahead of hosting PSG at a sold-out Stade Velodrome in a match known as "Le Classique."

The confrontation became popular during the 1990s when the arrival of prominent players such as Rudi Voeller and George Weah ignited the rivalry. Marseille, the only French team to win the Champions League back in 1993, has fallen well behind since PSG was taken over by Qatari investors in 2011, but the game continues to stir up pas-

According to the league's statistics, PSG has won 11 of the last 14 matches

Clauss is just the latest name to join Marseille's injury list. The defense has been severely hit, and it's a big blow be-

fore PSG's attacking armada led by Kylian Mbappe sets foot in town.

Alongside Clauss, Bamo Meïté and Amir Murillo have already been ruled out, while Samuel Gigot and Leonardo Balerdi are doubtful. Building a solid backline should give a real headache to interim coach Jean-Louis Gasset, who has managed to put the club back on track since he replaced Gennaro Gattuso last month.

With eight league matches left, seventh-placed Marseille is lagging 20 points behind PSG but can still qualify for next season's Champions League. At the top, PSG has a 12-point lead over Brest and looks all but guaranteed a record-extending 12th league title.

"Let's end racism!" Following incidents earlier this season, that's the message the league will be hammering at matches in the top two divisions this weekend.

Players will be wearing a special jersey with a badge featuring the word racism crossed out in red. Referees, coaches and other match officials will wear a special armband, while the Ligue 1 and Ligue 2 competition badges will change to black and white colors.

The league said this weekend's action will be followed by an auction on April 3 of jerseys worn by the players, with all the profits donated to groups fighting discrimination.

had set up Lyon's comeback win champions' control of the tie when she opened the scoring in the 43rd of the second leg with a long-range

Benfica's Lucia Alves, bottom, challenges for the ball with Lyon's Selma Bacha during the women's Champions League quarterfinals, first leg, soccer match between SL Benfica and Olympique Lyonnais at the Luz Stadium, in Lisbon, Tuesday, March 19, 2024. (AP)

SPORTS

Last year witnessed a remarkable public interest

NBK organizes its second Dama Tournament at Al Mubarakiyah

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) organized its 2nd Dama Tournament at Al Aswaq in Al Mubarakiyah as part of its annual social program "Doing Good Deeds" in the holy month of Ramadan.

The Tournament that started last year and witnessed a remarkable public interest is designed to engage with youth and families visiting the area. NBK volunteers were there to help engagement between families to take part in the competition and to reward the top three winners in adult and youth categories in the tournament.

"Sharing such joyous moments stems from our inclusive corporate social responsibility towards the community, especially that NBK highly recognizes the importance of its social initiatives as the best way to achieve Kuwait's development, progress and prosperity", said Talal Al Turki, NBK Public Relations Senior Manager.

Al Turki added that the tournamentis part of NBK's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Program held during the holy month of Ramadan, which is filled with various charitable and humanitarian activities, as well as social welfare initiatives, in addition to volunteering efforts and charitable events.

It's worth mentioning that Ramadan program comprised a series of activities and initiatives aimed at encouraging community engagement and solidarity in Kuwait. NBK Ramadan Social Program includes distributing fast-breaking banquets at various locations throughout Kuwait. NBK also distributes Iftar meals via special convoys that tours the more crowded areas in the country. NBK volunteers manage and supervise the fast-breaking banquets distribution and the activities.

NBK carries on its humanitarian initiatives and support of social welfare programs, as it firmly believes in the importance of corporate social responsibility and its effective impact in serving the community and its people, as well as emphasizing the leading role NBK has been playing in that field for many decades.











Top and above photos taken from the tournament.

Al Turki:

NBK highly recognizes the importance of its social initiatives as the best way to achieve social development and welfare

Saad AI Abdullah Academy wins Warba Bank futsal league title

Minister Marafi commends sporting spirit



KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The Saad Al Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences clinched the title of the Warba **Bank futsal League for Higher** Education, triumphing over the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training 3-2. The exhilarating match took place in the Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Gymnasium Complex hall as part of the

Futsal champion Saad Al Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences poses with officials.

third sports tournament for higher education.

The event witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries including the Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, the Minister of State

FUTSAL

for Youth Affairs, and the Minister of State for Communications Affairs, Daoud Marafi, alongside a plethora of officials from private and government universities and colleges, as well as leaders from the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy.

Fawaz Rashid Al-Rashed of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training received the prestigious best player award of the league. Meanwhile, Musaed Ali Al-Mutairi, also from the Public Authority for Applied Education, secured the title of top scorer, and Youssef Ismail Ahmed of the International University of Science and Technology team was recognized as the league's best goalkeeper.

