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Opinion

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The Lebanese must remove their thorns by themselves

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

LEBANON has long been admired by all Gulf nationals, and is considered as an oasis and a model of progress and devel-

However, due to the negligence of warlords and the leaders of various political parties and movements, it became "stricken with the plague", as the US Secretary of State Alexander Haig had described in the 1980s.

Despite this, the Gulf states continued to support Lebanon, with the hope that the country would recover and that the warlords would learn from their mistakes. They exerted efforts to rebuild the areas that were destroyed by the Israeli invasion in 1978.

Similarly, during the 1982 invasion, the Gulf nations extended the same support without hesitation.

In 2006, after the war, the Gulf states once again invested heavily in Lebanon's reconstruction. Everyone saw the numerous banners expressing gratitude to the Gulf states, as well as the visit of the former Amir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa to South Lebanon shortly after the conflict ended.

The GCC countries did not offer their support out of self-interest, as some other nations may have, but rather because they believed that the recovery of any Arab country is a matter of national interest for all Arabs, including the Gulf states, of course.

However, it is important to pause and consider whether all the funds provided

were actually used for reconstruction, or if some were diverted into the accounts of Lebanese tycoons, with only a small portion allocated for rebuilding efforts. Furthermore, we must also reflect on

the information that has been leaked from investigations into Riad Salameh, the former governor of Lebanon's Central Bank, and the 30-year financial mystery that has plagued Lebanon.

According to Riad Salameh, the maiority of aid from the Arabian Gulf nations that arrived in Lebanon was first deposited into the Central Bank before being transferred to the accounts of party and sectarian leaders. These leaders then moved the funds to their overseas accounts in Switzerland, France, or the United States.

If we compare Salameh's statements with those of some Lebanese leaders who have estimated the cost of reconstruction after the current war at around USD 45

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NBK wins gold for excellence in health and wellbeing

Gulf Bank announces Nov 30, 2024 as final date to enter world's largest draw for **KD 2mln grand prize**

Zain ranked as a regional Leader in the **Global Child Forum's** 'The State of **Children's Rights and Business 2024' Benchmark**

Newswatch

RIYADH: The Saudi Cabinet convened on Tuesday and urged the international community to fulfill its responsibilities regardoccupation against the Palestinian people. In a statement released by the Saudi Press

firm

of the

civilians

target-

Agency Minister of Media Salman Al-Dosari emphasized Cabinet's rejection continued humanitarian aid organizations

Israeli forces. declaration followed a Cabinet session chaired King Salman by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Ab-

dulaziz. The Cabinet expressed deep concern over extremist statements made by Israeli officials regarding the imposition of sovereignty over the West Bank and the expansion of settlements. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: A U.S. envoy has arrived in Beirut to meet with Lebanese officials about a possible cease-fire in the **Israel**-Hezbollah war.

Amos Hochstein, a senior advisor to United States President Joe Biden, arrived Tuesday, a day after Hezbollah reportedly gave a positive response to a U.S. draft proposal to end the war, which has been ongoing for more than 13 months. (AP)

BAGHDAD: A policeman was killed and another wounded when resolving tribal clashes in the southern Iraqi province of Muthanna, the Iraqi Interior Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday

The incident occurred late on Monday night when armed men from two tribes clashed over an agricultural land near the provincial capital Samawah, prompting police intervention to resolve the armed dispute, according to the statement. (Xinhua)

Food, clothing push Kuwait cost of living to new heights

October sees 2.44 pct yearly inflation growth





PM Diwan photos

Photos capture the Cabinet meeting in progress, with Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah presiding over the weekly session on Tuesday.

Cabinet approves draft decrees regarding new appointments

Kuwait's Cabinet on Tuesday reinforced national commitments to fight climate change in line with the Paris Agreement, at a time where world leaders are gathering to discuss the matter at a UN climate summit in Azerbaijan.

Amid its weekly session, presided over by Acting Prime Minister, Interior and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, the Cabinet praised the speech given at the UN COP29 climate summit by His Highness the Amir's representative His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, in which he cited climate change as among the world's most

perennial concerns

In his speech, His Highness the Crown Prince underlined that Kuwait, alongside the rest of the world, is feeling the effects of climate change at a rapid pace, which calls for a series of national initiatives that fall under the Paris Agreement on climate change, which mainly entails efforts to cut carbon emissions and keep global warming in check, the Cabinet said.

Discussing the matter further, the Cabinet emphasized the increasingly significant role of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in aiding the most vulnerable nations through a

series of projects that are instrumental in allowing them to cushion the blow of climate change, it added

The aforementioned projects are a combination of grants and loans worth up to USD 23 billion, which is a testament to Kuwait's unflinching commitment to global efforts aiming to fight climate change, ultimately reaching carbon neutrality by the year 2060, in addition to making solar energy the predominant source of national electricity generation by the

Continued on Page 5

Adopting 'smart cities' crucial amid rapid global challenges

By Abdulrahman Al-Shimmari Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Nader Al-Jalal has stressed the importance of the shift towards smart and sustainable cities to keep pace with rapid

MoC yet to collect dues of KD 60mn

By Mohammed Al-Enezi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: According to informed sources, the Ministry of Communications has accumulated dues totaling KD 60 million from individuals and companies.

In a press release, the ministry stated that it will coordinate with government

Continued on Page 5

global developments and overcome challenges in the technical and environmental fields, pointing out that Kuwait is keen on transforming itself into a regional center for innovation and technological development.

Al-Jalal made the statement at the opening of the International Conference on Smart Management and Innovation for Sustainable Cities, during which he delivered a speech as the representative of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah.

With the theme, "Envisioning the Future of Smart Cities," the Arab Open University in Kuwait organized the

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Lebanon child deaths 231 in 6 weeks

Kuwait denounces attacks on UNRWA

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned on Monday the repeated and systematic targeting of facilities, institutions and workers of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Pal-



KUNA photo

Kuwait's fourth air bridge relief plane arrives in Beirut, Monday, loaded with 40 tons of food and blankets.

estine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In a statement, the ministry said that the latest deliberate attack was against Abu Asi School in the Gaza Strip that killed and wounded scores of people.

Kuwait denounces and rejects such a criminal policy committed by Israeli occupation forces, it pointed out.

The State of Kuwait calls on the international community and the Security Council to compel Israeli occupation to stop its unlimited practices against the Palestinian people, who are defending their legitimate rights, it noted.

In addition, Kuwait calls for combating all attempts seeking to

Continued on Page 5

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's consumer price index (inflation), on an annual basis, grew by 2.44 percent last October, according to the Kuwait Central Statistical Bureau (KCSB).

In a statement to KUNA on Tuesday, the bureau said the inflation rate rose 0.13 percent, compared to last September -- on a monthly It attributed the rise in inflation

on an annual basis to the increase in the prices of the main groups that affect the movement of the index numbers, especially clothing, food and education, excluding transportation.

The index for the first group (food and beverages) rose by 4.98 pct last October compared to the same month in 2023, while the price index for the second group (cigarettes and tobacco) rose slightly by 0.15 pct on an annual basis, it added.

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Day by Day

FOR nearly five years, Darwazat Abdulrazzaq remained in a state of disrepair, a symbol of inefficiency and delay. The prolonged maintenance of such a small-scale project became almost comical, with each relevant authority shifting the blame for the delay. Whether it was the contractor, the Ministry of Public Works, the government, or supervisory staff, no one clearly assumed responsibility.

The saying goes, 'Where there's a will, there's a way,' and recent developments have proven it true. At last, after years of setbacks and finger-pointing, the project is nearing completion. In just a few weeks,

Darwazat Abdulrazzaq will finally be inaugurated showcasing a polished and perfected image to the public. .. Yet, tomorrow is an-

other day.

Zahed Matar

Kuwait busts int'l drug ring, seizes 16kg stash

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Interior (MoI) announced on Monday busting an international drug trafficking ring selling narcotics and psychotropic substances in the country. In a press release, the ministry said the busted ring is coordinating with

and working upon directives from an overseas drug network. The raid resulted in arresting seven defendants, holding Asian nationalities, with 16 kg of varied narcotics, in addition to 9,000 pills of psychotropic substances, unveiled the statement.

The accused were referred to prosecution to take required legal measures against them, it added.

This comes within the framework of the General Administration for Drug control's continued security efforts aiming to combat drug smugglers,

The ministry said the administration would continue its campaigns to arrest those trying to bring, or trade in narcotics, stressing commitment to protecting society from this perilous scourge.

Program seeks to transform Kuwait into investment hub Blueprint rolled out to revitalize private sector

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait is embarking on policies and projects that would create a more dynamic private sector in addition to ushering in an era of overall

Through seven axes points included in the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development's 2023-24 annual plan, a whole program dubbed "enabling a dynamic private sector" would focus on general policies that would be reflected on the ground in actual execu-

The program to enable a dynamic private sector would be implemented through 17 projects supervised by nine government entities.

The program aims at transforming Kuwait into a hub that attracts investments via a direct involvement of the private sector, which would be tasked to create a feasible, just, and competitive environment that would push for innovation in various fields.

The financing of the program in the last fiscal year amounted to KD 168 million (USD 613.8 million) with spending on the 17 projects reaching around 48.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2023-24.

The follow-up report on the aforementioned annual plan pointed to Al-Zour refinery strategic development plan within the framework of enabling the private sector, which would be executed by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). The report revealed that the project was at 99.9 percent completion.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) is partaking in seven projects, six of which were ongoing while a single project was in its essential stages.

Amongst the KISR-run projects is the national project to develop a laboratories network at 34 percent completion, while the project to farm salmon was in its initial stage at 46 percent in addition to a project for an economic complex to farm fish and shrimp.

In regards to projects supervised

by the Public Authority for Industry (PAI), the report indicated that Al-Shadadiya Industrial Area project reached 82.5 percent in completion at an advancement rate of 3.3 percent in the third quarter of 2023-24. Kuwait Authority for Partnership

Projects (KAPP) is supervising two projects including the northern Al-Zour and Khairan stations energy projects.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Direct Investment Public Authority (KDIPA) was supervising two ongoing projects including the economic region at a 62

percent completion as of the fourth

Continued on Page 5

Expected weather for next 24 hrs: By Day: Rather hot and partly cloudy with light variable wind to

light to moderate northerly wind,

with speeds of 08-32 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain.

By Night: Mild to rather cold and partly cloudy with light to

moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain and a chance for light fog forming over some

Weather

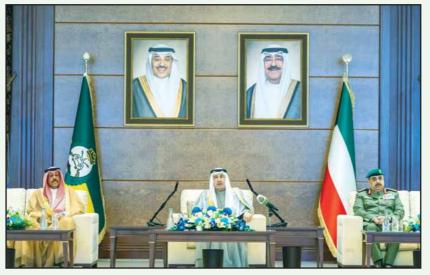
areas. Station **Max Exp Kuwait City**

Abdaly Bubyan Jahra Failaka Island Salmiyah Ahmadi Jal Aliyah Nuwaisib

Kuwait Airport



Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah with senior most officials of the



KUNA photos

Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah (center) with Lt Gen Hashim Al-Rifai and Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

New Nat'l Guard chief thanks Amir for trust

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's National Guard chief Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah on Tuesday thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his trust as the former assumes his new role, saying he would do his utmost to develop the military body.

Vowing to live up to the political leader-

ship's expectations, he said their trust would drive him forward in his quest to propel the Kuwaiti National Guard to new heights, he was cited as saying in a statement after meeting with senior officials from the military body, all of whom congratulated him on his new post.

National Guard personnel will remain steadfast, alongside their partners from across state bodies, in their efforts to safeguard the nation's best interests, he under-



Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah

Kuwait to build support

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwait is determined to put in place the proper environment that is conducive for its women athletes to excel, at a time where their participation in regional and global events has been on the rise, said a senior diplomat on Monday.

for its 'women athletes'

State bodies across the nation are on the same page in their quest to provide a "platform" for Kuwaiti women athletes to excel, Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Sheikha Jawaher Al-Sabah said in a statement after talks bringing together a number of state bodies, including the interior, defense and information ministries.

The gathering, devoted to the increasingly significant role of women in sports, also shone the light on some of the most remarkable "success stories" involving Kuwaiti women athletes, chief among them Paralympic athletes, while some challenges facing the athletes was another topic of discussion, added Sheikha Jawaher.

Amid the talks, viewpoints were exchanged on what more needs to be done in a bid to ensure that Kuwaiti women athletes continue to perform exceptionally well in international events, she underlined, saying the talks yielded a number of strategies that would soon be implemented to bring the aforementioned goal to fruition.

The diplomat hoped that the recent Paris 2024 Summer Olympics, where a "record" number of Kuwaiti women athletes had taken part, would be a stepping-stone for greater success, citing swimmer Lara Dashti and rower Suad Al-Faga'an as having made their debuts at the inter-

As part of their growing presence on a regional level, a trio of Kuwaiti women had won seats after elections for spots in the national Olympic council's sports committee, she said, hailing the event as a step forward for women's empowerment plans.

'Environmentally safe'

Kuwait water quality tops Arab countries standards

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Water Research Center at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) organized a regional workshop entitled, "Wastewater Treatment Technologies and Energy Production in Arab Countries," under the patronage of Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of KISR Dr. Nader Al-

The objectives of the workshop include building a platform for cooperation and joint work through the exchange



Dr. Al-Jalal

of experience between researchers and specialists in wastewater and industrial water management, as well as enriching the results of scientific research that the State of Kuwait considers crucial in laying down plans to improve the path towards comprehensive and sustainable development.

In a speech he delivered on behalf of the minister, acting Director General of KISR Dr. Faisal Al-Humaidan confirmed that Kuwait enjoys safe management and

wide coverage of drinking water and wastewater services. "Kuwait ranked first among Arab countries and sixth globally in the quality of drinking water and treated wastewater and its use in a manner that protects the environment by 100 percent, according to the joint monitoring program between the World Health Organization and UNICEF," he revealed.

He added the Sulaibiya Water Treatment and Desalination Plant is the largest facility in the world that uses reverse osmosis and ultrafiltration water treatment method to treat wastewater, proving that Kuwait is one of the top nations in the world for treating wastewater using the latest international technologies.

He affirmed that the Kuwaiti government has always been keen on treating industrial wastewater. "More than 10 years ago, the government issued a regulation for the transfer of industrial wastewater in order to establish a system to control the transfer of industrial liquid waste and dispose it through environmentally safe ways in order to prevent harmful effects on public health. This is in addition to the establishment of a database on the quality, quantity and sources of industrial liquid waste," he added.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of the Union of Arab Scientific Research Councils Prof. Abdul Majeed Benamara confirmed the importance of water and energy as two main axes for achieving sustainable development, especially in light of water scarcity and increasing pressure on energy resources in the region.

Gold traders divided over ban on using cash in sale of metal

'Gov't measures led to curbs in money-laundering'

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: A number of gold, legal and consumer protection experts have confirmed that the use of electronic payment methods in sale and purchase transactions in the local market played a major role in reducing money laundering operations in the country.

They affirmed that such trends are consistent with the measures taken by the State to ensure transparency in financial and commercial transactions, especially after the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) threatened to put Kuwait on the gray list. In a special investigation conducted by the newspaper, these experts stated that the steps

taken are in line with measures or decisions related to preventing the sale of gold in cash; as it must be in large quantities or by gold suppliers. However, some think there is a need to leave a margin for cash sales like the decision regarding pharmacies; where cash sales of up to KD10 are allowed for medicines, while others think that selling gold through electronic payment only would lead to losses for gold shop traders, as buying and selling operations sometimes

They also said that the decisions and procedures of the government in the new reform era concerned with combating money laundering have started to bear fruit, as suspicious operations in financial transactions have decreased.

An official of a major gold company in the country, Bader Al-Arbash, supported the proposal to ban the sale of gold in cash, especially since the government's strict measures to combat money laundering contributed to the decline in gold sales in cash, as the percentage of

its sale in cash did not exceed 10 percent. He noted that as a trader, he is fully prepared to dispense with that 10 percent, because it does not represent a great value for gold traders; as banning cash will completely eliminate any suspicious operations in the gold trade, wonder-

ing where is the supervision over these He added there are multiple electronic payment methods and procedures, so there is no problem at all in selling gold

through these procedures. He called for close monitoring of gold sales through social media -- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others; where used gold items are displayed for sale without workmanship or workmanship is sold for a quarter of KD1 per gram

He said the profit margin for gold traders is only through workmanship; as the global price of gold requires placing question marks on anyone who sells gold without workmanship, because this matter may be one of the gateways to money laundering.

Moreover, Kuwaiti Society for Consumer Protection Chairman Mishaal Al-Manead believes that expanding electronic payment methods is an important step to contain money laundering operations; praising at the same time the steps taken by the government in this regard.

He explained that preventing cash sales in the gold market is also a pioneer-

ing step in light of the multiple proce-

dures for electronic payment, but there

should be a margin for dealing in cash

traders to determine the value of buying

and selling gold through cash payment, as

it happened with pharmacies, where cash

payment is allowed for up to KD10 when

purchasing medicines; whereas if the val-

ue is higher, payment must be made by

He affirmed that preventing cash in

general in buying and selling operations

leads to the stability of the economy and

prevents illegal purchases, considering money launderers have left no stone un-

"Selling through electronic payment

in gold operations will prevent fraud and

forgery, and the consumer has the right

to demand his rights in the event of any

commercial fraud in gold transaction," he

A lawyer specializing in money laun-

dering cases, Ali Al-Attar, believes that

gold jewellery can be exploited in money

laundering operations. He affirmed sup-

port for all government procedures and

K-Net or through bank link.

turned in cleaning their money.

He called for an agreement with gold

in gold trade.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior while chairing a security meeting within the framework of preparations for the summit con-

KUNA photo

ference of the 45th Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council

Show world Kuwait can do it: Lt Gen Sheikh Salem

Security agencies on full alert for GCC Summit

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Sheikh Salem Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, emphasized the need of full preparation and readiness among all agencies involved in security operations ahead of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit.

He highlighted the importance of unified communication to ensure the event reflects Kuwait's distinguished ability to organize such high-profile conferences.

This came during a security meeting

chaired by Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf, as part of ongoing preparations for the 45 GCC Leaders' Summit, which is scheduled to take place in Kuwait December 1, a statement by Minis-

try of Interior said. Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf was briefed on the final arrangements for welcoming the heads of state from the GCC member countries. During the meeting, the roles and responsibilities of each unit involved in the security operations were discussed, focusing on protection, security, and coordination, the statement added.

The Undersecretary issued a number of instructions following detailed reports and presentations, expressing confidence in the ability of all security agencies to carry out

their tasks effectively and efficiently.

Sheikh Salem Al-Nawaf extended greetings and appreciation on behalf of the Acting Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah to all participants for their dedication and efforts in preparing for the GCC

MEW recruitment drive results in over 97 pct Kuwaiti workers

By Mohammad Ghanem Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Informed sources within the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy disclosed that 1,106 Kuwaitis were hired across the ministry's technical and administrative sectors between January and October 2024.

This translates to an average recruitment rate of 110 Kuwaiti citizens per month. The total workforce in the ministry

grew from 34,395 employees in January to 35,501 in October, reflecting the ministry's commitment to enhancing national employ-

Notably, the percentage of Kuwaiti employees reached a remarkable 97.6 percent, totaling 34,605 employees. Simultaneously, the number of expatriates employed by the ministry witnessed a slight decline. Expatriate workers decreased from 862 in January to 835 in October, marking a reduction of 27 employees.

Kuwaiti novelist among

ed literature with her novel "The Book Censor's Library", published by the Books Restless.

The original novel, issued back in 2019 by Arab Scientific Publisher and Takween Pub-

Type 2 diabetes prevalent in Kuwait, is manageable' sidelines of the center's World Diabe-By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: According to an internal medicine and cardiology specialist at Al-Sager Specialized Center Dr. Hamed Hanafi Hufaila, the prevalence of type 2 diabetes in Kuwait is approximately 21.5 percent of the population, while type 1 diabetes affects about 37 cases per 100,000 people.

In a press statement issued on the

tes Day celebration on Tuesday, Dr. Hufaila explained that there are three main types of diabetes: juvenile diabetes, adult (type 2) diabetes, and gestational diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes is the most common in Kuwait, closely linked to genetic factors, body weight, and nutrition. The disease is manageable and even reversible through a healthy lifestyle and proper disease management



Photo by Rizk Taufig World Diabetes Day marked

US award contestants NEW YORK, Nov 19, (KUNA): The American National Book Foundation will host, on Wednesday, the 75th National Book Award with the participation of the Kuwaiti novelist Bothayna Al-Essa.

Al-Essa qualified in the category of translat-

decisions issued recently to curb money laundering. He pointed out this is important since FATF, which is concerned with combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, recently warned about the serious shortcomings in Kuwait in terms of combating money laundering. For this reason, FATF called for intensifying efforts of the financial sector supervisory authorities and others to confront the risks of money laundering, especially those including fraud, corruption and forgery, he disclosed. He said FATF only threatened to in-

clude Kuwait on the gray list due to the current government's efforts to pursue money laundering in the new reform era, but he called for more oversight, especially since the money laundering mafia in Kuwait has creative ways through modern technology to breach the laws, in addition to exploiting legal loopholes where large sums can be divided into small sums to circumvent the laws, including tampering with import and export invoices for goods or commodities.

diwaniya 🕝 چیوانیة

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Gaza carnage demands rejig in policies of Arab countries

"RECENT footage from Gaza reveals heart-wrenching scenes of displacement and desperation, exposing the profound suffering of its people," columnist **Badr Khaled Al-Bahr** wrote for **Al-Jarida**

daily.
"Captured by enemy cameras, the video shows Palestinians begging for water in conditions of extreme hunger

and humiliation. "One woman, in a shocking moment of despair, expresses support for Israel over Hamas, denouncing the group as 'liars' who have destroyed their lives. She kisses an Israeli journalist and ululates in relief at the re-



ported death of a Hamas leader, blaming the organization for the suffering of her children and pledging allegiance to peace with Israel.

"Another woman echoes this sentiment, calling on the Israelis to eliminate Hamas, describing them as killers loyal to Iran. The footage also shows children and the elderly individuals begging for help, with the Israeli army distributing water bottles.

"One father pleads to the world, condemning Hamas as exploiters of Palestinian blood, a sentiment echoed by others in the aftermath of the October

"This shift in sentiment marks a stark contrast to decades of Arab-Israeli conflict, which has seen wars, setbacks and failed negotiations. From the 1948 war and the 1967 setback to the Intifadas and the wars in Lebanon and Gaza, the Arab world has endured military defeats and political compromises.

"Efforts such as the Oslo Accords and the Fez Conference failed to achieve lasting peace, with some leaders, like Sadat, making limited progress.

"Now, with the latest escalation on October 7, the narrative has shifted. Some Palestinians, disillusioned with Hamas, are calling for its eradication, reflecting a broader frustration within the Arab world over the group's actions and their impact on civilian lives.

"The anguish of Gaza's displaced population serves as a stark reminder of the human cost of conflict. It also raises difficult questions for those who continue to defend Hamas. The suffering endured by Gaza's civilians underscores the urgent need for accountability and a reevaluation of strategies and loyalties.

"As the Arab world grapples with these challenges, the path forward requires not only addressing external conflicts but also confronting internal divisions and re-evaluating alliances. Only through such introspection can there be hope for peace and stability in the region."

"Violence against women and girls remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations worldwide," columnist Dr. Hind Al-Shoumer wrote for Al-Anba daily

"According to global estimates, 736 million women -- roughly one in three -- have experienced physical or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime.

"This issue has worsened in various environments, including workplaces and online spaces, exacerbated further by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and climate change. A robust solution lies in strong preventive measures and proactive investment in education and awareness

"The United Nations General Assembly designated November 25 as the 'International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women' through Resolution 54/134. This day aims to raise awareness about the global challenges women face, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and other forms of abuse.

"The day also marks the beginning of the UNITE Campaign, a 16-day activism initiative to combat violence against women and girls, culminating on Dec 10, which is celebrated as Human Rights Day.

"The campaign seeks to highlight the harmful impact of violence and abuse on women and girls and work toward eradicating such behaviors permanently.

"The United Nations considers violence against women a global pandemic manifesting in various forms -- physical, sexual, and psychological -- and occurring in both public and private

"In its 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the UN defined gender-based violence as any act likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering for women, including threats, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty,

whether in public or private life. "Every woman and every girl has the right to live free from violence and discrimination, to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to access education, to own property, to vote,

and to receive equal pay. "Islam honors women by granting them their full rights, emphasizing their equal worth to men in personal and so-

cial responsibility. "The concept of male guardianship is meant to protect and support women, not to justify mistreatment or oppression.

"Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) condemned violence against women. In Islamic tradition, harming women

physically or emotionally is prohibited. "For example, Islam forbids killing women during wars and emphasizes their dignity, prohibiting insults or psychological abuse.

"Each member of society has a role in preventing violence against women, whether in schools, workplaces, or pub-

Let us unite to eliminate violence and create a safer, more respectful environment for everyone. Together, we can build a world where women and girls live with dignity, free from fear and harm.'

"Legitimate questions have overwhelmed us, and the answers lie with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah. We hope he will return from his vacation full of energy for both political and non-political discussions. We also look to the ministers responsible for development, reform, and progress, i.e., the entire Council of Ministers," columnist Khaled Ahmad Al-Tarrah wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"We recognize that our wishes have become modest, even simple, to the point of dreaming of streets free of potholes that swallow cars, buses, and everything in between, neighborhoods with reliable electricity, bridges that are safe and sturdy, and a government that is free from chronic bureaucracy. Yet, we notice that the focus has shifted, and now streets have become a symbol of attention, joy, and pride. The minister of Public Works has become a shining figure, receiving both Kuwait and Gulf-wide recognition! So, what has changed?

"The current government includes ministers who were part of the Cabinet before the dissolution of the National Assembly, with some of them having entered through the gates of the National Assembly in the past. The expectation is that they will now implement control measures, as the government today holds legislative, executive, and oversight powers. However, the speed with which the streets and infrastructure in neglected residential areas are being repaired is a matter of concern. It feels as though we, as ordinary citizens, are being



overwhelmed by technical and financial explanations, leaving us unable to decipher the true intentions behind the Cabinet's actions.

"Meanwhile, education continues to struggle, with outdated curricula and, alarmingly, the influ-

ence of intellectual extremism, such as the ideology espoused by ISIS, creeping into our secondary schools. The issues surrounding the Social Insurance Institution are also unresolved, with its benefits caught between usury, neglected official fatwas, and rulings that remain unimplemented, uncorrected, and unad-

"It begs the question: Has the government resorted to relying on quick fixes, like Moses' staff or magical solutions, rather than focusing on sustainable development and science? Have these same figures who are now addressing the streets and infrastructure also used their "magic" to erase the memory of government neglect before the dissolution of the National Assembly?

"What is the real connection between the failure to repair the streets and infrastructure during both the presence and absence of the National Assembly, especially when some articles of the Constitution have been suspended?

"Has genuine, effective government action finally emerged in 2024, after being absent for more than 50 years? The questions are piling up, yet the answers are either missing, hidden, or lack the

necessary support and reasoning. "What we do know is that we have a new Prime Minister - Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, but his voice has yet to be heard. We know that we have a Minister of Information who seems focused on trivial matters, avoiding the more substantial political and professional media issues. As for the other ministers, we struggle to recognize their names or faces, except for the minister who has garnered attention for tackling our roads. Most ministers prefer to remain silent in public and avoid the media, but this should not be taken as a sign of su-

periority over their colleagues. "The questions that overwhelm us have become a source of confusion and anxiety for some, while others, particularly citizens, answer these same questions with a sense of joy. Why? Because the streets have finally received attention from the government. Yet, we still haven't seen the same level of investment in our most valuable asset: the human element. The citizens continue to make voluntary sacrifices, giving up what is most important, but the real investment in human capital remains elusive.

"The National Assembly, with all its strengths and weaknesses, has often provided opportunities to gauge the media and political capabilities of ministers and their president. However, today, the Council of Ministers, which holds both executive and legislative power, primarily communicates decisions to the public through written statements, with some being brief announcements via official media channels.

"The 62nd anniversary of the issuance of the Constitution passed on November 11, yet no directive was issued by the Council of Ministers, nor was there an initiative by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to issue a statement on this occasion. Such a statement could have been circulated both in Kuwait and through Kuwaiti embassies abroad, as well as to foreign and Arab embassies in Kuwait. Given that Kuwait's democratic experience holds significant interest in the West, particularly in Britain, this omission is noteworthy.

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes / Mahmoud Attiyeh



KFF and EQUATE officials at the event.

KFF 'Safe House' campaign continues

The Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) continued its "Safe House" campaign at Kuwait University's College of Engineering and Petroleum in Shadadiya campus.

According to a press release, the cam-

EQUATE Petrochemicals Company, aims to raise awareness about the causes of fire accidents in homes and other locations, and provide guidance on how to prevent them. It focused on identifying the areas in homes where accidents are most likely to

The campaign, which will continue at the College of Engineering and Petroleum until Thursday this week, included informative lectures and a session for students to ask ques-

Court sets Dec 2 verdict in murder of ex-MP's brother

Doctor acquitted in 'medical 'error' lawsuit

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Criminal Court has set Dec 2 to issue a verdict in the case of the murder of Ahmed Al-Jalal.

The court confirmed that the medical report presented during the trial established the full mental accountability of the suspect at the time the crime was committed.

The case revolves around the brutal killing of Ahmed Al-Jalal, brother of former MP Mutab Al-Jalal, who was fatally stabbed during a confrontation in the Hadiva area.

Following the incident, the accused surrendered to the authorities and confessed

During the trial, attorney Hussein Al-Asfour, representing the victim's family, demanded the maximum penalty for the accused. This followed the psychiatric evaluation confirming that the perpetrator was responsible for his actions.

The Public Prosecution, headed by Nasser Al-Masbahi, Deputy Director of the Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Prosecutions, delivered a powerful plea to

Al-Masbahi stated the accused defied Divine authority, transgressed moral boundaries, and shattered the victim's most sacred right -- his right to life. Such a heinous crime, driven by the

whims and arrogance of the accused, warrants the severest punishment as an act of justice and deterrence, he said.

The prosecution's argument emphasized the gravity of the crime, portraying it as one that deeply shook societal conscience.

Al-Masbahi described the actions of the accused as horrifying enough to move

"mountains" and called for his execution as just retribution. The prosecution asserted that such punishment would serve as a warning to others and a reminder of the sacredness of human life.

The final decision now rests with the Criminal Court, which will deliver its verdict on Dec 2. This case has drawn widespread attention, highlighting the enduring demand for justice and the sanctity of life in Kuwaiti society.

'It is not doctor's fault': The Civil Court of Cassation has ruled against obliging a doctor, accused of causing a patient's death through negligence, to pay compensation to the deceased's heirs. The case, which involved a physician working at a government hospital, was closed following a final ruling that acquitted the doctor of all charges.

The doctor's defense, led by lawyer Dr. Fawaz Al-Khatib, argued in court that 'medical professionals are accountable for errors or negligence only when their responsibility is conclusively established. In this instance, the doctor has been cleared of the allegations, and without proof of wrongdoing, there is no basis for compensation.

The court emphasized in its decision that error is the cornerstone of civil liability and that proving such an error is a prerequisite for imposing accountability. The burden of proof, the court clarified, rests entirely on the plaintiff.

Furthermore, the court underscored its discretionary power in determining whether an act constitutes an error. This determination, however, must be based on logical and substantiated reasoning.

The court also noted that a judgment in a criminal case is binding in a related civil case if it definitively addresses the actions forming the common basis of both cases, as well as their legal classification and attribution to the accused.



Fire-fighters removed the woman's hand stuck in the

Injury as woman's hand stuck in 'blender' freed

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Al-Qurain Fire Brigade responded to an incident this afternoon, where a woman's hand was stuck in a food grinder. Emergency teams succe fully handled thae situation, and the injured woman received immediate medical attention. Her hand was safely freed and treated at the Mubarak Al-Kabeer area clinic, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Barber shop on fire: Fire broke out in a barber shop located in a residential building in Jahra without causing injuries or loss of lives. In a press statement, Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) confirmed

that firefighters rushed to the location after its Operations Unit received information about the fire incident. They doused the fire within a short span of time. No injuries or loss of lives were reported.

Awareness lecture: As part of the cooperation between the Ministry of Health and Kuwait Fire Force (KFF), the Public Relations Department at KFF organized an awareness lecture in Assad Al-Hamad Dermatology Hospital.

The lecture was aimed at informing the doctors and nurses about the causes of fire and the prevention methods.

5 co-ops under probe in funds, admin violations

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi and Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to supporting public benefit associations by fostering an environment conducive to the development of their programs and activities. This aligns with the ministry's goal of enabling these

organizations to achieve their objectives effectively. However, informed sources revealed that Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, has taken significant steps to ad-

dress financial and administrative concerns in cooperative societies. The minister has issued decisions to form special committees tasked

with auditing the operations and accounts of five cooperative societies. The societies under review include are two in the Capital Governorate, one each in Jahra, Ahmadi and the

Farwaniya Governorate. The formation of these committees follows the detection of multiple violations that necessitate a thorough review and decisive ac-

tion, said the sources. Meanwhile, four previously established committees have concluded their audits of four cooperative societies. Their reports, containing detailed findings, have been submitted to the Fatwa and Legislation Department for

These reports will guide the next steps, with recommendations expected to be referred to Minister Al-Huwailah soon for the necessary decisions.

The ministry's efforts underline its commitment to ensuring transparency, accountability, and ethical management within cooperative societies. By addressing violations and fostering proper gover-

nance, the ministry aims to strengthen trust in these or-

ganizations and support their vital role in serving Kuwaiti

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PAHW awards 2 tenders to construct power stations in S. Saad Al-Abdullah

'Total number of housing applications stands at 98,099'

By Mohammed Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has awarded two tenders for the construction of the two largest main power stations in South Saad Al-Abdullah City, with a total value of up to KD 58.8 million.

According to informed sources, three companies submitted bids for the first tender, and three others for the second tender. After careful evaluation of the bids, the contracts were awarded to the companies with the best financial and technical proposals.

In a related development, PAHW stated in its October report that the total number of housing applications currently stands at

The sources explained that the total number of housing units planned for distribution in South Saad Al-Abdullah City includes 24,508 units, consisting of 23,551 plots and

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The

Board of Directors of Kuwait Air-

ways Corporation (KAC), chaired

by Abdul Mohsen Al-Faq'aan,

has appointed Mohammad Hamid

Al-Fadhli as the new director of

this decision not only reflects Al-

Fadhli's extensive experience and

excellence in his work but also

affirm that Kuwait Airways con-

tinues to prioritize national tal-

ent, and acknowledge individuals

According to informed sources,

the Engineering Department.

957 housing products. Of these, 4,551 units have been allocated to applicants who registered by June 2006, with a total of 16,643 units already distributed.

Regarding the number of public buildings under construction, PAHW reported that a total of 124 buildings are currently being implemented. These include 68 buildings in Mutlaa Residential City, 31 in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, 7 in East Sabah Al-Ahmad, 15 in Sabah Al-Ahmad, and one building each in South Khaitan, Jaber Al-Ahmad, and Saad Al-Abdullah.

Progress

The sources highlighted the progress of several key residential projects. For instance, the East Sabah Al-Ahmad project includes 1,184 housing units, with the first contract involving 587 homes that are 99.47 percent complete, and the second contract involving 597 homes that are 90.12 percent complete.

The progress on the main roads in South Sabah Al-Ahmad City has reached a contractual completion rate of 19.43 percent, with an

Al-Fadhli appointed as new director of KAC's engineering dept

plementing a strategic plan that

aligns with the airport's future

requirements. This includes pri-

oritizing the needs of the airline

in connection with the new fa-

cilities, as well as expanding the

number of business class lounges

In addition, the sources praised

the expertise of the Kuwaiti engi-

neering team at Kuwait Airways,

particularly within the Engineer-

ing Department, for successfully

completing the maintenance of a

Kuwaiti aircraft that had suffered

They affirmed that the team's

a malfunction in Bangladesh.

to meet growing demand.

Meanwhile, they revealed that

fering com-

petitive dis-

counts as part

of ongoing

promotions.

These offers

are expected

throughout

Further-

the

year.

more,

sources explained that the board

Al-Fadhli

continue

coming

KAC has recently introduced

price reductions on tickets, of-

actual completion rate of 34.62 percent.

In the South Saad Al-Abdullah City project, the main roads have seen a contractual completion rate of 3.17 percent, with an actual completion rate of 10.39 percent.

The sources said certificates were issued to "whomever it may concern" for 28,288 ready-to-deliver plots in Mutlaa, 3,260 in South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, and 1,448 in

PAHW explained that two construction contracts were signed for the Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City. These contracts involve the establishment and maintenance of a youth center, as well as the supply, installation, implementation, and maintenance of ten main transformer stations in the South Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential Project, covering N5, N7, and N9 suburbs.

The sources noted that four construction tenders were issued for the supply, extension, and maintenance of underground cables feeding two transformer stations in both the South Sabah Al-Ahmad and South Saad Al-Abdullah housing projects.

turned to Kuwait Airport, and this

highlights the high level of trust

and expertise that Kuwaiti staff

possess in various departments of

The sources emphasized that

this achievement also highlights

the careful selection and train-

ing of Kuwaiti engineering per-

sonnel, who are able to quickly

acquire the necessary skills and

experience, adding that the board

of directors of KAC remains

committed to enhancing the capa-

bilities of its employees by con-

tinually investing in specialized

HH Crown Prince, PM send greetings

His Highness Amir congratulates Monaco Prince on National Day

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to the Prince of Monaco Albert II to congratulate him on his country's National Day, wishing him good health and for his people progress and development.

His Highness the Crown Prince

Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a cable to Prince Albert II to congratulate him on his country's National Day, wishing him good health.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah too sent a cable to Prince Albert II to congratulate him on the occasion.





Al-Najat Complex for orphans for the education and rehabilitation of orphans in



Chadian orphans practice sports as part of the complex's activities.

'Al-Najat' opens center to aid orphans in Chad

The Kuwaiti Al-Najat charity on Tuesday inaugurated "Al-Najat complex for orphans" to aid 150 orphans in the African country.

The complex is a hub to provide educational and medical services to the orphans and render them capable to be productive, said the society director general, Mohammad Al-Ansari, in

a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA). It contains residents, a mosque, a

water well, one clinic and a kitchen, he said, adding that there are also stores, training centers and teaching classes. Kuwait advocates humanitarian diplo-

macy, aiding people in need throughout the world. (KUNA)

'Social Affairs' official highlights Kuwaiti pharmacists' pioneering role at the 50th 'versary of Kuwait Pharmaceutical Assoc

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi on Monday launched the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Kuwait Pharmaceutical Association; during which he honored about 100 pharmacists, including former council heads, founding members and other pharmacists who left an indelible mark in this field.

In a speech he delivered at the ceremony, Al-Ajmi confirmed the ministry's commitment to support public benefit associations that serve the community by providing the appropriate environment to develop their activities and programs in a way that achieves their professional and

He underscored the professional and effective role of the association, which was the fruit of the efforts of the founders who laid the first brick to consolidate the foundations of the pharmacy profession in the country; keeping in mind the interests of the nation and society.

Professional

He emphasized that the association today is one of the active groups, which clearly demonstrated the role of the professional pharmacist in raising public awareness on medicines and in highlighting the active presence of pharmacists in various health fields.

He said "we must benefit from pharmaceutical expertise and competencies and national youth energies that constitute the cornerstone in developing health services. We look forward to their continued dedication to serve our dear country and pushing the wheels of health development.

He highlighted the valiant role that pharmacists played during the corona pandemic, as they served on the front lines, offering professional and technical services with sincerity and commitment, setting the most amazing examples of selflessness and generosity in the service of their beloved nation.

He called on Kuwaiti pharmacists, who just graduated, to follow the example of the founders of the association in their activity, perseverance and dedication. "With your efforts, the pharmacy profession continues to flourish and its services develop, reflecting the progress that the country seeks in the health sector," he asserted.

Meanwhile, President of the association pharmacist Abdullah Al-Enezi asserted that the association has played a

pioneering role in supporting and developing the profession over the past 50 years by providing continuing education programs, promoting scientific research and enabling pharmacists to provide the best health services to the community. He said the association has always been keen on being at the forefront of development; thus, contributing to the improvement of healthcare in the country.

Foundations

He appreciated the role of the founders of the association who are credited for laying the first bricks of this pioneering entity, noting that "their vision and firm determination to advance the profession have established the solid foundations on which we stand today."

He reaffirmed the commitment to continue supporting and developing the profession to keep pace with the latest scientific and technical developments and to strive hard for the association to remain a beacon of innovation and progress and for the pharmacy profession in Kuwait to continue its at the national and international levels.

Secretary General of the association pharmacist Ali Hadi confirmed that the association worked hard to unify the ranks of pharmacists from different generations -- from pioneers to the new generation. "It consolidated the spirit of belongingness and cooperation among members of this noble profession. We draw inspiration from this rich journey with the determination to continue developing the profession and to face upcoming challenges with a spirit of innovation and dedication, in a way that ensures the provision of the best health services to our society," he added.

He also praised the role of the founders of the association and the first pharmacists who laid the foundation stone for the pharmacy profession in the country and sought with all sincerity and determination to advance this noble humanitarian profession. "Their efforts and achievements contributed to making the pharmacy profession a fundamental pillar in the healthcare system in our beloved country. Their vision contributed to developing this profession to be at the forefront of health fields in the country. The association played a pioneering role in supporting pharmacists and developing their skills 50 years. It has been a platform for cooperation and continuous education, committed to keep pace with the latest scientific and professional developments and to remain at the forefront of serving the Kuwaiti society," he concluded.



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Al-Fassam's visit aims to help buttress bilateral relations

Kuwait's envoy discusses economic cooperation with Upper Austria officials

VIENNA, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria Talal Al-Fassam discussed with the Governor of Upper Austria Thomas Stelzer, a number of senior officials in the state and members of the Chamber of Commerce in Linz on Monday ways to enhance economic and trade cooperation between Kuwait and Upper Austria.

Ambassador Al-Fassam told KUNA the visit to the Upper Austria state is meant to help buttress bilateral relations between Kuwait and Austria.

He lauded the deeply-rooted relations between the two friendly countries and the common desire to enhance them in various fields.

Al-Fassam noted that his meeting

with Governor Stelzer was an important opportunity to exchange views on prospects for future cooperation and the most prominent issues of common interest, especially in the sectors of technology, sustainable en-

ergy, health and education.
"During the meeting, we discussed opportunities to increase economic

vestments between Kuwait and Upper Austria and expand the partnership base between businessmen and economic institutions in both countries," he elaborated.

Al-Fassam also described his meeting with officials of the Chamber of Commerce in Linz as fruitful.

The meeting touched upon opportunities for cooperation in the commercial and industrial fields and the possibility of organizing joint events that contribute to developing economic relations between Kuwait and

He pointed out that his visits to various Austrian states come within the framework of the Kuwaiti embassy efforts to strengthen the bonds of friendship and partnership between Kuwait and Austria.

The Kuwait diplomat expressed optimism about the future of bilateral relations and prospects for cooperation to achieve benefits for and serves interests of the two friendly countries.



Balad Al-Khair Society and MoSA officials

Medical and electrical devices to be provided

Balad Al-Khair Society partners with MoSA to support social welfare homes & centers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Balad Al-Khair Society has announced a new partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs to support welfare centers and homes by providing a range of medical and electrical devices aimed at meeting the needs of the centers' visitors. This initiative is part of the society's ongoing efforts to collaborate effectively with local institutions and contribute to initiatives that support the well-being of society.