Zain Premier League resumes

Al-Qadisiya vs Al-Fahaheel kick starts exciting weekend

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The Zain Premier League's Six League (Championship Group) is set to recommence this evening with a pivotal match in the twentieth round, featuring Al-Qadisiya against Al-Fahaheel at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium at 9:30 pm. Saturday's extravaganza will witness a showdown between Al-Arabi and Salmiya at Thamer Stadium, while Kuwait Club and Al-Nasr clash at Ali Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, both matches kicking off at 9:30 pm. The league action was halted since

SOCCER

March 13 due to the national team's engagement in the joint qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup against Qatar.

Currently, Al-Arabi leads the standings with 45 points, trailing Kuwait by just one point. Al-Qadisiya sits third with 42 points, followed closely by Al-Nasr with 24 points, tied with Al-Fahaheel and Al-Salmiya.

In tonight's encounter, Al-Qadisiya aims to temporarily claim the top spot, hoping for slips from their rivals tomorrow. However, Al-Fahaheel, under the guidance of coach Mohammed Al-Mishaan, anticipates a challenging



A file photo of players battling for the ball.

task against a determined opponent eager to leave a mark in the league after missing out on the title contention.

This clash marks the fifth meeting between the two sides this season, with Al-Qadisiya securing victory in four previous encounters, albeit facing significant challenges. Meanwhile, Al-Fahaheel, led by Syrian coach Firas Al-Khatib, seeks to build on their recent draw against Kuwait and make a

statement against their formidable opponents.

Meanwhile, Al-Arabi aims to maintain its lead atop the table as it takes on Al-Salmiya, while Kuwait Club faces Al-Nasr in a crucial battle to secure vital points in the competition. Both matches promise intense action and strategic maneuvers as teams vie for supremacy in the league standings.

Maryam Al-Husseini triumphs in inaugural Ramadan Bowling Tournament for women

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: Maryam Al-Husseini emerged victorious as the champion of the inaugural Ramadan Bowling Tournament for women, organized by the Kuwait Airways Workers Union and its subsidiaries. The event, which concluded yesterday evening at the Kuwaiti Sports Bowling Club in Salmiya, witnessed spirited competition among 20 skilled players.

Securing first place, Maryam Al-Husseini claimed the title, while Munira Al-Houti clinched second place. earning a silver medal, and Latifa Al-Lingawi secured third place, receiving

BOWLING

a bronze medal. The top three positions were acknowledged by Dr. Ahmed Falah Al-Mahwaish, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Airways Workers Union and its subsidiaries, along with the union secretary, pilot Abdullah Khaled Ahmed, and Khaled Habib, the representative of the Kuwaiti Bowling Sports Club.

Expressing his satisfaction, Dr. Ahmed Al-Mahawish emphasized the success of the tournament owing to the remarkable turnout and impeccable organization. He remarked, "We are delighted with the outcome, which serves as a catalyst for

future endeavors in the years to come." He highlighted the board's commitment to promoting diversity in sports during the holy month of Ramadan, catering to various interests, ages, and genders. Initiatives included padel, Futsal five-a-side, and culminated in the Ramadan bowling

tournament for women, reflecting a diverse range of sporting activities. Al-Mahawish underscored that the primary objective of hosting these Ramadan sports courses was to invigorate Kuwait's sports scene and foster the skills and abilities of all participants across the board.



Mahawish, Ahmed, and Habib with the winners.



San Antonio Spurs center Victor Wem-banyama, (left), and Utah Jazz forward John Collins reach for the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Salt Lake City. (AP)



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

Dortmund need to get over psychological hurdle

Bayern wait on Kane and Neuer fitness for 'Klassiker'

DUESSELDORF, Germany, March 28, (AP): Bayern Munich's slim title chances might depend on a win over Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga "Klassiker." Dortmund isn't the real threat though.

With Bayer Leverkusen still soaring 10 points clear with just eight games to go, dropping any more points could be fatal to Bayern's chances of a dramatic comeback in defense of the title.

Bayern might have to do without top scorer Harry Kane and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer after injuries meant both were unable to play for their national teams.

Kane "was able to join in with parts of the session" in training Wednesday after he hurt his ankle in a collision with a goalpost in Bayern's 5-2 win over Darmstadt on March 16, when he scored his personal-best 31st goal of the season.