In a press release, Director of Balad Al-Khair Society Othman Al-Thuwaini stated that the society is committed to supporting all vulnerable groups in the State of Kuwait, adding that this partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs is designed to address the specific needs of welfare centers and homes by providing essential medical

The Lebanese

Gulf and Arab aid.

and electrical devices for the benefit of their residents

He explained that the welfare centers play a vital role in Kuwaiti society, and provide many essential social services. It is therefore important to offer necessary support and take the initiative in partnerships that align with the society's goals and mission.

Providing medical and electrical devices would significantly improve the lives of residents in welfare homes and centers. This initiative is also a valuable act of charity, as it offers public benefit, particularly through the medical devices that contribute to better

This cooperation marks an important step in supporting charity and humanitarian efforts within the country. It is especially focused on enhancing the quality of services provided to residents of social welfare homes and improving the infrastructure of these facilities. This partnership reflects the ministry's commitment to providing a safe and stable environment for residents and enhances the role of associations in offering comprehensive care.

It is worth mentioning that the Balad Al-Khair Society is a Kuwaiti charity organization dedicated to ensuring a decent life for individuals and empowering them to be productive and to contribute to society. The society achieves this goal through a variety of educational and humanitarian projects that have developmental, economic, social, educational, and health impacts, both inside and outside the State of Kuwait.

societies and prosperous economies, as well as raising the quality of life for

He appreciated the efforts of the Arab Open University in organizing this pioneering event, praising as well tne participation of international perts to discuss ways to develop infrastructure and adopt modern technologies in building smart cities that keep

He affirmed that the outcomes of the conference will contribute to providing innovative solutions and new ideas to support Kuwait's path towards achieving comprehensive and sustainable development. He then called for strengthening regional and international cooperation to exchange expertise and build strategic partnerships.

Continued from Page 1

The Cabinet also looked into separate encounters His Highness the Crown Prince had with world leaders on the sidelines of COP29, including Iraq, Azerbaijan, Montenegro and Kazakhstan, in addition to senior UN officials, all of which centered around efforts to bolster bi-

Meanwhile, and on the occasion of Omani 54th National Day, the Cabinet extended congratulation to Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq, expressing pride in the sturdy relations between the two fraternal nations and the remarkable feats and development achieved in Oman across a va-

State Minister for Municipal Affairs and State Minister for Housing Affairs Abdulateef Al-Meshari presented to the Cabinet a report by violations' removal team, tasked with identifying violations and taking appropriate mea-

The Cabinet approved a draft decree appointing the chairperson and deputy chairperson of the Kuwait Financial Intelligence Unit for a period of four

decree appointing the chairperson, deputy chairperson and members of the board of directors of the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport for a period of four years.

The Cabinet also approved a draft decree forming a committee to appeal decisions of the Central Agency for Public Tenders for a period of three

The Cabinet referred the draft decrees to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

During the weekly session, the Cabinet approved the minutes of the Supreme Committee to Investigate Kuwaiti Citizenship, which included cases of loss and withdrawal of Kuwaiti nationality as per provisions of Decree Law No. (15) of 1959.

MEW to review 8 financial bids for integrated training building

Recommendations to be submitted in 30 days

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has referred documents for eight financial bids to companies competing for the tender to establish an integrated training building to study them and submit recommendations within 30 days, say sources from Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

Sources said this project is in line with the ministry's plan to develop the technical and administrative skills of its employees in various fields of work. Sources disclosed the project has been included in the ministry's plan for more than 10 years and has not seen the light till date, affirming the process of offering the tender and conducting a technical study are underway.

Sources explained that establishing a training center equipped with the lat-est technologies, along with multi-use training halls, areas for practical tests and other facilities will provide trainees with the knowledge and skills that are in line with the latest developments in the fields of electricity, water and renewable energy

They pointed out that according to the technical specifications in the tender documents, the building will have all the elements that ensure an integrated educational environment like the latest technologies in the field of digital training and practical simulation. They said the project includes designing the building in line with environmental and sustainability standards.

Sources added the winning company will be determined based on the technical and financial criteria stated in the tender documents, stressing that the project is part of a series of initiatives through which the ministry aims to raise the level of professional and technical efficiency of employees in the sector and enhance their ability to face future challenges in the fields of electricity and renewable energy.



A photo from the workshop.

KFAS organizes workshop on 'Bibliometric methods for studying & evaluating impact of scientific publications'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) organized a workshop on "Bibliometric Methods for Studying and Evaluating the Impact of Scientific Publications" on Monday in collaboration with the Center for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) at Leiden University in the Nether-

In a press statement, KFAS explained that the workshop aimed to explore a range of bibliometric indicators used to assess scientific output, including academic research, scientific articles, citation metrics, and impact factors. These indicators were examined in relation to leading databases such as Scopus (Elsevier), Web of Science (Clarivate), and Dimensions (Digital Science).

livered by an expert in research performance analysis from CWTS, who is also a permanent member of the CWTS Leiden Ranking team. This team evaluates the research performance of more than 1,400 universities annually, with a focus on scientific impact and collaboration.

The workshop was attended by a number of researchers and professionals interested in university classification and the quality of scientific research from national academic and research institutions such as Kuwait University, Abdullah Al-Salem University, and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, as well as private universities and the National Library of Kuwait.

It is worth noting that the Center

The workshop's content was de- for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) in the Netherlands specializes in analyzing scientific production using quantitative methods. These methods allow for the measurement of the impact of scientific publications, the analysis of trends in scientific research and citations, and the evaluation of the quality of research and academic institutions

KFAS had also enlisted the expertise of CWTS to conduct a study on the impact of the research projects it funds within the research community. This study focused on evaluating the strengths and weaknesses in research performance, assessing how well these projects align with the goals of the United Nations Development Program, and exploring ways to enhance the quality of the research produced.

Kuwait denounces

spread chaos and instability in the region and the world, con-

Meanwhile, Palestinian health authority said Tuesday that over the last 24 hours, Israeli occupation airstrikes on several areas in Gaza Strip killed 50 Palestinians and injured 110 others.

pation forces committed three massacres in Gaza Strip, some of which reached hospitals, resulting in the killing of at least

It added that a number of victims are still under the rubble and on the roads, and ambulance and civil defense crews cannot reach them.

The death toll from the Israeli aggression has risen to 43,972 registered fatalities and 104,008 individuals sustaining injuries since October 7 of last year.

Since morning, Kamal Adwan Hospital in the northern Gaza Strip was subjected to direct artillery shelling, while the occupation army bombed and destroyed Abu Yousef Al-

dren's Fund (UNICEF), James Elder, warned on Tuesday of the frightening similarities between the war in Gaza and Lebanon particularly in the sharp rise in the number of children killed by Israeli aggression.

visit to Lebanon, Elder reported that 231 children have been killed in Lebanon in the past six weeks, an average of three

He warned that children are living in what he referred to as a silent normalization of horror, expressing hope that the international community would not continue to allow such levels of violence against children of Gaza or

He stated that according to the Lebanese Ministry of Health these attacks have resulted in the deaths of more than 200 health workers and the injury of 300 others since No-

He noted that schools, once serving as centers of educa-

Blueprint rolled

Continued from Page 1

quarter of 2023-24 and the project to expand the Kuwait free trade zone, which was at a mere 18 percent thus far.

The Capital Markets Authority (CMA), on its part, is partaking in in a project to develop the financial market system, which at this point reached 28.6 percent.

The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy Resources is participating in a project to import, construct, and operate a Combined cycle power system to increase power generation in the Subiya Electric Power and Water Distillation Site at a capacity of 9,000 megawatts.

The legislative part of the program consists of 64 draft laws over the nine development programs with three of which aim at boosting a more dynamic private sector, developing government connectivity, boosting transparency, and pushing citizens and institutions' capabilities forward.

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Further, it stated that the index of the third group (clothing) rose by 5.56 pct, while the prices of the housing services group rose by 0.57 pct, and the inflation rate in the fifth group (home furnishings) rose by

tion rate in Kuwait, excluding the food and beverages group, rose by 1.87 pct on an annual basis last October.

MoC yet

billion, it becomes clear that a massive trated by those who have profited from

Indeed, much of this wealth has been used to build palaces around the world, while some of the funds have reportedly been channeled into terrorist operations targeting the Gulf states. As the Arab proverb goes, "Don't poi-

Continued from Page 1

son the well from which you drink." The Gulf states have been trying to assist Lebanon since 1977, yet none of the Lebanese leaders, meaning the political elites and warlords, were genuinely interested in the well-being of their country. Instead, their focus remained on siphoning as much aid as possible to enrich themselves both lo-

cally and internationally. In support of this, it was recently reported that Lebanese leaders sent roughly USD 380 billion overseas, despite the fact that, according to Salameh himself, Lebanon lacked the natural resources necessary to generate such wealth between 1992 and 2019.

Today, some Lebanese officials are claiming that the Gulf States should shoulder the responsibility of rebuilding what was destroyed, and that tours of their leaders will be organized to the Gulf states immediately after the war ends for this very reason.

Here, we are making a clear statement, far from any emotional attachment to Lebanon and its people, and echoing the popular Lebanese proverb: "I love you, my bracelet, but I cannot afford it." In other words, the Gulf States are not a cash cow for Lebanese

They should not expect a single penny unless there is full transparency and accountability, to ensure that the funds are not diverted to fund militias or used

to wage war against the Gulf States. If the Lebanese truly wish to rebuild their country, it must be done under strict Gulf supervision. This should also mark the end of Lebanon's involvement in foreign conflicts, so that Lebanon no longer serves as a proxy for Iran or any other party for sending fiery messages. Otherwise, as the saying goes, "they should remove their thorns by themselves."

Food, clothing

Continued from Page 1

The bureau also noted that the infla-

Continued from Page 1 agencies to prohibit transactions for

hind their debt payments. The ban will remain in place until all

outstanding payments for services provided by the ministry are settled. The ministry indicated that notifications have been sent to subscribers in

recent days via the government app "Sahel", urging them to expedite payment of their financial dues for the services provided by the ministry. Meanwhile, the sources confirmed that the automated disconnection pro-

cess will be activated in early Decem-

ber, targeting all household and commercial subscriptions whose owners have not paid the required dues. The sources indicated that the ministry will send a second notification in the coming days via the government app "Sahel" to inform subscribers of

the outstanding amount they owe. They urged subscribers to pay their dues promptly to ensure uninterrupted service and avoid being included in the disconnection program or facing a ban

on government transactions. The sources said payments can be made either through the ministry's website or in person at designated ar-

eas using the KNet service. They highlighted that the ministry has introduced new debt collection mechanisms, including requiring advance payment for the annual telephone service subscription before it is activated at the subscriber's home. A certificate of clearance will also be required for transactions related to the

ministry, and services will be cut off for those who fail to pay. The Ministry of Communications affirmed its commitment to continuing the collection of financial dues for services provided to subscribers, in coordination with government institutions to prevent transactions for individuals and companies with outstanding debts.

Adopting 'smart

Continued from Page 1

conference with the participation of an elite group of academicians and experts from various countries.

The minister also pointed out that sponsoring this event is in line with the Kuwaiti government's commitment to promote innovation and support sustainable development, in compliance with directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and as part of the New Kuwait 2035 vision.

He explained that digital transformations have become a necessity to achieve efficiency and sustainability in modern cities, stressing that smart management and innovation are the cornerstones for achieving advanced

future generations.

pace with the needs of the era.

Cabinet approves

lateral relations.

riety of fields.

The Cabinet also approved a draft

Continued from Page 1

cluded the statement.

The authority said, in a press statement, that Israeli occu-

50 Palestinians and the injury of 110 others.

Najjar Hospital in Rafah city, southern Gaza Strip. Elsewhere, Spokesperson of the United Nations Chil-

Speaking at a press conference in Geneva following his children a day and another 1,100 child injured.

Elder also noted other alarming parallels including the displacement of hundreds of thousands of children in a very short period of time and the increasing number of "disproportionate attacks" targeting essential infrastructure that children rely on such as medical facilities.

Elder emphasized that large-scale attacks by Israeli forces last weekend forced all schools in Lebanon to close again, undermining efforts to restore education to children.

tion, have now been transformed to shelters.

Biden seeks nearly \$100 bln in emergency disaster aid after Hurricanes Helene, Milton

WASHINGTON, Nov 19, (AP): US President Joe Biden is requesting nearly \$100 billion in emergency disaster aid after Hurricanes Helene and Milton, and other natural disasters, telling lawmakers that the money is "urgently needed."

The letter Monday to House Speaker Mike Johnson comes as lawmakers meet during a lame-duck session to finish key priorities before making way for a new Congress and the incoming Trump administration. Biden said he has met firsthand with those harmed by the storms and he heard what residents and businesses needed from the federal government.

"Additional resources are critical to continue to support these communities," Biden said.

The largest share of the money, about \$40 billion, would go to the main disaster relief fund at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The fund helps with debris removal, repairing public infrastructure and providing financial assistance to survivors.

Biden said the fund would face a shortfall this budget year without additional money. He said that would not only affect the agency's ability to provide lifesaving assistance to survivors, but also would slow recovery efforts from prior disasters.

An additional \$24 billion would help farmers that have experienced crop or livestock losses, and \$12 billion would go toward helping communities recover through block grants administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Some \$8 billion more would help rebuild and repair highways and bridges in more than 40 states and territories. The administration is also seeking \$4 billion for long-term water system upgrades to mitigate future damage from natural disasters.

The Small Business Administration has run out of money for a program that provides low-interest loans for businesses, nonprofits and homeowners trying to rebuild after a disaster. Biden is seeking \$2 billion for that program. Several other agencies would also receive emergency funds if Congress agrees to the full request.

Lawmakers were expecting a hefty number from the administration. Johnson, R-La., said Congress will evaluate the request and "we'll make sure we deliver for the hurricane victims and the people that have suffered from that.

Johnson had also visited western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene to assess the damage. At the time, he said Congress would act in a bipartisan fashion to help communities recover, but he also said it would be "the appropriate amount that the federal government should do."

With many Republicans campaigning on reducing federal spending, there could be some debate about portions of Biden's request. The federal government doesn't help with every disaster. It generally gets involved only if the needs are above the ability of a community or state to handle.



US President Joe Biden speaks following a briefing by federal, state, and local officials in St Pete Beach, Fla., during a tour of areas affected by Hurricane Milton on Oct 13. (AP)

Bowser downplays myriad differences between two sides

Local Washington officials brace for 4 yrs of playing defense against Trump

WASHINGTON, Nov 19, (AP): Donald Trump's first stint in the White House proved to be a chaotic ride for the District of Columbia.

Now with Trump set to return to power - backed by a Republican-controlled Congress and the momentum of a sweeping electoral win - local officials in the nation's capital are trying to sound conciliatory while preparing for the worst.

"We have been discussing and planning for many months in the case that the District has to defend itself and its values," said Mayor Muriel Bowser. Her office had "communicated with (Trump's) team and indicated we would like to speak," she said on Nov 12, but hadn't heard back.

Bowser downplayed the myriad differences between the two sides and emphasized a search for common ground. But those commonalities may be hard to come by, given open mutual animosity that has defined Trump's relationship with the district.

During Trump's turbulent first four years in office, he and the local government publicly sparred multiple times - in tones ranging from playful to deeply personal. When Trump floated the idea of a massive July 4 military parade complete with tanks rolling through the streets, the D.C. Council publicly mocked him.

When mass protests broke out in the summer of 2020 over the death of George Floyd and wider police brutality and racial issues, Trump accused Bowser of losing control of her city. he eventually declared his own multiagency lockdown that included lowflying helicopters buzzing protesters. Bowser responded by having "Black Lives Matter" painted on the street in giant letters one block from the White

During the last four years, with Trump as an aggrieved private citizen, his feelings toward Washington have remained intense. On the campaign trail, he repeatedly vowed to "take over" the city and usurp the authority of the local government. In August 2023, when he briefly came to town to plead not guilty on charges of trying to overturn his 2020 electoral loss to President Joe Biden, Trump blasted the capital city on social media, calling it a "filthy and crime ridden embarrassment to our nation.'

Now Bowser and the D.C. Council are bracing for what could be several years of playing defense against opponents who wield significant power over Washington's affairs.

"We just have to do our best and hold on for another few years. We

The US Capitol is viewed looking east from Freedom Plaza on Jan 23, 2022, in Washington. (AP)

have to figure out how to make it work," said Councilmember Christina Henderson. "Unlike millions of voters around the country, I actually believe the man when he speaks. He said what he's going to do.

Henderson, a former staffer for Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., points out that Trump has already experienced what she called "the trifecta" - Republican control of the White House and both houses of Congress - during his first two years in office and the district managed to get through it. She also notes that Republican control of the House of Representatives will be up for grabs again in just two more years.

"I can't predict what they're going to try to do to us," she said. "I can just

But responding to the intentions of an antagonistic White House and Congress is difficult, given the nature of the District's limited autonomy. Under terms of the city's Home Rule authority, Congress essentially vets all DC laws and can outright overturn them.

Even when Trump was out of the White House, activist Republicans on the House Oversight Committee repeatedly summoned Bowser and members of the D.C. Council - often to publicly grill them about local crime rates.

And by far the most extensive modern congressional encroachment on the District's authority came with Democrats controlling both the Senate and the White House. In 2023, a sweeping rewrite of the D.C. criminal code was branded as soft on crime by House Republicans; in a major setback for the council, both Senate Democrats and President Biden agreed and the law was effectively canceled.

"We know that the district can always be a convenient foil to some of these folks," said Councilmember Charles Allen. "Without statehood, without autonomy, our laws are always

more at risk than any other Americans.' Both councilmembers predict a wave of budget riders on the annual ap-

propriations bill - designed to alter dis-

trict laws in ways big and small. These riders have been a longtime source of resentment for local lawmakers, who charge Congress members with tinkering with the district in a manner they could never get away with at home.

"They want to do something to the district because they feel they can. They would never do that to their own state," Allen said.

He highlights the infamous "Harris rider" named for Maryland Rep. Andy Harris. A staunch opponent of legalized marijuana, Harris has for years used a budget rider to prevent the local government from creating any sort of regulatory framework for taxing or controlling sales. Meanwhile, Maryland has since legalized recreational marijuana use.

"He can't implement it in his home state, but he can do it to us," Allen said. Last year's appropriations bill ini-

tially included riders that would have banned all traffic speed cameras in the nation's capital and prevented the district government from banning right turns on red lights. Those proposals eventually faded during the negotiation process, but Allen feels that the coming Congress "won't have Democrats in the same position to help negotiate away many of the most objectionable budget riders."

'Ukraine fired 6 US-made ATACMs at Bryansk'

Putin signs a new Russian nuclear doctrine Meloni suffers election setbacks in 2 regions

Vladimir Putin on Tuesday signed a revised nuclear doctrine declaring that a conventional attack on Russia by any nation that is supported by a nuclear power will be considered a joint attack on his country.

Putin's endorsement of the new nuclear deterrent policy comes on the 1,000th day after he sent troops into Ukraine, on Feb. 24, 2022

It follows US President Joe Biden's decision to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with US-supplied longer-range missiles.

The signing of the doctrine, which says that any massive aerial attack on Russia could trigger a nuclear response, demonstrates Putin's readiness to tap the country's nuclear arsenal to force the West to back down as Moscow presses a slow-moving offensive in Ukraine.

Asked whether the updated doctrine was deliberately issued on the heels of Biden's decision, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said the document was published "in a timely manner" and that Putin instructed the government to update it earlier this year so that it is "in line with the current situation.'

Putin first announced changes in the



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting with Mosfilm Cinema Concern General Director and filmmaker Karen Shakhnazarov at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, on Nov 13. (AP

nuclear doctrine in September, when he chaired a meeting discussing the proposed revisions.

Meanwhile, Russia's Defense Min-

istry said Tuesday that Ukraine fired ROME Nov 19 (AP): Italy's Premier six US-made ATACMs missiles at Russia's Bryansk region.

In a statement carried by Russian news agencies, the ministry said the military shot down five of them and damaged one more.

The fragments fell on the territory of an unspecified military facility, the ministry said. The falling debris sparked a fire, but didn't inflict any damage or casualties, it said.

The announcement comes shortly after Washington lifted restrictions on Ukraine using US-made longer-range missiles to strike Russia. Ukraine didn't immediately confirm

the use of ATACMs in a strike on Russia's Bryansk region.

Earlier on Tuesday, Ukraine's General Staff said that Ukrainian army carried out a strike on the arsenal of the 1046th Logistics Support Center in the area of Karachev in Bryansk region of Russia.

The General Staff said that multiple explosions and detonation were heard in the targeted area. "The destruction of ammunition depots for the Russian occupying forces, aimed at ending Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, will continue," the statement said.

Democratic party wins tight race

Giorgia Meloni suffered election setbacks in two regions as the opposition Democratic party won a tight race in the central Umbria region and deepened its control of the traditional left-leaning stronghold of Emilia-Romagna.

The results of the two-days of voting that ended Monday were a clear victory for Democratic Party leader Elly Schlein, who called the outcome "extraordinary.'

Stefania Proietti won with 51% of the vote in Umbria, compared with 46% for the conservative coalition's candidate. In the northern region of Emilia Romagna, the left's candidate Michele de Pascale won 57% of the vote, improving the party's 51% result in the last regional vote in 2020.

In both cases, the Democratic Party candidate won without the support of the 5-Start Movement, which has been in a shaky center-left coalition.

The bigger electoral test for Meloni comes in 2025 when six regions head to the polls, including the populous norther region of Veneto that has long been governed by the populist League, a key member of her ruling coalition. Meloni's coalition held on to control of the Ligurian region last month in an election prompted by the resignation of the right-wing governor in a scandal.

Meanwhile, at least 15 police officers were taken to hospital on Friday following clashes in Turin with students protesting against Italy's far-right government of Meloni.

The demonstration in the northern Italian city was one of several held across the country, including in Rome and Milan, on what the organizers dubbed "No Meloni Day."

The officers in Turin were injured

Spain's royals return



Demonstrators hold placards of Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, (left), and Italian Democratic Party leader Elly Schlein reading: complicit in the genocide, as they take part in a national antigovernment demonstration, in Rome, June 1. (AP)

when they were exposed to fumes from a rudimentary explosive device used during the scuffles, local authorities reported.

The protests across Italy were organized by students opposed to the policies of the Meloni government, particular in education.

Clashes broke out in Turin when police blocked students trying to break through a security cordon and reach the door of the prefecture building in the central Piazza Castello.

Demonstrators used flagpoles to attack police vehicles outside the offices of public broadcaster RAI, while an effigy of education minister Giuseppe Valditara was set on fire.

At the city's popular museum of

cinema, protesters stripped the Italian tricolor from the entrance and replaced it with a Palestinian flag.

In Milan, a photo of Meloni was splashed with blood-red paint during a rally, while protesters in Rome chanted slogans including "Every day is a No-Meloni day.

Responding to the violent scenes in Turin, Meloni said: "Today too we witnessed unacceptable scenes of violence and chaos in some squares by the usual troublemakers.'

Expressing solidarity with the injured officers in a social media post, she wrote: "I hope that certain politicians stop protecting or justifying this violence and unambiguously join in condemning such serious and unworthy episodes.

to flood disaster zone BARCELONA, Spain, Nov 19, (AP):

Spain's royal couple returned Tuesday to the area devastated by last month's catastrophic flooding for the first time since enraged survivors pelted them and top elected officials with mud on their first visit to the disaster zone.

King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia visited the town of Chiva along with a central government minister and the regional leader of eastern Valencia, whom many citizens have slammed for bungling the flood response.

No mud flew this time as Felipe and Letizia shook hands with people at the beginning of their tour of the village. Other spectators took photos.

Chiva, a hilltop town some 30 kilometers (20 miles) to the west of Valencia city, was ripped apart by a crushing wall of water that overflowed a normally dry gorge on the night of Oct. 29.



Spain's King Felipe VI speaks with a woman next to Spain's Queen Letizia, as they visit the area devastated by last month's catastrophic flooding in Chiva, near Valencia, Spain on Nov 19. (AP)

People make their way along the Long Walk towards Windsor Castle in Windsor, England on Sept 18, 2022. (AP)

Police investigate burglary at Windsor Castle estate

British police are investigating a burglary on the Windsor Castle estate, fueling concerns about security at the royal residence west of

The suspects stole a pickup truck and a quad bike from a farm building on the estate just before midnight on Oct. 13, Thames Valley Police said in a statement. Police provided a general location for the property, which suggests that the burglary took place more than a mile from Windsor Castle.

The Sun newspaper, which first reported the burglary, said two masked men scaled a 6-foot (1.8 meter) fence before taking the vehicles and driving through a security

barrier to make their escape.
King Charles III and Queen
Camilla were not at Windsor Castle at the time of the raid. The newspaper suggested that Prince William and his family were at Adelaide Cottage, their home on

the estate, which is about a five-minute drive from the site of the

burglary.
Police said they are still investigating the incident. No arrests have been made.

The Sun last month reported that London's Metropolitan Police Service, which provides armed protection for the royals throughout Britain, had removed armed officers from the public entrances to Windsor Castle. (AP)

'Behavior of PRC has been concerning'

Alliance with Philippines will transcend administrations: Austin

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 19, (AP): US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Tuesday condemned China's dangerous actions against the Philippines and renewed a warning that the United States would defend its treaty ally if Filipino forces come under an armed attack in the increasingly volatile waters.

During a visit to the Philippine province of Palawan next to the disputed South China Sea, Austin was asked if the strong US military support to the Philippines would continue under incoming President Donald Trump, including \$500 million in new military funding.

Austin expressed belief that the strong alliance "will transcend" changes of administration.

"We stand with the Philippines and we condemn dangerous actions by the PRC against lawful Philippine operations in the South China Sea," he said, using the acronym of China's official name.

He added: "The behavior of PRC has been concerning. They've used dangerous and escalatory measures to enforce their expansive South China Sea maritime claims."

China has also had recent territorial spats with smaller coastal states, including Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia, over the key global trade and security route. Brunei and Taiwan are



In this photo provided by Philippine Department of National Defense, United States Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, (left), holds a joint press conference with Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro at the Philippines Western Command (WESCOM) to discuss bilateral ties in Palawan, Philippines on Nov 19. (AP)

also involved in long-unresolved dis-

The outgoing Biden administration has taken steps to strengthen an arc of military alliances across the Indo-Pacific region to better counter China, including in any future confrontation over Taiwan or in the South China Sea, which Beijing has claimed almost in

That has dovetailed with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's thrust to strengthen his country's external defenses, given an alarming escalation of territorial confrontations between Chinese and Filipinos forces in the South China Sea.

There has been intense speculation over how Trump would steer US military engagements in Asia.

Marcos told reporters Tuesday that he congratulated Trump on his presidential election victory in a telephone call and renewed Philippine commitment to continue strengthening its alliance with the U.S.

"I expressed to him our continuing desire to strengthen that relationship between our two countries, which is a relationship that is as deep as can possibly be because it has been for a very long time," Marcos said.

Austin was speaking during a joint news conference with his Philippine counterpart, Gilberto Teodoro, in the military headquarters in Palawan.

They were given a demonstration of an unmanned vessel the U.S. has funded for use by the Philippine Navy for intelligence-gathering and defense surveillance.

Austin "reaffirmed the ironclad US commitment to the Philippines" and reiterated that the allies' Mutual Defense Treaty covers both countries' armed forces, public vessels and aircraft... "anywhere in the South China Sea."



Guardians gather in front of the Wuxi Vocational Institute of Arts and Technology in Yixing, eastern Chinese city of Wuxi on Nov 17, a day after a stabbing attack took place. (AP)

Numerous children injured by vehicle outside an elementary school in China

TAIPEI, Taiwan, Nov 19, (AP): Numerous children were injured by a vehicle outside an elementary school in central China's Hunan province on Tuesday, reports said. Hours after the incident, the casualty count was unclear and authorities had yet to clarify if it was an accident or a deliberate at-

The incident follows a series of recent killings or attacks in China by people in vehicles or wielding knives.

Students were arriving for classes around 8 a.m. at Yong'an Elementary School in the city of Changde when a small white SUV drove into a crowd of children and adults, according to state media. Few details were released, reflecting China's reflexive inclination to suppress news about crime, protests and major accidents that could erode public confidence in the ruling Communist Party's self-declared ability to maintain social order.

Foreign governments criticize sentencing

45 pro-democracy activists get 4 to 10 yrs in prison in HK nat'l security case

HONG KONG, Nov 19, (AP): Forty-five ex-lawmakers and activists were sentenced to four to 10 years in prison Tuesday in Hong Kong's biggest national security case under a Beijing-imposed law that crushed a once-thriving pro-democracy move-

They were prosecuted under the 2020 national security law for their roles in an unofficial primary election. Prosecutors said their aim was to paralyze Hong Kong's government and force the city's leader to resign by aiming to win a legislative majority and using it to block government budgets indiscriminately.

The unofficial primary held in July 2020 drew 610,000 voters, and its winners had been expected to advance to the official election. Authorities postponed the official legislative election, however, citing public health risks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Legal scholar Benny Tai, whom the judges called the mastermind, received the longest sentence of 10 years. The judges said the sentences had been reduced for defendants who said they were unaware the plan was

unlawful However, the court said the penalties were not reduced for Tai and former lawmaker Alvin Yeung because they are lawyers who were "absolutely adamant in pushing for the implementation of the Scheme.

In the judgment posted online, the judges wrote that Tai essentially "advocated for a revolution" by publishing a series of articles over a period of months that traced his thinking, even though in a letter seeking a shorter sentence Tai said the steps were "never intended to be used as blueprint for any political action."

Two of the 47 original defendants were acquitted earlier this year. The rest either pleaded guilty or were found guilty of conspiracy to commit subversion. The judges said in their verdict that the activists' plans to effect change through the unofficial primary would have undermined the government's authority and created a constitutional crisis.

The judges rejected the reasoning from some defendants that the scheme would never have materialized, stating that "all the participants had put in every endeavor to make it a success.'

The judges highlighted that a great deal of time, resources and money were devoted to the organization of the primary election.

When the Primary Election took



People leave the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts in Hong Kong on Nov 19 following the sentencing in national security case. (AP)

place on the 10 and 11 July, no one had remotely mentioned the fact that Primary Election was no more than an academic exercise and that the Scheme was absolutely unattainable," the judgment read. "In order to succeed, the organizers and participants might have hurdles to overcome, that however was expected in every subversion case where efforts were made to overthrow or paralyze a government.'

Some of the defendants waved at their relatives in the courtroom after they were sentenced.

Gwyneth Ho, a journalist-turnedactivist who was jailed for seven years, said "our true crime for Beijing is that we were not content with playing along in manipulated elections' on her Facebook page.

"We dared to confront the regime with the question: Will democracy ever be possible within such a structure? The answer was a complete crackdown on all fronts of society," she wrote

Chan Po-ying, wife of defendant Leung Kwok-hung, told reporters she wasn't shocked when she learned her husband received a jail term of six years and nine months. She said they were trying to use some of the rights granted by the city's miniconstitution to pressure those who are in power to address the will of the

people. "This is an unjust imprisonment. They shouldn't be kept in jail for one day," said Chan, also the chair of the League of Social Democrats, one of the city's remaining pro-democracy

Emilia Wong, the girlfriend of Ventus Lau, said his jail term was within her expectations. She said the sentencing was a "middle phase" of history and she could not see the end point at this moment, but she pledged to support Lau as best as she could.

Philip Bowring, the husband of Claudia Mo, was relieved that the sentences were finally handed down.

Observers said the trial illustrated how authorities suppressed dissent following huge anti-government protests in 2019, alongside media crackdowns and reduced public choice in elections. The drastic changes reflect how Beijing's promise to retain the former British colony's civil liberties for 50 years when it returned to China in 1997 is increasingly threadbare, they said.

Beijing and Hong Kong governments insisted the national security law was necessary for the city's sta-

The sentencing spark criticism from foreign governments and rights groups, but Beijing defended the decisions.

The democracy advocates were among 47 people charged under a Beijing-imposed national security law in 2021 for their involvement in an unofficial primary election to pick opposition candidates. In the city's biggest national security case to date, they were accused of agreeing to veto government-proposed budgets indiscriminately after potentially securing a legislative majority to force a dissolution of the legislature and then the ouster of the city's leader.

The case involved pro-democracy figures across the spectrum. Thirtyone of them pleaded guilty to the charge of conspiracy to commit subversion. Fourteen others were convicted following a long trial. Two were acquitted.



Thousands of people gather outside New Zealand's parliament to protest a proposed law that would redefine the country's founding agreement between Indigenous Maori and the British Crown, in Wellington on Nov 19. (AP)

Tens of thousands crowd NZ Parliament grounds in support of Maori rights

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Nov 19, (AP): As tens of thousands crowded the streets in New Zealand's capital, Wellington, on Tuesday, the throng of people, flags aloft, had the air of a festival or a parade rather than a protest.

They were marching to oppose a law that would reshape the county's founding treaty between Indigenous Maori and the British Crown. But for many, it was also a celebration of a resurging Indigenous language and identity that colonization had once almost destroyed.

"Just fighting for the rights that our

tapuna, our ancestors, fought for," Shanell Bob said as she waited for the march to begin. "We're fighting for our tamariki, for our mokopuna, so they can have what we haven't been able to have," she added, using the Maori words for children and grandchildren.

What was likely the country's largest-ever protest in support of Maori rights - a subject that has preoccupied modern New Zealand for much of its young history - followed a long tradition of peaceful cross-country marches that have marked turning points in the nation's story.

"We're going for a walk!" one organizer proclaimed from the stage as crowds gathered at the opposite end of the city from the nation's Parliament. People had traveled from across the nation over the past nine days.

For many, the turnout reflected growing solidarity on Indigenous rights from non-Maori. At bus stops during the usual morning commute, people of all ages and races waited with Maori sovereignty flags. Some local schools said they would not register students as absent. The city's mayor joined the protest.

and killed at least 13 people in Tan-

The number of people trapped was unclear. Several people have told local media they have lost contact with relatives who they believed were in-

More than 80 people have been rescued from the four-story building that housed dozens of shops and collapsed Saturday morning in Dar Es Salaam.

Khan's party plans rally

Pakistan bans large gatherings in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, Nov 19, (AP): Pakistani authorities banned gatherings of five or more people in the capital ahead of a planned march by the supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The two-month ban announced Tuesday comes before a rally Sunday planned by Khan's party to pressure the government to release the imprisoned former leader.

Officials said the ban is aimed at ensuring peace by stopping any unlawful gathering in the current security environment. The government notice made no mention of any specific security threat, but militant violence has been surging in Pakistan. Last month, authorities had virtually locked down the city to thwart a similar big political rally by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, forcing the opposition to hold the gathering on the outskirts of the city.

Khan has been in prison for more than a year in connection with more than 150 criminal cases, but he remains popular and his party and supporters say the cases against him are politically motivated.

Khan was ousted in 2022 through a no-confidence vote in Parliament,



Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, (right), and Bushra Bibi, his wife, speak to the media before signing documents to submit surety bond over his bails in different cases, at an office of Lahore High Court in Lahore, Pakistan, on July 17, 2023. (AP)

and authorities say they are in talks with Khan's party to convince it to postpone the rally because of possible militant attacks.

Meanwhile, Pakistani security forc-

es raided a militant hideout in northwest Pakistan on Monday, sparking an hourslong shootout in which at least 10 insurgents were killed and several others were wounded, police said.



Presidential candidate Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, (center), casts his vote inside a polling station during the presidential election in Hargeisa, Somaliland, Wednesday, Nov 13. (AP)

Somaliland opposition leader wins presidential election

The opposition leader in Somalia's breakaway region of Somaliland won last week's election, the electoral commission said Tuesday.

Abdirahman Mohamed Abdul-

lahi of the main opposition Waddani Party received more than 50% of the votes cast. Abdullahi, 69, served as Somaliland's parliament

The opposition party campaigned on a platform of democratic reforms and social cohesion. They promised to turn around the economy and resolve youth unemployment. (AP)

Africa

3 killed in Cameroon: At least three people -- a soldier and two civilians -- have been killed in a separatist attack in Cameron's war-torn northwest region, local and security sources said Monday evening.

The civilians were driving along the Ndu-Foumban road early Monday when separatist fighters ambushed them, a security source in the region said.

"They (the civilians) gave the soldier a lift. Along the way, the separatists who were hiding in the bush

people and injuring two others," the source told Xinhua. Additional troops have been deployed to the road where attacks have become recurrent. A separatist insurgency has been

opened fire on their car, killing three

going on in Cameroon's two Anglophone regions of Northwest and Southwest since 2017. (Xinhua)

'Rescue efforts to continue': Rescue efforts continued for a third day Monday after a building collapsed

zania's commercial capital, with the government saying it will push on until all those trapped inside are saved.



- TASI PHILIPPINES - PSEi **PAKISTAN**

- DFMGI - Nikkei 225 KSE 100

+45.53 11,875.91 +19.06 4,731.72 38.414.43 +41.84 6.803.19 +852.86 95.884.69

Change Closing pts **EGYPT**

- EGX 30

Change Closing pts -176.04 30.688.30

Business

General index up by 0.53%

Boursa ends Tuesday with broad gains across indices

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): The Boursa Kuwait ended Tuesday's trading session on a positive note, with all major indices recording gains.

The General Index rose by 38.71 points (0.53%) to close at 7,359.03 points. Market activity was robust, with 336.5 million shares changing hands through 17,935 transactions, totaling KD 69 million (approximately USD 210.4 million).

The Main Market Index showed significant strength, climbing 102.27 points (1.54%) to reach 6,751.73 points. This segment saw 204.4 million shares traded through 10,893 transactions, valued at KD 26.3 million (USD 80.2 million).

The Premier Market Index also advanced, gaining 23.71 points (0.30%) to close at 7,875.32 points. Trading in this market involved 132 million shares across 7,042 transactions, worth KD 42.2 million (USD 128.7 million).

Additionally, the Main 50 Index increased by 76.79 points (1.18%) to 6,584.47 points. This index saw 98.4 million shares traded through 5,831 transactions, valued at KWD 15.8 million (approximately USD 48.19 mil-

The day's trading reflected a broadly positive sentiment across Kuwait's stock market, with all key indices registering gains, indicating renewed investor confidence.

KPC retains 24% as largest shareholder

Boursa report shows changes in ownership of 3 listed firms

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The latest daily report issued by the Boursa Kuwait reveals notable changes in the ownership structures of three publicly listed companies, reflecting strategic moves by investors, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

One significant change involves the Al-Oula Local Fuel Marketing Company, where Al-Maidan Dental Clinic Group, through Maidan Capital for buying and selling shares and real estate, has indirectly acquired a 5.135

percent stake. Al-Oula, a prominent player in the fuel marketing sector, has a capital of KD 40.46 million, distributed across 404.57 million shares. Its largest shareholder remains the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, holding a dominant 24 percent stake.

In another development, Ahmed Abdullah Al-Mansour increased his direct ownership in Warba Capital Holding Company, raising his stake from 10 percent to 11.10 percent.

Warba Capital, which operates with a capital of KD 3 million, has its shares divided into 30 million units, underscoring Al-Mansour's growing influence within the company.

Meanwhile, a notable exit was recorded in Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company, where Azmi Yahya Mohammed Ghanem has divested his 5.52 percent direct ownership, signaling a strategic shift.

These changes highlight the dynamic nature of Kuwait's financial markets as investors continuously recalibrate their positions in key companies.

Oil price dip to \$71.50 pb

(KUNA): The Kuwaiti oil price fell 23 cents to reach USD 71.50 per barrel on Monday, compared with USD 71.73 pb on Friday, according to the price announced by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC)

on Tuesday.

At the global market, Brent crude went up by USD 2.26 to USD 73.30 pb, and the West Texas Intermediate rose by USD 2.14 to hit USD 69.16 pb.



Offers customers easy banking experience

KFH takes the lead in digital banking solutions

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: As part of its endeavors to lead the digital transformation sphere in the banking sector, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continues to launch high-quality digital financial services and solutions, enhancing its technological infrastructure, and improving the means of providing technical assistance to KFH customers through different platforms, smart branches and self-service machines.

KFH is striving to capitalize on the swift advancements in Artificial Intelligence, Data Engineering, Fintech, Emarketing, and Digital Product Design and stringent cybersecurity protocols. Ultimately, KFH succeeded in converting many processes and functions from the manual system to the automated system using the Robotic Process Automation (RPA) application. The use of this technology increases better utilization of resources, enhances production efficiency, reduces service time for customers, achieves their satisfaction, deepens their confidence, and enhances their banking experience

Additionally, KFHonline (available through both a mobile app and website) offers over 150 services, whereas XTM devices and KFH Go smart branches offer around 50 different services. Accordingly, the customer has the option to choose between around 200 e-services offered through apps and other various means.

KFH services also include e-payment solutions, online account opening, instant card printing, selling and buying gold in addition to the many branchless banking transactions.

KFH also launched a new digital service called (WAMD). This service allows customers to send and receive money instantly and for free using their mobile numbers, 24/7.

KFH has succeeded in enrolling new customers through digital vending machines. This was made possible by the first mobile device in the market called D-POS, which allows customers to sign up and establish accounts on KFH systems instantly and from any location.

KFH also facilitated the exchange of credit and prepaid cards for KFH customers within 3 minutes using instant card issuance machines. Furthermore, it launched the first corporate mobile banking which provides five essential services to support their business. The Bank has also successfully implemented facial recognition technology based on biometric identity in its branches.

KFH customers can open a foreign currency account via KFH Online, which was previously only possible in branches. Also, KFH collaborated with Western Union to offer co-branded international money transfer services through the KFHOnline app. Customers are now able to open foreign currency savings accounts through KFH

Moreover, KFH offers its customers several banking card services, allowing its customers to temporarily suspend and deactivate their cards and view their Baitak Rewards Program points through KFHonline app. The Bank has also made progress in updating customer's Civil ID and authentication without the use of a physical card. Customers can transfer their funds from their prepaid card to their personal bank

The launch of Zaheb, a digital payment platform for businesses, has enhanced KFH's relationship with companies, and allowed corporate customers to easily pay by generating payment links and QR codes, eliminating the need for POS devices.

KFH also introduced three new debit card products with various features specifically designed for corporate customers for government use. One of these cards is issued with limited acceptance only on government KNET POS/PG terminals. This card has received positive feedback and attracted the interest



HSBC hosts launch event at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre.

Experts share insights on global financial trends

HSBC expands Global Private Banking in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: HSBC has officially launched its Global Private Banking services in Kuwait, uniquely positioned as an international bank with an investment advisory license to conduct private banking in the country.

The launch event, held at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre (JACC), brought together local business leaders to learn more about HSBC's exclusive wealth management services and gain insights into current global financial and geopolitical trends from visiting HSBC experts in investment

The launch underscores HSBC's commitment to expanding its wealth management services in the Middle East, offering world-class wealth solutions, global private banking expertise, an extensive international network and access to Commercial Banking and Global Banking & Markets capabilities.

Samer Alabed, CEO of HSBC Kuwait, said: "Kuwait, with its strategic location and diversifying economy, presents a significant opportunity for wealth management services. We see growing demand for more sophisticated wealth management services as Kuwait's vision continues to transform the country into a regional trade and investment hub."