Neuer tore the adductor muscle in his left thigh in training with Germany last week, meaning Barcelona's Marc-André ter Stegen took over in goal for friendly wins over France and the Netherlands ahead of hosting Euro 2024. Neuer managed what Bayern described as an individual workout Wednesday, his 38th birthday.

Even if Kane and Neuer aren't fit for Saturday evening's clash with Dortmund, Bayern might power through anyway. After all, Bayern had fitness concerns over its defense for the last Klassiker in November and still surged to a 4-0 win.

The problem with the Klassiker in theory the German league's showpiece game - isn't just that Bayern is second and Dortmund a distant fourth. It's also that so few recent Klassikers have been genuinely competitive contests.

Bayern has scored 23 goals in its last seven games against Dortmund in all competitions and hasn't lost since 2019 in a German Super Cup game.

SOCCER

The last time Dortmund won in the Bundesliga at Bayern's Allianz Arena was all the way back in 2014, when the coaches were Pep Guardiola and Jürgen Klopp and future Bayern great Robert Lewandowski was still a Dortmund player.

Dortmund will need to get over that psychological hurdle to have a chance of taking down Bayern. The recent international break may also prove extra motivation for some Dortmund players who are out of Germany's plans after forward Niclas Füllkrug was the only player at the club called up by coach Julian Nagelsmann.

Bayern could be 13 points adrift of the lead before the Klassiker even kicks off, given that Leverkusen hosts Hoffenheim earlier Saturday. Xabi Alonso's team is still unbeaten in a scarcely believable 38 games in all competitions this season. A first ever Bundesliga title is on the horizon.

Unless Dortmund can beat Bayern, it will miss the chance to put pressure on third-placed Stuttgart, which hosts Heidenheim on Sunday. Leipzig is fifth and could leapfrog Dortmund with a win over Mainz on Saturday.

Ukraine's soccer victory provides a welcome distraction from war

KYIV, Ukraine, March 28, (AP): Ukrainians have expressed pride and gratitude toward their men's national soccer team for qualifying for the European Championship, a rare bit of good news and a welcome distraction from the war with Russia.

Though celebrations after Ukraine's 2-1 win over Iceland were muted as Russian missiles kept raining down on the country, the team's success gives Ukrainians something to cheer for this summer when the tournament kicks off in Germany.

SOCCER

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday night's victory in the decisive playoff stirred emotions throughout the country and proved that "whenever Ukrainians face difficulties but do not give up and continue to fight, Ukrainians certainly win.'

Mykhailo Mudryk scored the winning goal as Ukraine came back from a goal down to beat Iceland in Poland. The team had to play its qualifying matches outside Ukraine because of the war.

Youth players at the Sporting Kyiv football academy in the Ukrainian capital on Wednesday said they were inspired. "(It) shows that war does not



Ukraine's Oleksandr Zinchenko, (left), and Ukraine's Artem Dovbyk celebrate at the end of the Euro 2024 qualifying play-off soccer match between Ukraine and Iceland, at the Tarczynski Arena Wroclaw in Wroclaw, Poland. (AP)

stop us from pursuing sports, and we can qualify for the European Championship and compete in it," said 12-year-old Hlib Kochetov. Artem Mykhailenko, 15, said

that seeing Ukraine compete at Euro 2024 will be a moment of pride for the entire nation.

"We need to show what we are truly worth, who we are, and that we are Ukraine, that Ukraine is a great, united, and strong country in many respects," he said

Leonard comes 'alive' late to lead Clippers to disputed win

Warriors overcome Green ejection

PHILADELPHIA, March 28, (AP): Kawhi Leonard completed two 3-point plays late in the game then made a block at the rim on the final possession to lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a controversial 108-107 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

Kelly Oubre Jr. was stuffed at the rim by Leonard on a play that Sixers head coach Nick Nurse felt

should have resulted in a foul on Paul George.

The officiating crew after the game said a foul should have been called on the last play that would have sent Oubre to the line with a

ence as they try to move up to sixth to avoid a play-in game. Dallas is No. 6, a half-game ahead of Phoenix. The Western Conference-leading Nuggets struggled without starting

point guard Jamal Murray, who missed his third straight game with a sprained left ankle. Nikola Jokic had 22 points, nine

rebounds and 10 assists as he fought through lower back pain and left hip soreness

The Nuggets, a half-game ahead of Oklahoma City and Minnesota, lost for just the third time in 18 games since the All-Star break, and two of those losses have come at home to the Suns, who prevailed 117-107 in overtime at Ball Arena on March 5.