Rayan Kazerooni, Market Head, Global Private Banking at HSBC Kuwait, added, "The launch of Global Private Banking in Kuwait is a significant milestone for HSBC and reinforces its commitment to Kuwait. We are excited to connect our clients to global opportunities and open up a world of personalised financial solutions tailored to their

HSBC Global Private Banking advises on a broad range of tailored solutions in Kuwait in line with international investment norms through a personal, bespoke services. Our advisory service covers best in class investment and wealth management in products such as equities, financial instruments and real estate across the globe including a catalogue of wealth planning, family office management and generational organisation and

transitioning of wealth. The launch event featured a presentation from Georgios Leontaris, Chief Investment Officer for Switzerland and

Kuwait real estate deals drop by 25.3% in 2nd week of Nov

Ahmadi governorate leads in real estate transactions

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Real estate transactions in the second week of November witnessed a 25.3 percent decrease in the number of deals and a 30 percent drop in deal values compared to the previous

According to the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department at the Ministry of Justice, there were approximately 112 real estate deals worth KD 58 million in the second week, compared to 150 deals valued at KD 83.146 million in the first week.

A member of the Real Estate Bro-

kers Union responsible for preparing the union's periodic statistics Suleiman Ahmed, explained that the total number of real estate deals in the first half of November reached 262, with a combined value of KD 141.246 million.

The private real estate accounted for 74.8 percent of the deals, with 196 transactions valued at KD 83.189 mil-

lion, or 58.9 percent of the total value. Investment real estate represented 24 percent of the total number of deals in the first half of November, with 63 transactions amounting to 39.1 percent of the total value, at approximately KD 55.246 million. In contrast to the decrease in trading for both private and investment real estate during the second week of the month compared to the first, there was a 28.8 percent decline in the number of private real estate deals and a 9.6 percent decrease in their value. Similarly, invest-

ment real estate saw a 42.5 percent drop

in the number of deals and a 40 percent decrease in the value of transactions.

There was a notable 100 percent increase in trading within the coastal strip system and the craft sector. Specifically two deals were recorded in the coastal strip with a total value of KD 1.5 million, and one deal in the craft sector valued at KD 1.3 million. This contrasts with no deals being recorded in these sectors during the first week of November.

In terms of geographical distribution, Ahmadi Governorate witnessed the largest share of transactions, with 33 real estate deals totaling KD 7.438 million. This included 22 private sector transactions worth KD 6 million and 11 investment sector transactions valued at KD 1.351 million

Following Ahmadi, Hawally Governorate recorded 29 transactions worth KD 22.646 million. This included 22 private sector deals amounting to KD

13.917 million and 7 investment sector deals valued at KD 8.729 million.

Farwaniya Governorate came third in the number of deals, with 16 transactions totaling KD 10.176 million. This included 11 private property deals worth KD 3.422 million, one craftsman deal worth KD 1.3 million, and four investment deals worth KD 5.454 million.

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate came in fourth place with 14 deals valued at KD 7.732 million, which included two deals on the coastal strip, 11 private deals worth KD 5.977 million, and one investment deal worth KD 255.79

In fifth place was Jahra Governorate, with 12 private sector deals totaling KD 4.199 million, while the Capital Governorate came last, with eight private deals worth KD 5.895 million.

From the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)

NBK wins gold for excellence in health and wellbeing

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) won the Gold Award for "Excellence in Health and Wellbeing" from the prestigious US-based Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) at the SHRM MENA STAR Awards 2024 held in Riyadh.

The award was received by Mr. Emad Al-Ablani, GM - Group Human Resources at National Bank of Kuwait, on the sidelines of the SHRM MENA Annual Conference and Expo. 2024, held in Saudi Arabia. The event aimed to highlight the key issues related to human capital development, especially those pertaining to attracting and retaining top talent and creating ideal future workplaces, as well as discussing the advanced WorkTech tools and exploring future

workplace strategies. The "Excellence in Health and Wellbeing" Awards highlight the achievements of organizations and recognize their remarkable success in promoting employee health and wellbeing, demonstrating an effective understanding of the relationship between employee health and work productivity, implementing innovative and comprehensive health and wellbeing programs, and creating a supportive and healthy work environment that enhances employee wellbeing and organizational performance.

Underscoring its firm belief that employees are its most valuable asset, NBK places substantial emphasis on supporting employees and improving their physical and mental health. In this context, and to foster a healthy work environment, NBK provides a fitness gym equipped with the latest exercise equipment, which is open for employees, before, after and even during working hours for their convenience under the supervision of high-class trainers, align-



Mr. Emad Al-Ablani receives the award.

ing with the bank's initiatives to raise health awareness and promote a healthy

NBK also provides a well-equipped clinic managed by Wara Hospital, which provides medical checkups, tests, and on-site visits by specialized doctors, as well as frequent awareness sessions to educate employees on various topics re-

lated to physical and mental health. Furthermore, NBK provides many programs and activities focusing on employee wellbeing and care, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. It also allows flexible working hours and paternity leave, during which the new father is allowed

to stay at home to bond with the newborn

NBK stands out as one of the few organizations in Kuwait with a unique work environment, akin to international peers by continuously providing employees with exceptional career development opportunities. This includes training programs and hands-on experience, which aim to help fresh graduates to navigate their way into the labor market and develop their skills and expertise through partnerships with leading international educational institutions to enable them lead banking sector development in the future. This ultimately results in increasing employees' loyalty and giving the bank the edge in a competitive labor

SHRM, the Society of Human Resource Management, creates better workplaces where employers and employees thrive together. As the voice of all things work, workers and the workplace, SHRM is the foremost expert, convener and thought leader on issues impacting today's evolving workplaces. With 325,000 HR and business executive members in 165 countries, SHRM impacts the lives of more than 235 million workers and families globally.

Zain ranked as a regional Leader in the Global Child Forum's 'The State of Children's Rights and Business 2024' Benchmark

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Zain Group, a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications operating in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, commemorates World Children's Day with its recent ranking as a regional leader for the second consecutive year in the final scores of Global Child Forum's 'The State of Children's Rights and Business 2024' benchmark report.

Amongst 3,000 of the largest companies globally, Zain scored higher than the sector and industry averages and tripled the ranking of many regional corporates in key children's rights categories. In the bench marking rankings, Zain scored 8.4/10 overall against a sector average of 5.6/10 and a regional average of just 2.8/10. The average of all companies benchmarked stood at 4.3/10.

Founded in 2009 by the Swedish Royal Family, Global Child Forum is a leading forum for children's rights and business, dedicated to innovative thinking, knowledge-sharing, and networking.

The report, conducted in collaboration with Boston Consulting Group, assessed how companies implement children's rights, and sustainability governance using publicly available data. This global study covered nine sectors and assessed companies against 25 indicators.

As a Leader, Zain was described in the report as a company that has developed and



Zain-Global Child Forum 2024

implemented several policies

and practices that address your

organization's impact on chil-

dren's rights across several

important areas. Your compa-

ny has taken concrete steps to

move beyond policies and has

embedded children's rights into

company practice, following-up

through monitoring, transparent

reporting, and programs to cre-

ate action for children's rights."

Jennifer Suleiman, Zain

Group's Chief Sustainability

Officer commented, "This rank-

ing that coincides with World's

Child Day on November 20 re-

affirms Zain's commitment to

protect and empower children's

rights across our markets. Our

children are our future and at

Zain, we understand that pro-

tecting children is not just a

responsibility but a moral obli-

gation, and we are dedicated to

ensuring that children's rights

and online safety are safeguard-

ed through our core business

practices. With the expansion

and growth of Zain's activities

☐ "Safeguarding children's rights through core business practices is extremely important to Zain" ☐ Zain triples its score ofthe regional average and scored higher than the sector average in key children's rights categories scoring 8.4/10 overall ☐ Commemorating this ranking on World Children's Day, November 20

across the region, we are fully committed to addressing the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 16.2, calling on ending all forms of violence against children by 2030."

The scoring categories

Zain scored perfect marks in several categories in the benchmarking exercise, including standards &frameworks; grievance mechanisms; collaboration with or donations to NGOs; minimum age of employment; decent working conditions & family friendly policies; materiality assessment; supplier assessment; product responsibility; resource use and damage to the environment; and community impacts, cementing its position as a leading proponent of corporate governance, sustainability, inclusion, diversity and equity, children's rights, and sound business practices.

Examples of child awareness-focused campaigns by Zain

With the aim to raise awareness on children's rights and online safety, Zain expanded its partnerships with child and family helplines across its operating markets. The partnerships aim to enhance collaboration between the helplines, Zain, and key child protection stakeholders; work together to launch new technolo-

gies and software to enhance the helplines; create awareness campaigns; and expand services to include instant messaging and social media. Zain has been actively work-

Zain Group HQ

ing on implementing child sexual abuse material blocking mechanisms across its operations. The company is a part of the GSMA Mobile Alliance against Digital Child Sexual Exploitation. The Mobile Alliance focuses on taking proactive steps to fight technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation, adopting a multi-stakeholder approach, and engaging with key international stakeholders to ensure a well-coordinated response in countering digitally facilitated child sexual exploitation and abuse.

As an advocate for children's rights and in alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 16.2, which aims to end all forms of violence against children by 2030, Zain continued to support the cause by introducing a powerful campaign in response to the ris-

ing global violence that is impacting children disproportionately. This initiative followed the escalating crises and conflicts worldwide, where children are bearing the brunt of severe hardships and violence, affecting their physical and mental health.

The campaign, titled #Every-ChildHasRights, was designed to highlight the critical threats faced by children in conflictaffected regions and support for their protection. It included a compelling video underscoring the urgent need to safeguard children's rights, engaging audiences in meaningful and emotional dialog. Through this campaign, Zain aimed to create a global call to action and foster a deeper understanding of the pressing issues at hand. In 2024, the campaign successfully garnered 16.5 million impressions across Zain's footprint, amplifying its message and driving significant awareness on this crucial issue.

Global Child Forum bases its benchmark scores on a company's publicly available information, systematically assessing a corporate's response to impacts on children's rights. Scores are not a measure of actual compliance with policies, outcomes of policies and/or programmes, nor should scores be construed as investment advice.

A comprehensive view of Zain's Global Child Forum's Corporate Sector and Children's Rights Benchmark 2024scorecard can be viewed here: https:// globalchildforum.org/companyscore/?c=zainENDS

horns, toy tractors and an angry message, British farmers descended on Parliament on Tuesday to protest a hike in inheritance tax that they say will deal a "hammer blow" to struggling family farms.

U.K. farmers are rarely as militant as their European neighbors, and Britain has not seen largescale protests like those that have snarled cities in France and other European countries. Now, though, farmers say they will step up their action if the government doesn't listen.

"Everyone's mad," said Olly Harrison, co-organizer of a protest that aims to flood the street outside Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office with farmers. He said many famers "want to take to the streets and block roads and go full French.'

Organizers have urged protesters not to bring farm machinery into central London on Tuesday Instead, children on toy tractors will lead a march around Parliament Square after a rally addressed by speakers including former "Top Gear" TV host and celebrity farmer Jeremy Clarkson. Another 1,800 farmers held a "mass lobby" of lawmakers nearby organized by the National Farmers' Union.

"The human impact of this policy is simply not acceptable, it's wrong," NFU President Tom Bradshaw told farmers gathered for the mass lobby. "It's kicking the legs out from under British

Volatile weather exacerbated by climate change, global instability and the upheaval caused by Britain's 2020 departure from the European Union have all added to the burden on U.K. farmers. Many feel the Labour Party government's tax change, part of an effort to raise billions of pounds to fund public services, is the last straw.

"Four out of the last five years, we've lost money," said Harrison, who grows cereal crops on his family farm near Liverpool in northwest England. "The only thing that's kept me going is doing it for my kids. And maybe a little bit of appreciation on the land allows you to keep borrowing, to keep going. But now that's just disappeared overnight.

The flashpoint is the government's decision in its budget last month to scrap a tax break dating from the 1990s that exempts agricultural property from inheritance tax. From April 2026, farms worth more than 1 million pounds (\$1.3 million) face a 20% tax when the owner dies and they are passed on to the next generation. That is half the 40% inheritance tax rate levied on other land and property in the U.K.

Starmer's center-left government says the "vast majority" of farms -- about 75% -- will not be affected, and various loopholes mean that a farming couple can pass on an estate worth up to 3 million pounds (\$3.9 million) to their children free of tax.

Supporters of the tax say it will recoup money from wealthy people who have bought up agricultural land as an investment, driving up the cost of farmland in the process.

"It's become the most effective way for the super rich to avoid paying their inheritance tax," Environment Secretary Steve Reed wrote in the Daily Telegraph, adding that high land prices were "robbing young farmers of the dream of owning

But the famers' union says more than 60% of working farms could face a tax hit. And while farms may be worth a lot on paper, profits are often small. Government figures show that income for most types of farms fell in the year to the end of February 2024, in some cases by more than 70%. Average farm income ranged from about 17,000 pounds (\$21,000) for grazing livestock farms to 143,000 pounds (\$180,000) for specialist



Britain's Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, center, speaks with religious leaders during a breakfast roundtable meeting for faith leaders as part of Inter Faith Week at 10 Downing Street, in London, on Nov. 14, 2024. (AP)

Bitcoin hits \$93K, crypto market cap tops \$3.06tn

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Over the weekend, investors shifted their focus to alternative cryptocurrencies, collectively adding over \$100 billion to the market capitalization, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This surge propelled the total cryptocurrency market cap to an unprecedented \$3.06

On Wednesday, Bitcoin reached a new milestone, surpassing \$93,000 for the first time. This rally was bolstered by Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election and the election of pro-cryptocurrency lawmakers to

These developments have fueled optimism that Bitcoin could reach \$100,000 before Trump's inauguration on January 20.

UK farmers plan to protest Asian shares gain after at Parliament over tax hike US stocks regain stride

Oil prices dip

BANGKOK, Nov 19, (AP): Asian shares advanced Tuesday after most U.S. stocks ticked higher to recover some of their swoon from

Oil prices fell and U.S. futures edged higher. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 rose 0.5% to 38,414.43 and the Kospi in Seoul was up 0.1% to 2,471.95.

Chinese shares rebounded from early losses. They have wavered under concern over potential tariff hikes on by Presidentelect Donald Trump's future administration and worries that recently announced stimulus policies won't have enough impact to break the economy out of the doldrums.

The Shanghai Composite index rose 0.7% to 3,346.01, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng dipped and then recovered, adding 0.4% higher to 19,651.75.

"The broader market sentiment remains cautious, with futures showing resilience even as reasonable fears of a looming global trade war cast a shadow over bolder directional moves," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary

India's Sensex jumped 1.4%, while the Taiex in Taiwan surged

1.3%. In Bangkok, the SET gained 1.1%. On Monday, the S&P 500 rose 0.4% to 5,893.62 for its first gain in three days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped

0.1% to 43,389. The Nasdaq composite gained 0.6% to 18,791.81. Stocks regained some momentum after giving back more than half their postelection gains at the end of last week. Investors had sent the S&P 500 nearly 4% higher in the days immediately following Trump's presidential win. Bank stocks, smaller companies and other areas of the market seen as the biggest winners from Trump's preference for lower tax rates, higher tariffs and lighter regulation did particularly well.

Attention also has turned to who Trump might nominate as his future Treasury secretary

"Given the large U.S. budget deficit, investors will probably want to see a safe pair of hands being chosen," ING Economics said in a commentary



A currency trader reacts near a screen showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), left, and the foreign exchange rate between U.S. dollar and South Korean won at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024. (AP)

Japan, UK PMs agree to launch economic 'two-plus-two' talks

TOKYO, Nov 19, (KUNA): Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and his British counterpart Keir Starmer have agreed to launch an economic version of the "two-plus-two" talks among their foreign and economy ministers, Japan's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Ishiba and Starmer reached the agreement at their meeting on sidelines of the Group of 20 (G20) summit in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro on Monday, the ministry said in a press release.

The two leaders also shared the view that achieving strong economic growth is a common priority between the two countries.

The new ministerial framework will aim to "further advance bilateral cooperation, in the field of economy including trade and economic-security between Japan and the UK." according to the ministry.

Gulf Bank announces Nov 30, 2024 as final date to enter world's largest draw for KD 2mln grand prize

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Gulf Bank has announced that the journey for the AlDanah Millionaire Account, offering a grand prize of KD 2 million, has entered its final phase. The draw for this record-breaking banking prize is set to take place on February 13, 2025, in the presence of representatives from the Ministry

of Commerce and Industry and Ernst & Young. This milestone reinforces Gulf Bank's commitment to delivering extraordinary rewards and surprises. In October 2024, the bank achieved a historic moment by naming the largest number of banking prize winners in Kuwait, with 100 individuals each receiving KD 1,000. For the first time, the quarterly prize of KD 100,000 was shared among multiple winners rather than being awarded to a single recipient.

Gulf Bank has updated the AlDanah prize structure, making it even more rewarding for participants. The enhancements include raising the grand prize from KD 1.5 million to KD 2 million and redistributing the quarterly prize of KD 100,000 among 100 winners, each receiving KD 1,000. The updated structure now features two major prizes annually: KD 2 million in the annual



draw and KD 1 million in the semi-annual draw. Additionally, monthly draws continue to award KD 1,000 to 10 winners, along with extra KD 100,000 draws, one of which is divided among

The AlDanah Millionaire Account is regarded as one of Kuwait's best savings accounts, offering regular draws with valuable prizes and unique benefits for account holders. Monthly opportunities include KD 1,000 for 10 winners, two quarterly draws worth KD 100,000 each, a semi-annual draw with a KD 1

million prize, and the annual grand prize of KD 2 million. A unique advantage of the Al-Danah Millionaire account is that it is the only account in Kuwait where your chances of winning carry over from one year to the next, as part of the bank's loyalty and reward program.

To increase their chances of winning, customers must maintain a minimum deposit of KD 200 in the account or increase their balance to improve their odds of winning in the monthly, quarterly, and annual draws.

Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional customer service while contributing sustainably to the community. Through its extensive branch network and innovative digital services, the bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring a seamless experi-

In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, "New Kuwait," and its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships, Gulf Bank is dedicated to driving robust sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The bank is committed to implementing strategically selected and diverse sustainability programs both internally and externally.

What's On

India, Kuwait strengthen cultural bonds with stunning performances

IBPC presents mesmerizing festival of Indian classical music

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes Arab Times/Al-Sevassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) Kuwait presented the Lakshmi Narayana Global Music Festival, celebrating the rich tradition of Indian classical music at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Center (JACC).

In his remarks, the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Dr Adarsh Swaika said, "This is the second time Dr L. Subramaniam is performing in Kuwait" and added, such events solidify the cultural bonds between India and Kuwait.

The Indian envoy also spoke of the cultural affinity between the two countries. Culture is a very soft approach to understanding each other and we have been doing it for centuries in various forms whether in the area of food, films, music, traditional items or spices; similarly Kuwait is known in India for its pearls, dates and Arabian horses in the 19th and the 20th centuries and we need to further strengthen the cultural affinities between our countries.

The violin festival drew a diverse audience, united by their shared appreciation for the art of string music. Music enthusiasts of all ages filled the hall, from seasoned classical aficionados eager to experience virtuoso performances to curious newcomers discovering the magic of the violin for the first time.

Families, couples, and solo attendees gathered, creating an atmosphere of shared anticipation and excitement as the lights dimmed and the first notes filled

Among the audience were students of music, their eyes fixed intently on the performers, taking in every stroke of the bow and intricate finger movement. Cultural connoisseurs and



The Indian Ambassador, Mrs Swaika, musicians and IBPC members pose for a photo-



Indian Ambassador Dr Adarsh Swaika addressing the gathering



The Indian envoy presenting the memento Dr L. Subramaniam.



The musicians



View of the audience

casual listeners alike leaned into the melodies, their expressions reflecting the emotional journey of the compositions.

The festival's inclusive nature created a harmonious blend of attendees, proving that the power of music transcends backgrounds and speaks directly to the heart.

Indian classical music boasts a rich and ancient tradition that spans thousands of years, deeply rooted in the spiritual and cultural fabric of the country. It is built on two primary systems: Hindustani classical music, prevalent in the northern regions, and Carnatic classical music, associated with the south.

Rooted in ancient texts such as the Natya Shastra, Indian classical music has been a cornerstone of rituals, celebrations, and storytelling, with its intricate melodies and rhythms evoking a wide array of emotions.

Over centuries, this music has evolved while maintaining its essence, continuing to inspire and enrich generations. The art form's ability to transcend language and cultural boundaries has made it a globally respected symbol of India's artistic and intellectual legacy.

The event, presented the father-son duo of Dr L. Subramaniam and Ambi Subramaniam, accompanied by mrindangam virtuoso V.V. Ramana Murthy; acclaimed table maestro Tanmoy Bose; T.N. Radhakrishnan who is continuing a legacy of rich Carnatic tradition and world-renowned morsing artiste G. Satya Sai T.N., was held under the patronage of the Embassy of India in Kuwait on Nov 18, 2024, at the National Theater - Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Cultural Center (JACC).

This exclusive festival was an evening of exquisite perfor-



Photos by Samer Shiker

Cake cutting marks 60 years of Belgium-Kuwait relations

Kuwait's humanitarian efforts praised

Embassy of Belgium celebrates King's Day

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Kuwait and Belgium have nourished excellent relations since the independence of the State of Kuwait, so much so that Belgium took part in the international coalition to liberate Kuwait from its invaders.

"I am particularly proud to mention the outstanding contribution from the Belgian Navy to mine-clearing operations. The last Belgian ships left the Gulf on July 14, 1991," said the Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Christian Dooms.

He was speaking on the occasion of the King's Day which is celebrated November 15 in Belgium since 1866. Initially, it was the King's birthday and later the day of Saint Leopold.

The guest of the evening was Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs, Mohammad Hayatee, representative of HE Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Kuwaiti Foreign

The Belgian envoy also extended his gratitude and respect to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and to Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

This year, the Belgian envoy said, "we celebrate the 60th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. In fact, the diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Belgium officially began in 1963, and in 1964 His Excellency Ambassador Willy Stevens presented his



H.E. Christian Dooms, Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait

credentials to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, to become the Kingdom of Belgium's first ambassador to Kuwait. In 1985, the State of Kuwait opened its embassy in the Kingdom of Belgium."

Speaking of the economic ties, he said, several projects are in the pipeline including an exhibition of smurfs, the little blue creatures of Belgian origin. The Belgian economc mission was to arrive in Kuwait this year, but, for organizational reasons, this mission has been postponed to April 2025.

"It is my intention to enhance the people-to-people contacts and the trade flows between Belgium and Kuwait. In order to succeed in this undertaking, I have to overcome an important hurdle, though. I am referring to the lack of a direct flight between Brussels and Kuwait. I keep working

on this crucial file," he said. "In the multilateral environment, he added, "Belgium and Kuwait share the same vision in a lot of areas. Our both countries have a seat at the Human Rights Council. This is a promising avenue for closer cooperation." He reminded, that Belgium partici-

pated in the EU-GCC Summit on October 16, which was held in Brussels. This was the first summit at the level of Heads of State and Government. The regional context featured

prominently during the discussions between the political leaders. The fate of men, women and children in Gaza, Lebanon, Sudan and Ukraine deserve our full attention, and our thoughts go to all the civilians who suffer from the "Countries like ours, which have

experienced the plight of invasions, have a role to play to encourage respect of the UN Charter, its principles and the peaceful resolution of con-"On this issue, I am confident that

the State of Kuwait, with its discreet but considerable capacity to liaise with other countries and to support peace and dialogue, can do a lot. "We commend the Kuwaiti gov-

ernment for its generous and steadfast humanitarian support to the Palestinian people and to the people of Lebanon and Sudan," said the Belgian

On another note, he said, "I would also like to reflect briefly on our successful Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first half of the year. It allowed me to reach out to Kuwaiti audiences to highlight the program and specific tasks of the Belgian Presidency as well as to shed some light on the multiple areas the EU is engaging in and, of course, to promote Belgium. This was a great

Warba Bank announces winners of Al Sunbula weekly draw, Al Sunbula Kids and monthly student reward

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Warba Bank, a leader in innovative and Sharia-compliant banking in Kuwait, announced the winners of the weekly Al Sunbula account draw, in addition to the winners of the Al Sunbula Kids account draw and monthly reward in the Bloom student account

Held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to ensure transparency and fairness, the draws continue to

Sunbula account, in addition to five winners in the Bloom account draw. This week, ten winners from Warba Bank's Al Sunbula account customers each received KD 1,000. The winners are: Mr. Ossama Al Shaarani Mohammed, Ms. Maryam Abdul Latif Al-Ghamlas, Ms. Mona Hamdan

reward ten weekly winners with Al

Mubarak Al-Azmi, Mr. Issa Mohammed Al-Rashidi, Mr. Iyad Abdul Fat-Al Mutawa tah Najib Shanar, Mr. Saud Abdul Aziz Al-Awadhi, Mr. Yousef Mohammed Al-Failakawi, Mr. Musaed Mutlaq Sanad Al-Mutairi, Ms. Awatif Saqer Saif Al-Odhaila and Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Muhanna

As for Al Sunbula Kids draw, seven winners were announced. The winners are: M. Dima Aziz Sayer Al-Dhafiri, Mr. Mohammed Nasser Manawer Al-Daihani, Ms. Lulwa Yousef Jassim Reda, Mr. Abdul Razzaq Mohammed Bader Al-Kandari, Mr. Yaqoub Fawaz Yousef Buresli, Ms. Jenan Abdullah Faisal Al-Farhood, Mr. Ahmad Talal Abdul Karim

In the monthly students' reward draw, winners were:Ms. Sarah Bader Obaid Al-Maye, Ms. Lina Ahmad Ali Al-Mutairi, Ms. Reem Btihan Khalifa Al-Salbi, Ms. Sarah Falah Suwaid Al-Rashidi, Ms. Rahaf Rajaan Fahad Ibrahim.

The Bloomaccount caters to young, tech-savvy customers, offering a unique digital banking experience tailored to their needs. With an interface inspired by popular social media apps, it delivers a fast, user-friendly experience designed to align with the aspirations of today's youth.

As for Al Sunbula account, it offers customers a unique opportunity to earn financial returns on their balance throughout the year, while also providing them with chances to win cash prizes.

Speaking of the draws, Ahmed M. Almutawa, Director Region Retail Banking Group at Warba Bank said: "The Sunbula account is an ideal account for customers looking to save while enjoying financial returns on their balance. Customers with a minimum deposit of KD 100 enter the weekly and grand draws. Each KD 10 in the account provides a chance to win, calculated based on the lowest monthly balance. No restrictions apply on deposits or withdrawals—the more customers deposit, the higher their chances of win-

ning."
Warba Bank continues to lead the way in digital banking with its advanced solutions. The bank has introduced an electronic Customer Onboarding service, allowing noncustomers to open an Al Sunbula account online within five minutes through the bank's website. This process eliminates the need for branch visits and highlights Warba Bank's commitment to delivering convenience and innovation.

Having achieved significant milestones in a short period, Warba Bank has acquired a leading position as a provider of innovative digital banking services to individuals and businesses. The Bank is also one of the local banks with the highest number of shareholders, further strengthening its commitment to serving every segment of the local community.

'Win with KIB Rewards' campaign

KIB announces monthly draw winners

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has announced the draw winners of its Win with KIB Rewards' campaign for the month of October. Running monthly until the end of the year, the campaign aims to reward customers who use KIB's Banking App to open an Al Dirwaza account, issue a Multicurrency prepaid card, or open a deposit investment of any kind. The sixth batch of winners who won 3,000 reward points each are Ahmed Abdelraouf Elsayed Abdelrahman, Danah Mohammed Abdullateef Alshuwatti, Abdulaziz Waleed Abdullah Alsane, Hebah Ibrahim Abdullateef Abu Sewan and Anwar Hamed Sayed Alrifaei.

Commenting on the occasion, Nawaf Al-Khrayef, Assistant General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB, said: "We are delighted to congratulate the sixth group of winners in this exceptional campaign, which is a great opportunity to reward our customers for their loyalty. We will continue to provide innovative banking solutions that meet their aspirations and fulfill all their needs, enhancing their overall banking experience and lifestyle, in line with our 'Bank for Life' slogan." He added: "At KIB, we remain committed to adopting a comprehensive strategy aimed at providing the best banking benefits, particularly with regard to the KIB Rewards Program, in addition to encouraging all customer segments to use our digital platforms

complete

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transactions

convenience

Customers

can qualify for

and participate

in the draws

by using the KIB Banking

with

and ease.



Al-Khrayef

App to open an Al Dirwaza account, issue a Multicurrency prepaid card, or open a deposit investment of any kind. Winners can redeem their reward points on KIB's rewards online market platform, which features an extensive list of participating outlets, including electronics services, retail products, and

In addition to this and numerous other campaigns, KIB offers a wide variety of products with unparalleled benefits. Those who open an Al Dirwaza account can enjoy weekly and monthly draws, with one chance to enter the draw for every KD 1 deposited, culminating in a Mega Draw. The Multicurrency prepaid card offers a great deal of flexibility, allowing customers to use six currencies simultaneously and choose from a total of 12 currencies. Additionally, deposits starting from KD 1,000 are given competitive profit rates.

The Bank encourages its customers to stay informed about the campaign's latest developments and news, as well as to learn more about the KIB Rewards Program, by following its social media accounts and visiting its website.

It is worth mentioning that KIB spares no effort in launching initiatives and campaigns that reward its customers, while continuously striving to enhance the quality of its banking products and services. The Bank aims to elevate its banking experience by complementing digital financial solutions with attractive rewards, maintaining its leading position as a reliable partner in the

e-vouchers, and much more.

Features



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

Obituaries

Shuntaro Tanikawa, a Japanese poet and translator, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Tokyo, on May 25,

Master of modern verse

Japanese poet Shuntaro Tanikawa has died at 92

TOKYO, Nov 19, (AP): Shuntaro Tanikawa, who pioneered modern Japanese poetry, poignant but conversational in its divergence from haiku and other traditions, has died. He was 92.

Tanikawa, who translated the "Peanuts" comic strip and penned the lyrics for the theme song of the animation series "Astro Boy," died Nov. 13, his son Kensaku Tanikawa said Tuesday. He said his father died at a Tokyo hospital due to old age.

Shuntaro Tanikawa stunned the literary world with his 1952 debut "Two Billion Light Years of Solitude," a bold look at the cosmic in daily life, sensual, vivid but simple in its use of everyday language. Written before Gabriel García Márquez' "One Hundred Years of Solitude," it became a bestseller.

Tanikawa's "Kotoba Asobi Uta," or "Word Play Songs," is a rhythmical experiment in juxtaposing words that sound similar, such as "kappa," a mythical animal and "rappa," a horn, that makes for a joyful singsong compilation, filled with alliterations and onomatopoeia.

"For me, the Japanese language is the ground. Like a plant, I place my roots, drink in the nutrients of the Japanese language, sprouting leaves, flowers and bearing fruit," he said in a 2022 interview with The Associated Press at his Tokyo home.

Tanikawa explored the poetic, not only in the repetitive music of the spoken word but also the magic hidden in little things.

One of his works is titled, "I wanted to talk to you in the kitchen in the middle of the night.

"In the past, there was something about it being a job, being commissioned. Now, I can write

as I want," he said. In every work Tanikawa tackled, including the script for Kon Ichikawa's "Tokyo Olympiad," a documentary film of the 1964 Tokyo Games, the respectful love for the beauty of the Japanese lan-

He also translated Mother Goose, Maurice Sendak and Leo Lionni. Tanikawa has in turn been widely translated, including English, Chinese and various Euro-

pean languages.
Some of his works were made into picture books for children, and they are often featured in Japanese school textbooks. He also incorporated Japanese words derived from foreign origins into his poems like Coca-Cola

In his prose poem with that title, in which a boy is opening a Coke can, he wrote: "If, for instance, he saw the infinite universe that started or ended at the tip of his can, he was totally unaware of it. One might be able to opine that he named every bit of the unknown about to swallow him with all the vocabulary he could muster, which included his future vocabulary that was yet dormant in his subconscious.'

In his debut poem that catapulted him to stardom, he is more

"Because the universe goes on expanding, we are all uneasy. With the chill of two billion light-years of solitude, I suddenly sneezed," is the way the poem ends, as translated by William I. Elliott and Kazuo

When asked about it, Tanikawa acknowledged it felt as though someone else had written it, but noted he still thought it was a good

"Tanikawa's poetry reflects a metaphysical and quasi-religious attitude toward experience. In simple, spare language, he sketches profound ideas and emotional truths," according to the Poetry Foundation, a US literary organi-

Tanikawa was born in 1931, a son of philosopher Tetsuzo Tanikawa, and began writing poetry in his teens, circulating with the famous poets of that era, like Makoto Ooka and Shuji Terayama.

Father of budget travel

Arthur Frommer, travel guide innovator, passes away at 95

NEW YORK, Nov 19, (AP): Arthur Frommer, whose "Europe on 5 Dollars a Day" guidebooks revolutionized leisure travel by convincing average Americans to take budget vacations abroad, has died. He was 95.

Frommer died from complications of pneumonia, his daughter Pauline Frommer said Monday.

"My father opened up the world to so many people," she said. "He believed deeply that travel could be an enlightening activity and one that did not require a big budget.'

Frommer began writing about travel while serving in the US Army in Europe in the 1950s. When a guidebook he wrote for American soldiers overseas sold out, he launched what became one of the travel industry's best-known brands, self-publishing "Europe on 5 Dollars a Day" in 1957.

"It struck a chord and became an immediate best-seller," he recalled in an interview with The Associated Press in 2007, on the 50th anniversary of the book's debut.

The Frommer's brand, led today by his daughter Pauline, remains one of the best-known names in the travel industry, with guidebooks to destinations around the world, an influential social media presence, podcasts and a radio show.

Frommer's philosophy - stay in inns and budget hotels instead of five-star hotels, sightsee on your own using public transportation, eat with locals in small

cafes instead of fancy restaurants - changed the way Americans traveled in the mid- to late 20th century. He said budget travel was preferable to luxury travel "because it leads to a more authentic experience." That message encouraged average people, not just



Arthur Frommer, (background), poses with his daughter, Pauline, in New York, Jan. 6, 2017. (AP)

the wealthy, to vacation abroad. It didn't hurt that his books hit the market as the rise of jet travel made getting to Europe easier than crossing the Atlantic by ship. The books became so popular that there was a time when you couldn't visit a place like the Eiffel Tower without spotting Frommer's guidebooks in the hands of every other American tourist.

Frommer's advice also became so standard that it's hard to remember how radical it seemed in the days before discount flights and backpacks. "It was really pioneering stuff," Tony Wheeler, founder of the Lonely Planet guidebook company, said in an interview in 2013. Before Frommer, Wheeler said, you could find guidebooks "that would tell vou everything about the church or the temple ruin. But the idea that you wanted to eat somewhere and find a hotel or get from A to B -- well, I've got a huge amount of respect for

Aussie icon brings his songs to NYC

Australia holds Kelly as its own iconic treasure

NEW YORK, Nov 19, (AP): During his first visit to New York in seven years, Paul Kelly made sure to stop at Katz's deli, check out a friend's restaurant recommendation in Little Italy, and take some long walks. Then there was business to attend to, when he stepped onstage at a Bleecker Street

club to sing his songs.

To followers back home in Australia, where a Kelly show at the Sydney Opera House sells out, that's something like a New Jersey tourist finding Bruce Springsteen strumming his guitar in the corner of a Melbourne bar.

While the world is more connected today than ever, it is still a big place, and regional differences abound in cuisine, culture and other traditions. The 69-year-old Kelly illustrates the phenomenon. He's iconic and growing in popularity in Australia, while a cult figure - at best - elsewhere.

"He's like our Bruce Springsteen," said Vicki Zubovic, an expatriate who came to Kelly's mid-October show at New York's Le Poisson Rouge nightclub. "He tells our stories, about love, loss and all of life."

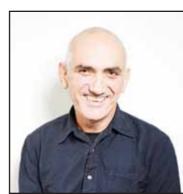
Other Australians in the audience sing along to references from home in his music - like the MCG, or Melbourne Cricket Grounds.

Kelly also paid debts, and showed his admiration for, the United States. He started the show with "Careless." one of his best-known songs, with the opening line of "how many cabs in New York City?" He included "Everything's Turning to White," his composition based on the Raymond Carver short story "So Much Water So Close to Home." The story of a new love, "Gonna Be Good," references Johnny Cash's "I Walk the Line." "The line is narrow," Kelly sang. "The line is

long."
He's a plain-spoken songwriter whose best work is rich in emotional resonance. That's what struck one of America's best songwriters, Lucinda Williams, when her husband Tom Overby took her to see Kelly in a Los Angeles club several years ago. Williams had heard his name while touring in Australia, but never his music.

'I was completely blown away, she recalled in an interview with The Associated Press. "I remember turning to Tom with a look of awe mixed with admiration and saying, 'God, this guy is really good.'"

So why the relative anonymity on this side of the world? Kelly's best chance may have come in the early 1990s when signed to a major label, A&M Records, after he emerged playing with rock 'n' roll bands like the Dots and Messengers in the 1980s, but without a quick stateside success he was dropped. "Part of it might be the record industry," said Williams, who has her own horror stories. "Let's just blame it on them.



Australian singer-songwriter Paul Kelly poses for a portrait in New York, Jan. 23, 2013. (AP)

His restless eclecticism probably harms him. He's recorded bluegrass music, an album of Shakespearian sonnets, a blues collaboration of songs performed at funerals and a musical interpretation of poems inspired by birds. Tough sells for a music marketer, in other words.

Then mix in some bad luck and simple geography. For his first time in the U.S. this fall since the pandemic, Kelly was to open a tour headlined by Shawn Colvin and Keb' Mo', but it was canceled due to the bluesman's heart surgery. Over the years, he's lost money on U.S. tours. The temptation to stay home and play in arenas is obvious.

He comes over to the United States as much as he can, but how people respond is out of his hands, Kelly said over lunch the day after his New York

"That's life," he said. "That's show business.

"When I started writing songs and performing music, I never thought of it as a career," he said. "In fact, I hate the word 'career.' For me, I'm hoping to have a job where my work is my play. I manage to make a living out of it, so everything else is a bonus.

A new album this fall shows Kelly's storytelling ability. Images of the "thermos of sweet tea steaming," cockatoos calling and fishing lines in the back of the car on "Going to the River with Dad" make a listener accompany Kelly on a trip with his reallife father, who died when his son was 13. In "All Those Smiling Faces," he brings photo albums to life as he sings, "get on the floor and dance! You don't have forever."

Kelly cites the work of songwriters like Ray Davies, Lou Reed and Chuck Berry as inspirations. "You can see their songs," he said. "They're cinematic. That's why I sort of lean that way."

Family is a big part of his work. On 'When I First Met Your Ma," Kelly is a man who tells his children about their parent's courtship. "Love like a bird flies away," he sings. "You'll find out the only way.

Film



This image released by Janus and Sideshow Films shows Kani Kusruti in a scene from 'All We Imagine As Light.' (AP)

Tale of love, struggle and survival in Kapadia's film

A slice of Mumbai life in 'All We Imagine'

LOS ANGELES, Nov 19, (AP): The rhythms of bustling, working-class Mumbai are brought to vivid life in "All We Imagine as Light." The stunning narrative debut of filmmaker Payal Kapadia explores the lives of three women in the city whose existence is mostly transit and work. Even that isn't always enough to get by and pay the rent. One of the women, a widow, recently retired from working her whole life at a city hospital, Parvaty (Chhaya Kadam), is even facing

The other two, roommates and co-workers in the maternity ward are in different parts of life. Prabha (Kani Kusruti) has a husband from an arranged marriage who she doesn't see and rarely speaks to. His life, we learn, is in Germany. She gets an occasional, ominous physical reminder of his existence in objects, like a fancy rice maker, that arrives one day. But she carries the weight of her arrangement everywhere, an invisible anchor on her being.

Anu (Divya Prabha) is even younger, trying to figure out what her life is going to look like and already in something of an impossible situation: She's fallen in love with Shiz (Hridhu Haroon), who is Muslim. She's Hindu. But in a city of over 20 million, a se-

NEW YORK: Lawyers for Sean 'Diddy' Combs ac-

cused prosecutors on Monday of engaging in "outra-

geous government conduct" by using materials seized

from his jail cell to try to keep him incarcerated be-

They said information gathered in a raid on

Combs' cell at the Metropolitan Detention Center in

Brooklyn were cited in papers the government filed in

Manhattan federal court on Friday in a bid to keep the

spectfully, must be addressed immediately," the law-

yers told Judge Arun Subramanian, who already has

scheduled a bail hearing for Friday for Combs. They

requested an "immediate hearing" so prosecutors can

explained who authorized the search of Combs' cell,

Later Monday, prosecutors responded to the claims

with a letter to the judge saying that the inspection

where personal effects and paperwork were seized.

'This is a matter of grave concern that, most re-

music mogul locked up before his May 5 trial.

Variety

fore a May trial.

cret relationship can have some room to grow. Yes, they're hiding this from their families, a burden in and of itself, but in the night markets with the city glimmering and moving around them, they're able to

Prabha is a little judgmental of her more carefree (possibly careless) younger housemate. More companions by circumstance than friends exactly, these women have different ideas about life, but we watch as they grow closer and understand one another more. Prabha even allows herself to go for a walk with a doctor who is clearly interested in her. A small act of agency and rebellion against her circumstances.

These are not easy lives, either: Their apartment is drab and small, their activities mundane, their conversations ordinary. But even as hard as it is to exist in a place that not only doesn't love you back, it barely even notices you, something is always happening. How can anything be truly dull in a place always thrumming with life? Far from being a maudlin, bleak affair, Kapadia makes the banal cinematic. There is a dreamlike incandescence to it all, not a rejection of reality so much as a poetic detachment

And like a dream, this is a film that washes over you. The mechanisms of the plot are not really the point, we're just moving in time with Anu and Prabha. And while Anu's forbidden love and Prabha's existential longing will surely come to a head at some point in their journey, the most urgent of realities is Parvaty's unexpected housing crisis. The city is making way for more luxury high rises and pricing out the people who make everything run and work. So, they go to the sea.

Anu and Prabha accompany Parvaty on her move back to her small coastal village in the final act. Suddenly it feels like everyone can breathe. It may be a little cliché, but you really feel it in your bones as an audience member. Our characters get a release: Anu can have a truly private rendezvous with Shiz; Prabha gets to be seen, too.

"All We Imagine as Light," currently in theaters, has been widely celebrated since its Cannes premiere, and Kapadia heralded as a major new talent to watch, which is just as it should be. The film is a reminder of the transcendent power of cinema, even, and perhaps especially, when not all that much is happening.

Ebony Power 100 Gala in Los Angeles on Sunday,

of Combs' cell was part of a jail-wide, safety-related sweep unrelated to Combs or his prosecution.



Combs

They said the search was planned before Combs was arrested and was properly carried out with an investigator who entered Combs' cell and decided to not examine a manila envelop labeled "legal" that was in the cell.

They added that any potentially privileged materials were viewed first by a "filter team" of government lawyers not working on the case. The team was tasked with weeding out any confiden-

tial communications protected by attorney-client privilege so that trial prosecutors couldn't see them. (AP)

gan Good are engaged.

LOS ANGELES: Actors Jonathan Majors and Mea-The two told E! News of their engagement at the

and Good showed off her ring in a photograph for Majors, 35, and Good, 43, met in 2022 and began

dating last year. She was a constant presence as a supporter of Majors at the New York trial where he was found guilty in December of misdemeanor assault against his ex-girlfriend.

Majors was ordered to complete one year of a counseling program but avoided jail time in the case because of his lack of a previous criminal record. Ma-

jors and his attorneys have maintained his innocence. But he was dropped from future projects by Marvel, where he was supposed to play a central role in

its next phase of films as villain Kang the Conqueror. He had already appeared in "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" and the first two seasons of the Disney+ series "Loki."

He also appears in the forthcoming "Magazine Dreams," for which he has won acclaim for playing an aspiring bodybuilder. It was dropped by its distributor last year but was recently picked up by another and is set for release early in 2025. (AP)



The Rose Main Reading Room offers visitors an ideal space for reading and writing.