Denver won six straight games at home after that, but Wednesday night were again victimized by terrific longrange shooting from the Suns, who made 16 of 33 shots from behind the arc. Denver was 10 of 40 on 3s.

Michael Porter Jr. and Aaron Gordon each added 18 points for Denver,



chance to win the game Nurse stormed onto the court to dispute the non-call and had to be restrained by his assistants. Oubre also jumped into the mix, pointing at each official before being pulled away after the final horn.

The game officials agreed.

"On the last play on the floor, in real time the crew interpreted that play as the defender jumping vertically," ref-eree Kevin Scott said to a pool reporter. "However, in post-game video review we did observe some slight drift to his left by the defender George, and a foul should have been ruled."

Leonard bounced back from a 1-for-8 shooting first half to score 17 points and grab 10 rebounds. "We had to stay focused if we were

going to stay in the game," he said.

George had 22 points to lead Los Angeles while James Harden, in his return to Wells Fargo Center, had 16 points and 14 assists for the Clippers, who had lost six of nine.

Warriors 101, Magic 93

In Orlando, Andrew Wiggins scored 23 points, Stephen Curry made the final two baskets of the game on an off shooting night and Golden State Warriors overcame Draymond Green's early ejection to beat the Orlando Magi.c

Green, who missed 16 games after being suspended by the NBA in December, was ejected 3:36 in for disputing a foul call on Wiggins. It was Green's fourth ejection of the season.

Curry made a driving hook shot with 1:09 to go to make it 98-93 and added a 3-pointer with 34 seconds left for the final points. He had 17 points - going 6 of 18 from the field - and 10 assists.

Cole Anthony led Orlando with 26 points and eight rebounds. Paolo Banchero had 15 points and eight rebounds. Anthony's turnaround jumper brought the Magic within a point with 2:41 left.

The Warriors, holding the 10th spot in the Western Conference, won for the 20th time in 35 road games. They are 18-19 at home.

Suns 104, Nuggets 97

In Denver, Kevin Durant had 30 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks and the Phoenix Suns won in Denver for the second time this month, beating the defending champion Nuggets.

The Suns, with the toughest remaining schedule in the NBA, moved a half-game ahead of Sacramento for the seventh spot in the Western Conferbut the Nuggets' bench shot just 5 of 19.

In Toronto, Miles McBride scored 29 points, Jalen Brunson had 26 and the Knicks never trailed in a win over the slumping Toronto Raptors, New York's biggest margin of victory this season

Precious Achiuwa had 19 points and

BASKETBALL

13 rebounds against his former team as the Knicks won for the seventh time in eight games, set a season-high for points and swept the four-game season series with Toronto.

Knicks center Mitchell Robinson played for the first time since suffering a left ankle injury in December that sidelined him for 50 games. The 7-footer had not played since he was injured in a Dec. 8 loss at Boston, later undergoing surgery.

Robinson came off the bench and scored eight points.

Gradey Dick scored a career-high 23 points for Toronto and Gary Trent Jr. had 18 but the short-handed Raptors lost their 12th in a row and fell to 1-13 against Atlantic Division opponents.

Hornets 118, Cavaliers 111

In Charlotte, rookie Brandon Miller made seven 3-pointers and finished with 31 points, and the Charlotte Hornets beat the Cleveland Cavaliers to avenge a 23-point loss earlier in the week.

Miles Bridges and Tre Mann added 17 points and Grant Williams had 16 for the Hornets, who shot 58% from the field to snap a five-game losing streak. Vasa Micic had 11 points and 12 assists, and Nick Richards added 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Jarrett Allen scored 24 points and Sam Merrill added 17 for the Cavs, who have lost four of their last five games. Allen became the first Cleveland player in four games to top 20 points.

The Cavaliers beat the Hornets 115-92 on Monday night in Cleveland after Marcus Morris Sr. was ejected after throwing a high elbow that flattened Richards

The Hornets, who were beginning an eight-game homestand after playing 13 of 17 on the road, played inspired from the start.

During one stretch in the fourth quarter, Charlotte had four chances to score after two offensive rebounds by Williams kept the possession alive, eventually resulting in Miller finding an open lane down the middle and slamming home a one-handed dunk.

Darius Garland's pull-up 3 from the top of the key gave the Cavaliers a 107-105 lead with 6:47 left in the game and it appeared the Cavs might be on the verge of pulling away.

Timberwolves 106, Pistons 91

In Minneapolis, Naz Reid had 21 points and 10 rebounds and Jaden McDaniels added 20 points to help the Minnesota Timberwolves overcome a sluggish start to beat the NBA-worst Detroit Pistons.