The Rose Main Reading Room the most prominent landmark in the New York Public Library.



The main building of the New York Public Library, known as the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building



One of the black statues at the New York Public Library, known as 'Patience and Fortitude.'

New York Public Library... an institute of vast knowledge, cultural allure

The 1911-established New York Public Library (NYPL), in the heart of the city known as "the Big Apple", is an institute of vast knowledge and cultural

The NYPL is not only considered as the second largest library in the US, it is the fourth worldwide and has 92 branches in the Bronx, Staten Island, and Manhattan with the latter location hosting the main library.

Through its seemingly whimsical presence in today's busy and hectic world, the NYPL has books, historical documents, and rare manuscripts serving the knowledge needs of the people. (KUNA)

Film

'Venom' continues strong run

Johnson's Christmas film 'Red One' tops box office

LOS ANGELES, Nov 19, (AP): Moviegoers were not exactly feeling the Christmas spirit this weekend, or at least not based on their attendance at "Red One" showings.

The big budget, star-driven action comedy with Dwayne Johnson and Chris Evans sold \$34.1 million in tickets in its first weekend in theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday. It easily topped a box office populated mostly by holdovers.

For traditional studios, a \$34.1 million debut against a \$200 million-plus production budget would be a clear indication of a flop. Some even peg the budget closer to \$250 million. But "Red One" is an Amazon MGM Studios release with the luxury of playing the long game rather than relying solely on global box office where Johnson tentpoles often overperform. The film may have a life on Prime Video for years to come. "Red One," in which Johnson

plays Santa's bodyguard, was originally built to go straightto-streaming. It was greenlit prior to Amazon's acquisition of MGM. One interpretation of its lifecycle is that the theatrical earnings are not only just a bonus, but an additive gesture toward struggling theaters looking for a consistent stream of new films.

"Amazon has 250 million plus worldwide subscribers to the platform. It's similar to the way Netflix, I think, looks at stuff for their platform," said Kevin Wilson, head of distribution for Amazon MGM Studios. "There's a there's a massive value for a movie like this in terms of how many eyeballs you're going to get."

Holiday

The first major studio holiday release since 2018, "Red One" opened on 4,032 screens, including IMAX and other large formats, on an otherwise quiet weekend for major releases.

"We're really happy with the results," Wilson said. "I think when you look at the theatrical marketplace that's sometimes unforgiving, especially for original films, this is a good result for us."

Since 2020, only seven films that weren't sequels or based on another piece of intellectual property have opened over \$30 million (including "Oppenheimer" and "Nope."

Warner Bros. is handling the overseas release, where it has made an estimated \$50 million in two weekends from 75 territories and 14,783 screens.

Still, it's certainly not a theatrical hit in North America. Even "Joker: Folie à Deux" made slightly more in its first weekend. "Red One," directed

by Jake Kasdan and produced by Johnson's Seven Bucks, was roundly rejected by critics, with a dismal 33% Rotten Tomatoes score. Jake Coyle, in his review for The Associated Press, wrote that it "feels like an unwanted high-priced Christmas present.'

Audiences were kinder than they were to "Joker 2," giving it an A- CinemaScore, suggesting, perhaps, that the idea of it becoming a perennial holiday favorite is not so off-base.

"Red One" is also overperforming in the middle of the country, Wilson said, and perhaps will have a nice holdover over Thanksgiving as a different option to the behemoths on the way.

Sony's "Venom: The Last Dance" added \$7.4 million this weekend's box office to take second place, bringing its domestic total to \$127.6 million. Globally, its total stands at \$436.1 million

Production

"The Lionsgate's Christmas Pageant Ever" landed in third with \$5.4 million. That much more modestly budgeted Christmas movie has already nearly doubled its \$10 two weeks. Fourth place went to A24's Hugh Grant horror "Heretic," with \$5.2 million, bumping its total gross to \$20.4 million.

Universal and DreamWorks Animation's "The Wild Robot" rounded out the top five in its eighth weekend in theaters with an additional \$4.3 million. The animated film surpassed \$300 million worldwide.

This weekend is a bit of a stopover before the Thanksgiving tentpoles arrive. Next week, "Wicked" and "Gladiator II" face off in theaters with "Moana 2", which also stars Johnson, sailing in the Wednesday before the holiday.

"Gladiator II" also got a bit of a head start internationally, where it opened in 63 markets this weekend to gross \$87 million. That's a record for filmmaker Ridley Scott and for an R-rated international release from Paramount. It opens in the US and Canada on Nov. 22.

Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore, said that the "Red One" is helping set into motion a momentum leading into the Thanksgiving corridor.

The upcoming releases, he said, "will finally bring some excitement to what has been a somewhat quiet post-Labor Day moviegoing marketplace."

Dergarabedian added that it could be "one of the biggest revenue generating Thanksgiving periods in box office his-



This image released by Prime shows Dwayne Johnson, (left) and Chris Evans in a scene from 'Red One.' (AP)



This image released by Fox Nation shows Liah O'Prey as Joan of Arc, (center), in a scene from 'Martin Scorsese Presents: The Saints,' a new docudrama series by Martin Scorsese. (AP)

Film

'Saints' explores the humanity of iconic figures

Martin Scorsese on faith in filmmaking

NEW YORK, Nov 19, (AP): When Martin Scorsese was a child growing up in New York's Little Italy, he would gaze up at the figures he saw around St. Patrick's Old Cathedral.

"Who are these people? What is a saint?" Scorsese recalls. "The minute I walk out the door of the cathedral and I don't see any saints. I saw people try-ing to behave well within a world that was very primal and oppressed by organized crime. As a child, you wonder about the saints: Are they human?"

For decades, Scorsese has pondered a project dedicated to the saints. Now, he's finally realized it in "Martin Scorsese Presents: The Saints," an eight-part docudrama series debuting Sunday on Fox Nation, the streaming service from Fox News Media.

The one-hour episodes, written by Kent Jones and directed by Elizabeth Chomko, each chronicle a saint: Joan of Arc, Francis of Assisi, John the Baptist, Thomas Becket, Mary Magdalene, Moses the Black, Sebastian and Maximillian Kolbe. Joan of Arc kicks off the series on Sunday, with three weekly installments to follow; the last four will stream closer to Easter next year.

In naturalistic reenactments followed by brief Scorsese-led discussions with experts, "The Saints" emphasizes that, yes, the saints were very human. They were flawed, imperfect people, which, to Scorsese, only heightens their great



Martin Scorsese during a panel discussion for 'Martin Scorsese Presents: The Saints' on Nov. 14, in New York. (AP)

sacrifices and gestures of compassion. The Polish priest Kolbe, for example, helped spread antisemitism before, during WWII, sheltering Jews and, ultimately, volunteering to die in the place of a man who had been condemned at Auschwitz.

Here are some key quotes from a recent interview with Scorsese, who turns 82 on Sunday.

"It took time to think about that and

to learn that, no, the point is that they are human. For me, if they were able to do that, it's a good example for us. If you take it and put it in a tough world - if you're in a world of business or Hollywood or politics or whatever - if vou're grounded in something which is a real, acting out of compassion and love, this is something that has to be admired and emulated.'

"They went with the scripts. They went with the shoot. They went with the cuts. Now what I think is: Do we take these thoughts or expressions and only express them to people who agree with us? It's not going to do us any good. I'm talking about keeping an open mind.'

Storyteller

"The filmmaking comes from God. It comes from a gift. And that gift is also involved with an energy or a need to tell stories. As a storyteller, somehow there's a grace that's been given to me that's made me obsessive about that. The grace has been through me having that ability but also to fight over the years to create these films. Because each one is a fight. Sometimes you trip, you fall, you hit the canvas, can't get up. You crawl over bleeding and knocked around. They throw some water on you and somehow you make it through. Then you go to an-

"(The Life of Jesus) is an option

but I'm still working on it. There's a very strong possibility of me doing a film version of Marilynne Robinson's "Home," but that's a scheduling issue. There's also a possibility of me going back and dealing with the stories from my mother and father from the past and how they grew up. Stories about immigrants which tied into my trip to Sicily. Right now, there's been a long period after 'Killers of the Flower Moon.' Even though I don't like getting up early, I'd like to shoot a movie right now. Time is going. I'll be 82. Gotta go."

"There was one film I liked a great deal I saw two weeks ago called "I Saw the TV Glow." It really was emotionally and psychologically powerful and very moving. It builds on you, in a way. I didn't know who made it. It's this Jane Schoenbrun."

"Well, of course I have strong feelings. I think you can tell from my work, what I've said over the years. I think it's a great sadness, but at the same time, it's an opportunity. A real opportunity to make changes ultimately, maybe, in the future, never to despair, and to understand the needs of other people, too. Deep introspection is needed at this point. Action? I'm not a politician. I'd be the worst you could imagine. I wouldn't know what actions to take except to continue with dialogue and, somehow, compassion with each other. This is what it's about."

Variety

AMMAN: A panorama of Chinese films kicked off on Sunday at the Taj Mall Cinema in the Jordanian capital Amman, attracting hundreds of cinema enthusiasts and university students.

At the opening ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Chen Chuandong highlighted the rapid development of film art and industry in both China and Jordan, emphasizing their unique characteristics and bright prospects.

Chen noted that the showcased films narrate vibrant stories of social transformations in China, expressing hope that viewers would find in these works a window into contemporary Chinese society, gaining deeper insight into

Chinese sentiments and values.

Managing Director of the Royal Film Commission of Jordan Mohannad Al-Bakri said that the panorama is an opportunity for the Jordanian audience to learn about the Chinese culture and to explore the deeply-rooted Chinese civilization. Al-Bakri also pointed to the existing cooperation between Jordan and China in the field of film production and screening, and expressed hope that such cooperation would continue in the future.

Four Chinese films will be shown during the two-day event, which is co-organized by the Beijing Municipal Film Administration and the China Cultural Center in Amman, in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy in Jordan and the Royal Film Commission of Jordan. (Xinhua)

NEW YORK: The giant balloons may be flying at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, but the stars will be on street. Organizers revealed Thursday that actor-singer Jennifer Hudson, dance music icon Kylie Minogue and Broadway and "Pose" star Billy Porter will all perform, an upping of the star wattage over previous years.

The trio will be in front of Macy's iconic Herald Square flagship store,



Hudson

while also added to the parade are "Wicked" star Cynthia Erivo and Cole Escola, the star and writer of "Oh, Mary!," the unconventional smash that's

become the toast of Broadway. They will join a massive group of already-announced parade stars - including reality TV's Ariana Madix, Broadway belter Idina Menzel, hiphop's T-Pain, members of the WNBA champions New York Liberty and country duo Dan + Shay.

Music performers scheduled to perform include The War and Treaty, Lea Salonga, Kylie Cantrall, The Temptations, Chlöe, Charli D'Amelio, Jimmy Fallon & The Roots, Coco Jones, Walker Hayes, Rachel Platten, Bishop Briggs, Joey McIntyre, Natti Natasha and ballet dancers Tiler Peck and Roman Mejia.

The holiday tradition will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 28 in all time zones and will be kicked off by actor Alison Brie, the "Glow" star currently starring

in Peacock's "Apples Never Fall." This year's parade will feature 17 giant character balloons, 22 floats, 15 novelty and heritage inflatables, 11 marching bands, 700 clowns and 10 performance groups. (AP)

Climate

Grants vs debt debate

Climate change funds is key to UN talks in Baku

BAKU, Azerbaijan, Nov 19, (AP): Just as a simple lever can move heavy objects, rich nations are hoping another kind of leverage - the financial sort - can help them come up with the money that poorer nations need to cope with climate change.

It involves a complex package of grants, loans and private investment, and it's becoming the major currency at annual United Nations climate talks known as COP29.

But poor nations worry they'll get the short end of the lever: not much money and plenty of debt.

Half a world away in Brazil, leaders of the 20 most powerful economies issued a statement that among other things gave support to strong financial aid dealing with climate for poor nations and the use of leverage financial mechanisms. That was cheered by climate analysts and advocates. But at the same time, the G20 leaders noticeably avoided repeating the call for the world to transition away from fossil fuels, a key win at last year's climate talks.

Money is the key issue in Baku, where negotiators are working on a new amount for aid to help developing nations transition to clean energy, adapt to climate change and deal with weather disasters. It'll replace the current goal of \$100 billion annually - a goal set in 2009.

Talking

Experts put the need closer to \$1 trillion, while developing nations have said they'll need \$1.3 trillion in climate finance. But negotiators are talking about different types of

money as well as amounts.

So far rich nations have not quite offered a number for the core of money they could provide. But the European Union is expected to finally do that and it will likely be in the \$200 to \$300 billion a year range, Linda Kalcher, executive director of the think tank Strategic Perspectives, said Tuesday. It might be even as much as four times the original \$100 billion, said Luca Bergamaschi, co-founding director of the Italian ECCO think tank.

But there's a big difference between \$200 billion and \$1.3 trillion. That can be bridged with "the power of leverage," said Avinash Persaud, climate adviser for the Inter-American Development Bank.

When a country gives a multilateral development bank like his \$1, it could be used with loans and private investment to get as much as \$16 in spending for transitioning away from dirty energy, Persaud said. When it comes to spending to adapt to climate change, the bang for the buck, is a bit less, about \$6 for every dollar, he said.

The World Bank president said all the multinational development banks could spend \$125 billion on climate loans. Then those loans could be used as leverage for even more spending, several climate economics experts said.

"That's a big lever," said Melanie Robinson, global climate economics and finance director at World Resources Institute.

Grants

But when it comes to compensating poor nations already damaged by climate change - such as Caribbean nations devastated by repeated hurricanes - leverage doesn't work because there's no investment and loans. That's where straight-out grants could help, Persaud said.

If climate finance comes mostly in the form of loans, except for the damage compensation, it means more debt for nations that are already drowning in it, said Michai Robertson, climate finance negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States. And sometimes the leveraged or mobilized money doesn't quite appear as promised, he said.

"All of these things are just nice ways of saying more debt," Robertson said. "Are we here to address the climate crisis, which especially small developing states, least developed countries, have basically done nothing to contribute to it? The new goal cannot be a prescription of unsustainable

His organization argues that most of the \$1.3 trillion it seeks should be in grants and very lowinterest and long-term loans that are easier to pay back. Only about \$400 billion should be in leveraged loans, Robertson said.

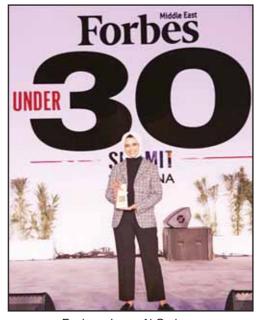
Another method for funding climate finance could be an international tax. That could be on shipping, aviation or billionaires, experts, such as Robertson, sug-

That would be politically difficult, but "the reality is that the world cannot tax up to \$1 trillion of the taxpayers to make this hap-pen, which is why we have to think about development finance and climate finance," said United Nations Environment Programme Di-

rector Inger Andersen suggested. Leverage from loans "will be a critical part of the solution, Andersen said. But so must grants and so must debt relief,



speaks during a plenary session at the COP29 UN Climate Summit, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, in Baku, Azerbaijan. (AP)



Engineer Lama Al-Oraiman



Kuwaiti women shaping future of global science

Kuwaiti women's excellence: Breaking new grounds in medicine, space tech

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19, (KUNA): Kuwaiti women have achieved remarkable milestones in recent years, breaking barriers and reaching advanced levels in various fields, especially in medicine and space science with a significant support provided by Kuwaiti

These achievements showed the vital role Kuwaiti women have in these fields, as their success was not limited to personal accomplishments but great contribution to the advancement of global sciences through participation in international conferences and events.

In line with the goals of the Kuwait Vision 2035 for sustainable development, Kuwaiti women have proved their capability and efficiency in building and advancing the country in various fields.

One of the leading women figures is Consultant of Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology at Al-Jahra Hospital Dr. Asmaa Al-Kandari who participated in the annual World Conference on Digestive Endoscopy in 2024, Milan, representing Kuwait and the only one from the Middle East to participate in such event.

Speaking to KUNA, Dr. Al-Kandari revealed that she was also a chosen as a representative of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) in the Middle East.

When asked about the Milan conference, Dr. Al-Kandari emphasized the importance of this event to her medical career, noting that thousands of endoscopy specialists viewed her two-endoscopy procedures.

Dr. Al-Kandari praised government support for the healthcare sector, affirming that Kuwaiti physicians has the medical finesse to advance healthcare regionally and internationally.

In the field space sciences and technology, the Vice Chair of the Committee on Connecting Emerging Space Ecosystems in the Middle East and Central Asia at International Astronautical Federation (IAF) Engineer Lama Al-Oraiman expressed to KUNA her pride in holding this position.

She highlighted the essential role the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) in supporting researchers, innovators, and outstanding individuals in science, technology, and innovation.

She recalled the announcement ceremony of the Kuwait National Space Research Center (KNSRC) last September, under the patronage and presence of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah who emphasized Kuwait's commitment to creating a scientific environment that cater to the developments of Kuwaitis in all fields.

Regarding her award for Emerging Space Leaders from the IAF, Engineer Al-Oraiman expressed her joy and pride receiving this award, stressing the need for a greater representation of Kuwaiti women at international conferences.

Innovative future therapy

Experts turn to good bacteria to combat chronic UTIs issue

By Sarguru Subash

Texas A&M Universit

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

Millions of people in the US and around the world suffer from urinary tract infections every year. Some groups are especially prone to chronic UTIs, including women, older adults and some veterans.

These infections are typically treated with antibiotics, but overusing these drugs can make the microbes they target become resistant and reduce the medicines' effectiveness.

To solve this problem of chronic UTIs and antibiotic resistance, we combined our expertise in microbiology and engineering to create a living material that houses a specific strain of beneficial E. coli. Our research shows that the "good" bacteria released from this biomaterial can compete with "bad" bacteria for nutrients and win, dramatically reducing the number of disease-causing microbes.

With further development, we believe this technique could help manage recurring UTIs that do not respond to antibiotics.

For the microbes living in people, nutrients are limited and their presence varies between different parts of the body. Bacteria have to compete with other microbes and the host to acquire essential nutrients. By taking up available nutrients, beneficial bacteria can stop or slow the growth of harmful bacteria. When harmful bacteria are starved of important nutrients, they aren't able to reach high enough numbers to cause disease.

Delivering beneficial bacteria to the bladder to

prevent UTIs in challenging, though. For one, these helpful bacteria can naturally colonize only in people who are unable to fully empty their bladder, a condition called urinary retention. Even among these patients, how long these bacteria can colonize their bladders varies widely

Current methods to deliver bacteria to the bladder are invasive and require repeated catheter insertion. Even when bacteria are successfully released into the bladder, urine will flush out these microbes because they cannot stick to the bladder wall.

Since beneficial bacteria cannot attach to and survive in the bladder for long, we developed a biomaterial that could slowly release bacteria in the bladder over time.

Our biomaterial is composed of living E. coli emedded in a matrix structure made of gel. It resembles a piece of jelly about 500 times smaller than a drop of water and can release bacteria for up to two weeks in the bladder. By delivering the bacteria via biomaterial, we overcome the need for the bacteria to attach to the bladder to persist in the organ.

We tested our biomaterial by placing it in human urine in petri dishes and exposing it to bacterial pathogens that cause UTIs. Our results showed that when mixed in a 50:50 ratio, the E. coli outcompeted the UTI-causing bacteria by increasing to around 85% of the total population. When we added more E. coli than UTI-causing bacteria, which is what we envision for future development and testing, the proportion of E. coli increased to over 99% of the population, essentially wiping out the UTI-causing bacteria. Moreoever, the biomaterial continued releasing E. coli for up to two weeks in human urine.

Our findings suggest that E.coli could stick around and survive in the bladder for extended periods of time and successfully decrease the growth of many types of bacteria that cause UTIs. (AP)



Herlda Senhouse at her 113th birthday celebration on Feb. 28, 2024, in Welles-ley, Mass. (AP)

America's 2nd oldest resident dies at 113

da Senhouse, who founded a jazz dance group to raise money for Black students in the 1950s and lived to become the secondoldest person in the United States, has died at age 113.

Senhouse died "peacefully in her sleep" on Saturday, said Stephanie Hawkinson, public information officer for the town of Wellesley, Massachusetts, where Senhouse had lived for the last four decades.

"She never missed an opportunity to learn more, do more, experience more, said Hawkinson, who met Senhouse on her 108th birthday and had celebrated with her every year since. Born Feb. 28, 1911, in Piedmont, West

Virginia, Senhouse was sent to live with an aunt in Woburn, Massachusetts, at age 16 and graduated from Woburn High School.

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Auburn dominates North Alabama

Ike, Nembhard lead Gonzaga to win against San Diego State

SAN DIEGO, Nov 19, (AP): Graham Ike bounced back from early foul trouble to score 20 of his 23 points in the second half, and Ryan Nembhard added 19 points and 10 assists as No. 3 Gonzaga ran past San Diego State 80-67 on Monday night in a showdown of future Pac-12 opponents.

Sixth man Braden Nuff had 10 points for Gonzaga (4-0), which was playing away from Spokane for the first time this season. The Zags avenged an 84-74 loss to SDSU last year, which snapped their 59-game nonconference winning streak.

Nick Boyd scored 23 points for the Aztecs (2-1), while BJ Davis had 15 and Wayne McKinney 11.

Both teams reached the Sweet 16 last season, the Zags for the ninth straight time.

Gonzaga will move from the West Coast Conference, where it has dominated for most of the last quarter century, into the reconstituted Pac-12 beginning in 2026. Gonzaga will become the eighth member along with holdovers Washington State and Oregon State, and fellow newcomers Boise State, San

Auburn 102 North Alabama 69

State from the Mountain West.