Kyle Anderson scored 14 points off the bench to help offset a quiet nine points by All-Star Anthony Edwards for the Wolves (50-22), who entered the night in third place in the Western Conference with one more loss than Denver and Oklahoma City. Both the Nuggets and Thunder played later Wednesday.

The Wolves hit the 50-win mark for just the fifth time in their 35 seasons, matching the franchise's third-highest total with 10 games to go. Minnesota's all-time best record was 58-24 in 2003-04

Cade Cunningham scored 32 points for the Pistons (12-61), who lost their eighth straight. With nine games to go, they've got the fourth-most losses in the franchise's 76-year history. The ignominious record (16-66) was set in 1979-80

The Wolves improved to 40-4 when allowing less than 110 points and 7-3 without All-Star Karl-Anthony Towns, who's recovering from a torn meniscus in his left knee.

Edwards was largely disengaged, whether it was the defense by rookie Tosan Evbuomwan or simply a lifeless opponent on the other side at the end of a homestand after high-energy games against Denver, Cleveland and Golden State. Still, after being swept last season by a 65-loss Pistons team, this recovery from a rough first half was an encouraging sign for a Minnesota team with much bigger goals.

Lakers 136, Grizzlies 124

In Memphis, LeBron James had a triple-double with 23 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists, Rui Hachimura scored 32 points and the Los Angeles Lakers built a big lead in the third quarter and beat the Memphis Grizzlies.

Coming off a 128-124 double-overtime victory in Milwaukee without James on Tuesday night, the Lakers won their fifth straight to pull within 2 1/2 games of idle Dallas for the sixth spot in the Western Conference, a spot that would avoid a play-in game. Anthony Davis sat out against

Memphis after having 34 points and 23 rebounds in a career-high 52 minutes against Milwaukee. He hyperextended his left knee late against the Bucks.

D'Angelo Russell added 23 points for Los Angeles, and Taurean Prince had 15.

Desmond Bane led Memphis with 26 points and 16 assists. Jake LaRavia scored 14 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, and Jaren Jackson added 17. The Grizzlies have lost six of seven.

Rockets 132, Thunder 126 OT

In Oklahoma City, Jalen Green scored 37 points and the Houston Rockets won their 10th straight game, defeating the Oklahoma City Thunder in overtime.

Amen Thompson had 25 points and 15 rebounds and Dillon Brooks added 20 points for the Rockets. Houston entered the night a game behind the Golden State Warriors for the final play-In tournament spot in the Western Conference.

Kuwait Club wins Federation Cup

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 28: The under-19 youth team of Kuwait Club secured won the Federation Cup by defeating Sulaibikhat with a score of 29-23 in the final. Meanwhile, Al-Qurain youth team clinched third place after a close victory over Kazma with a score of 33-32 in the match determining the third and fourth positions. The thrilling final took place at Al-Ittihad Hall in the Martyr Fahd Al-



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, serves to Tomas Machac, of the Czech Republic, during the Miami Open tennis tournament in Miami Gardens, Fla. (AP)

Ahmad Center, where the winning teams were honored by Handball Federation officials including Secretary Qayed Al-Adwani, Assistant Secretary Abdullah Al-Dhiab, and Treasurer Khaled Talib, along with representatives from participating clubs.

In other handball news, two matches are scheduled today as part of the seventh round of the General Men's Handball League at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. Al-Sahel will face Al-Arabi at 8:30 pm, followed by Khaitan versus Burgan at 10 pm. Tomorrow, Saturday, Al-Tadamon will take on Kuwait Club,

HANDBALL

and Fahaheel will play against Al-Qadisiya. The round concludes on Sunday with a match between Kazma and Sulaibkhat.

Ahead of the seventh round, Al-Salmiya leads the league standings with 12 points, followed by Kazma with 10 points. Al-Kuwait and Al-Arabi both hold eight points each, while Al-Fahaheel has six points. Sulaibkhat, Al-Qurain, Burgan, Al-Nasr, and Al-Qadisiya each have five points, Yarmouk holds three points, Khaitan has two points, and Al-Sahel and Al-Tadamon are at the bottom of the standings without any points.

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Editor-in-Chief AHMED AL JARALLAH

Editorial Office: Airport Road, Shuwaikh

Telephone: 24813566 & 24849144 Fax: 24818267 P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

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Knicks 145, Raptors 101



Kuwait Club youth team celebrate with the championship trophy.