Diego State, Fresno State, Utah State and Colorado

In Auburn, Johni Broome had 30 points and 17

Denver Jones added 13 points and a career-high nine assists for the Tigers (4-0). Chad Baker-Mazara

and Miles Kelly both scored 12. Auburn fell behind twice in the first half but was able to take firm control in the final minutes before halftime. Broome scored 16 first-half points in the final 7:35 alone.

Jacari Lane led the Lions (3-2) with 16 points. Daniel Ortiz and Will Soucie added 15 apiece

Washington State 83, Northern Colorado 69

In Pullman, Cedric Coward scored 30 points to match his career high and Washington State beat Northern Colorado.

Coward sank 12 of 18 shots with two 3-pointers and 4 of 5 free throws for the Cougars (4-1). He also scored 30 against Northern Colorado last season while playing for the Eastern Washington Eagles. Dane Erikstrup scored 14 and blocked five shots for Washington State. Isiah Watts scored 12 off the bench

on 4-for-6 shooting from 3-point range. LeJuan Watts

totaled 11 points, eight rebounds and five assists. He also had eight of WSU's 12 turnovers. Langston Reynolds led the Bears (3-2) with 16 points. Isaiah Hawthorne finished with 10 points and

10 rebounds. Jaron Rillie scored 10 with four assists. The Cougars shot 56% from the floor, made 7 of 22 from beyond the arc (31.8%) and 12 of 16 at the

Oregon 70, Grand Canyon 54

In Eugene, Peyton Scott scored 17 points and No. 23 Oregon used a fast start to earn a 70-54 victory over Grand Canyon on Monday night, the Ducks' fifth straight homecourt win.

Oregon now has started the season with five straight wins five times in coach Kelly Graves 11

Trinity San Antonio's layup with 8:10 left in the first quarter put the Lopes in front, 4-2, but Sofia Bell tied the game with a pair of free throws and Scott drilled back-to-back 3-pointers. Nani Falatea matched Scott's feat in the final three minutes as Oregon put together an 18-6 run to take a 22-10 lead after one quarter and doubled up Grand Canyon at halftime, 36-18.

Scott hit 6 of 13 from the field, including 3 of 5 from behind the arc to lead the Oregon offense. Amina Muhammad posted a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds and Falatea added nine



Gonzaga guard Ryan Nembhard drives to the basket as San Diego State guard BJ Davis defends during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in San Diego. (AP)

IBAK announces launch of most

prestigious event of the year

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: IBAK announced the launch of its most prestigious event of the year, the inaugural IBAK SLAM Tourna-

This landmark competition will bring together elite senior players from across the globe, including former champions and emerg-

Clippers hold off Warriors



Chicago Bulls guard Zach LaVine (8) drives as Detroit Pistons forward Tim Hardaway Jr. (8) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game in

Knicks extends Wizards' losing streak to 9

INGLEWOOD, Calif., Nov 19, (AP): Norman Powell scored 23 points and the Los Angeles Clippers held off the Golden State Warriors 102-99 on Monday night to win their fifth in a row at home.

James Harden added 12 points and 16 assists for the Clippers, who had lost their first four games at their new arena. Ivica Zubac had 17 rebounds.

Stephen Curry led the Warriors with 26 points and Andrew Wiggins added 22. Their only lead came on a 3-pointer by Lindy Waters III to start the game, but they closed within three points in the game's final minutes. Their three-game winning streak

The Warriors nearly caught the Clippers, who were on the second night of a back-to-back, in the closing seconds. But Curry missed a potential tying 3 and Gary Payton II also missed on the Warriors' final shot of the game.

Knicks 134, Wizards 106

In New York, Jalen Brunson had 26 points and 11 assists, and the New York Knicks rolled to a victory that extended the Washington Wizards' losing streak to nine games.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 24 points and 12 rebounds in just 25 minutes for the Knicks, who were off and running right from the start even while playing for the second straight night. They rang up 40 points in the first quarter and put up 36 more in the third, building the lead to 109-75 at the end of the period.

New York went 20 for 40 from 3-point range and finished with its highest point total while just missing its largest margin of victory.

Hawks 109 Kings 108

In Sacramento, De'Andre Hunter scored 24 points and Dyson Daniels



Los Angeles Clippers guard James Harden, second from right, shoots as Golden State Warriors forward Jonathan Kuminga, left, forward Kyle Anderson, second from left, and guard Brandin Podziemski defend during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

had four blocks, including one in the final seconds, as the Atlanta Hawks beat the short-handed Sacramento

Kings. Daniels' clutch defensive play on Kings star De'Aaron Fox finished off a late back-and-forth affair. Trae Young had 19 assists for Atlanta. Clint Capela, who had 14 points and 14 rebounds, scored the final three points for the Hawks to put them up 109-106 with under two minutes to

Keon Ellis had a career high 33 points, including nine 3-pointers, to lead Sacramento. The Kings were without Domantas Sabonis (back), DeMar DeRozan (back) and Malik Monk (right ankle sprain).

Sacramento led 66-64 at halftime, after falling behind 22-6 to start the

Bucks 101, Rockets 100

In Milwaukee, Damian Lillard hit a driving layup with 3.9 seconds left to give the Milwaukee Bucks a victory over Houston that snapped the Rockets' five-game winning streak.

Lillard scored 18 points after miss-

ing the previous three games while in the concussion protocol.

The Rockets rallied from a 14-point, third-quarter deficit to take the lead early in the fourth quarter and stayed ahead until Lillard's decisive basket. Giannis Antetokounmpo blocked a shot by Houston's Alperen Sengun with 20 seconds left.

Magic 109, Suns 99

In Phoenix, Franz Wagner scored 32 points, Anthony Black added 20 and the Orlando Magic beat the struggling Phoenix Suns.

Tyus Jones had 18 points for Phoenix. Devin Booker - coming off a season-high 44 points - had 17.

The Suns had three starters out due to injury, including Kevin Durant, Bradley Beal and Jusuf Nurkic. It was Durant's sixth straight game out of the lineup. Phoenix is 1-5 over that stretch, including losing four straight.

Heat 106, 76ers 89

In Miami, Jimmy Butler scored a season-high 30 points in his return from a sprained ankle, Tyler Herro added 18 and the Miami Heat erased an early 19-point deficit to beat the

Duncan Robinson scored 13 and Dru Smith added 10 for Miami, which played its first home game in two weeks. The Heat - who were outscored 137-71 in third quarters in their first four home games - outscored Philadelphia 35-16 in that pe-

Jared McCain scored 20 points, Paul George added 18 and former Heat forward Caleb Martin finished with 12 for Philadelphia, which has lost 11 of 13 games to open the season.

Joel Embiid played for the third time this season; the Olympic gold medalist from this past summer scored 11 points in 31 minutes for the

Raptors 130, Pacers 119

In Toronto, RJ Barrett scored a season-high 39 points, Jakob Poeltl had 30 points and 15 rebounds for his third straight double-double and the Toronto Raptors snapped a sevengame losing streak by beating the Indiana Pacers . Toronto came in with the NBA's

worst record at 2-12 and won for the first time since beating Sacramento in overtime on Nov. 2. Barrett shot 13 for 21, going 4 for

8 from 3-point range and making 9 of 12 at the free throw line. He finished with nine rebounds.

Bulls 122, Pistons 112

In Detroit, Zach LaVine scored 16 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and the Chicago Bulls pulled away for a win against the Detroit Pistons.

The game was tied at 95 with 8:46 left, but LaVine had nine points in a 13-2 run that put the Bulls up by 11 with 5:45 to go. He hit six 3-pointers in the quarter after a slow start.

Nikola Vucevic led the Bulls with 29 points and 12 rebounds while Coby White scored 25.

Cade Cunningham had 26 points and 10 assists for the Pistons and Malik Beasley added 21.

ing stars in the senior category. For the first time, badminton enthusiasts in Kuwait will witness an epic showdown between eight powerhouse teams: Team Can-IBAK Torpedoes, Smashing Stars, and Black & One.

ada, Team India, Team Qatar, Team Malaysia, IBAK All Stars, Each team comprises world-class, top-ranked players, promising exhilarating matches that highlight skill, strategy, and passion for

The tournament format will feature intense five-match ties, with games spanning Men's Singles, two Men's Open Doubles, Ladies'

Doubles, and Mixed Doubles. Additionally, athletes in the senior categories (40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, and 60+) will compete across 25 event categories, including singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. This extensive program showcases the extraordinary talent and resilience of senior players who continue to excel in badminton at the highest levels.

Chairman of IBAK, Dr. Manimara Chozhan, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "This tournament is more than just a competition; it's a celebration of dedication, perseverance, and love for the game. Senior players continue to inspire us all with their passion and determination, and we are thrilled to host such a significant

The IBAK SLAM will take place at the IBAK Salwa Gym on Nov 21, 22, and 23, 2024. The grand inaugural ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, at 7:00 pm, with matches continuing throughout Friday and Saturday from 9:30 AM onwards.

IBAK extends a warm invitation to all badminton enthusiasts in Kuwait to join this remarkable celebration of athleticism, camara-

derie, and the enduring spirit of the game. IBAK can be reached on www.ibakwt.org or ibakcommittee@ gmail.com

Champions Trophy

PCB chief says ready to ease India's concerns over visit

ISLAMABAD, Nov 19, (AP): A top Pakistan Cricket Board official is ready to talk to India to ease concerns about playing in the 2025 Champions Trophy, saying there is no "reason for them not to visit.'

"At this moment, every team that has qualified for the Champions Trophy is ready to come (to Pakistan)," PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi told reporters in Lahore.

"Nobody has any issues. I will say today also, if India has any concerns, speak to us about them. We can ease those concerns. I don't think there is any reason for them not to visit."

The PCB has spent millions of dollars to upgrade stadiums in Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi, which are due to host the tournament from Feb. 19-Mar. 9.

England, South Africa, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Afghanistan and Australia are the countries which have qualified along with hosts Pakistan and India.

The International Cricket Council previously informed the PCB that India had told the game's governing body it will not travel to Pakistan for the tournament.

Pakistan says it is not willing to or-

ganize India games at a neutral venue, like it did when it hosted the Asia Cup last year and the team played all its matches in Sri Lanka.

Both countries regularly play in

multi-national tournaments, but India hasn't toured Pakistan since the Asia Cup in 2008. Last week, the PCB raised questions with the ICC about India's un-

willingness to travel for the Champi-

ons Trophy, but the organization has yet to respond. "We have sent them (ICC) the questions we had," Naqvi said. "We are still waiting for their response. I believe that sports and politics are separate and no country should mix the two. Even now I still have positive expectations about the Champi-

ons Trophy.' There was controversy last week when the trophy tour started in Islamabad. The PCB announced it would also go to Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, but the city was removed from the tour after the Board of Control for Cricket in India objected to the

The trophy will be back in Pakistan in January after a tour of the other seven participating countries.

Best of the Rest

Hemp to miss US friendly: England forward Lauren Hemp has had knee surgery, her Manchester City club said on Tuesday, and will miss facing the United States at Wembley Stadium.

Man City said the operation was successful but gave no details of the injury nor a timetable for the 24-year-old Hemp to return.

Hemp was not included in England's squad on Tuesday for friendly games against the U.S. on Nov. 30 and Switzerland, the 2025 European

Championship host, three days later at Sheffield United's stadium. England will defend its European title next year.

Man City was without Hemp at the weekend when it lost to Chelsea 2-0 and the lead in the English league.

Man City also has three Women's Champions League games in the next month, including at titleholder Barcelona on Dec. 18. Man City opened the group by beating Barcelona 2-0 in October and leads the group with three straight wins. (AP)



lowing St. Pauli's decision last week also to post instead on the Bluesky Werder had more than a half-million followers for its German-language

"Under the guise of freedom of expression, hate speech, hatred towards minorities, right-wing extremist posts and conspiracy theories have been al-

Werder stops posting on X: German soccer club Werder Bremen is the second Bundesliga team to stop posting on X, citing a rise in hate speech since Elon Musk bought the social media platform. Werder announced the decision after a club meeting late Monday, fol-

channel on X, which was named Twitter when the club joined in May 2008.

lowed to spread on X at an incredible pace," the club said in a post in English. The "recent radicalization" of X meant "a line has been crossed," Werder

F1 to move Canadian GP slot on calendar in drive to cut travel sustainable, but logistically more sen-An agreement signed in 2021 after

LONDON, Nov 19, (AP): Formula 1 will move the Canadian Grand Prix to a new slot in May from 2026 in an effort to cut down on travel and its environmental impact.

F1 said that the race in Montreal will move to "the third or fourth weekend in May each year" from its current June slot, where it's currently in the middle of a succession of European races, forcing teams to travel across the Atlantic Ocean and back for a sin-

The decision has been agreed with the race's promoter after consultation with Canadian authorities, F1 said. But it still needs to be approved by the sport's governing body, the FIA.

F1 president and chief executive

Stefano Domenicali thanked the Canadian organizers for agreeing to "accelerate the temporary build" needed to host the race on Notre Dame Island, within the city of Montreal.

"The change will make the future flow of our calendar not only more sible for our teams and personnel," he said in a statement. This year's Canadian Grand Prix

was on June 9, sandwiched between races in Monaco and Spain, and next year it's scheduled for June 15, between races in Spain and Austria.

The new date could potentially see the Canadian Grand Prix follow on from F1's race in Miami, which is held in early May under a 10-year contract which began in 2022.

two cancelations amid the COVID-19 pandemic extended the Canadian Grand Prix's place on the F1 calendar through 2031. Alongside its expansion to a record

24-race schedule this season, F1 has sought to limit the impact of transporting teams, cars and staff around the world. The Japanese Grand Prix moved to a date in April this season to sit between races in China and AusAl-Arabi edges Al-Shabab 3-2 in thriller

Kuwait Club sweeps Al-Sulaibikhat in Federation Championship

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Kuwait Club cruised to a dominant 3-0 victory over Al-Sulaibikhat in the second round of the Federation Volleyball Championship. Meanwhile, Al-Arabi overcame significant challenges to edge out Al-Shabab 3-2 in a thrilling encounter.

Kuwait Club's win brought its tally to six points, while Al-Sulaibikhat remains without a point. Al-Arabi earned its first two points of the tournament, leaving Al-Shabab with one. The scoring system grants three points for a 3-0 or 3-1 victory, while a 3-2 win awards two points to the victor and one point to the loser.

The tournament follows a single-round league

format, with the top four teams advancing to the semi-finals. The first-place team will face the fourth, and the second will take on the third, with the winners meeting in the final.

Kuwait Club, led by Turkish coach Taner Atik, displayed complete dominance, securing three straight sets with scores of 25-13, 25-10, and 25-

The second match saw Al-Arabi engage in a fierce battle with Al-Shabab. Al-Shabab took the first set 25-23, but Al-Arabi leveled the score by winning the second set 25-21. Al-Shabab regained the lead with a 25-20 win in the third set, but Al-Arabi fought back to take the fourth set 25-19, forcing a tiebreaker. The decider was a nail-biter, with Al-Arabi clinching it 17-15 to secure its first win of the championship.



Players vie for the ball during the Federation Championship.

Croatia, Denmark qualify for **Nations League quarterfinals**



Portugal's Joao Felix, left, takes a shot at goal next to Croatia's Josip Sutalo during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Croatia and Portugal at Poljud stadium in Split, Croatia. (AP)

Scotland sends Poland down into League B

MADRID, Nov 19, (AP): **Denmark and Croatia com**pleted the Nations League quarterfinals lineup after both sides secured draws.

Denmark went 0-0 in Serbia, and Croatia came from behind to share 1-1 with visiting Portugal.

They joined France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal and the Nether-

lands in the last eight.

The quarterfinals will be held from

March 20-23. In Warsaw, Liverpool fullback Andy Robertson scored an injury time header to give Scotland a 2-1 win over Poland and send the host down into League B. Scotland has a

playoff to secure its League A status. Northern Ireland will step up to League B after topping its group. Northern Ireland let slip a two-goal lead but drew in Luxembourg 2-2. Romania hammered Cyprus 4-1.

San Marino will jump into Group C after beating Lichtenstein 3-1.

After going nine matches without a win, Scotland appeared rejuvenated as it condemned a Robert Lewandowski-less Poland to League B.

Scotland took just one point from its first four games in Group A1 but beat Croatia at home on Friday and was 1-0 up after three minutes in Warsaw.

Billy Gilmour's threaded pass found Ben Doak, who rolled the ball to John McGinn to score his second goal in four days.

Scotland hit the woodwork twice in the first half and its inability to open a greater lead almost cost it when Kamil Piatkowski lashed a stunning strike into the top corner of the net to equalize 14 minutes into the second

However, Scotland pushed forward for a winner and Robertson headed the decider in the third minute of stoppage time.

Croatia needed only a draw to secure qualification but it made the home fans in Split sweat before getting the point it needed against group winner Portugal.

With 32 minutes gone, João Felix brought down a superb 45-yard pass from Vitinha and slipped the ball under the advancing keeper to give the visitors the lead. When Andrej Kramarić hit the post and Josko Gvardiol had a 62nd minute goal ruled out

Spain's Zaragoza celebrates scoring his side's third goal during a Nations League soccer match between Spain and Switzerland, at the Heliodoro Rodríguez López stadium in Tenerife, Spain. (AP)

for offside it looked like it might not be Croatia's night.

Bu Manchester City's Gvardiol got the equalizer just a few minutes later and Croatia held on to take the second quarterfinal spot from Group A1.

There was little to play for in Tenerife, where Spain, top of Group A4, took on the already relegated Swit-

Coach Luis de la Fuente offered a first start to Barcelona midfielder Marc Casadó and gave debuts to Samu and Aitor Paredes in a muchchanged Spain side.

But it was the two Bryans, Gil and Zaragoza, who got the goals that mattered for the European champions.

Pedri's first half penalty was saved but Yeremi Pino converted to put

Spain ahead. Joel Monteiro equalized for Switzerland after 63 minutes but Bryan Gil got Spain back in front five minutes later. Andi Zeqiri equalized again from the penalty spot with five minutes remaining but a stoppage time penalty from Bryan Zaragoza at the other end gave Spain all three

In Leskovac, Serbia controlled most of the game against Denmark but could not get the goal it needed to progress from Group A4. Dušan Vlahović was in fine form for the home side but the Danes held out to take second spot, eight points behind winner Spain but two ahead of the Serbs, for which Strahinja Pavlović

was sent off near the end. Northern Ireland finished on top of Group C3 even though it blew a 2-0

lead in Luxembourg. Isaac Price opened the scoring after 19 minutes and the Standard Liege midfielder set up Conor Bradley for the second five minutes into the second half. The opener was Northern Ireland's 100th under coach Michael O'Neill.

However, even though the home side scored twice in the last 18 minutes, Northern Ireland ended its campaign with 11 points, two ahead of Bulgaria, which drew at home with Belarus 1-1. Luxembourg finished

Romania finished on top of Group C2 with a 4-1 win over Cyprus. Daniel Bîrligea put Romania ahead after two minutes and Razvan Marin scored twice before Florinel Coman made it four.

Ioannis Pittas got Cyprus' goal and the Cypriots' Konstantinos Laifis was sent off 13 minutes from time.

Kosovo beat Lithuania 1-0 with an early goal from Muharrem Jashari, who was also sent off on the stroke of halftime.

Kosovo finished second, three points behind Romania, but an asterisk remains over the final placings following the abandonment of Friday's match between the teams in Bucharest.

The Kosovo players alleged they were victims of pro-Serbian chants by the home fans and walked off the field in the final minute. UEFA has opened disciplinary proceedings.

San Marino will go into Group C at the expense of Gibraltar after beating Lichtenstein 3-1. Gibraltar started the day in pole position with six points but San Marino recovered from being 1-0 down at halftime to score three

times in the second half. Victory also lifted San Marino within reach of a place in the World Cup qualifying playoffs.

Al-Arabi plays winless Al-Yarmouk

Al-Salmiya looks to extend lead

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: The eighth round of the preliminary phase of the Handball League wraps up with two matches at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Halls Complex. Al-Salmiya will face Al-Qurain at 6:30 pm, while Al-Arabi takes on Al-Yarmouk at 5:00 pm.

Al-Salmiya leads the standings with 12 points and is keen to solidify its position and edge closer to securing a spot in the Premier League, which is reserved for the top six teams in the preliminary round. Al-Qurain, currently in seventh place with 7 points, aims to deliver a strong performance and secure a positive result to remain in contention for qualification.

In the second matchup, Al-Arabi is the clear favorite, facing an Al-Yarmouk side that has yet to earn a point after six rounds. Al-Arabi enters the game in second place with 10 points, while Al-Yarmouk languishes in 13th place.

The league follows a single-round format in its preliminary stage. The top six teams will advance to the



Al-Salmiya seeks to strengthen its lead in the league.

Premier League, which will adopt a three-division format, with teams carrying forward points earned in the preliminary phase. Teams ranked seventh to fourteenth will compete in a two-division league to determine final rankings. Matches involving Kuwait and Kazma have been postponed to November 23 due to their participation in the ongoing Asian Championship in Doha, Qatar.

Sheikha Bibi Al-Salem Al-Sabah praises the meeting on women's growing role in sports

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Sheikha Bibi Al-Salem Al-Sabah, a member of the Women's Sports Committee at the Kuwait Olympic Committee, commended the recent meeting of the National Committee for the Implementation of the Security Council Resolution. Titled "The Growing Role of Kuwaiti Women in Sports," the meeting was organized by the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Human Rights Affairs, Ambassador Sheikha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij. It took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters, bringing together prominent female sports leaders from various fields.

Sheikha Bibi highlighted that the meeting fostered extensive discussions about women's sports in Kuwait. She stated, "The gathering was diverse and inclusive, involving administrative leaders, technical staff, players, coaches, and referees. Every-



Sheikha Bibi

one spoke with full transparency about the current state of Kuwaiti women's sports, the progress achieved over recent years, and the key challenges that may impede further development in the near future." She expressed her hope for continued growth and advancement in women's sports in Kuwait.

AIU cites doping cover-ups

US runner on course for Olympic medal after Russian disqualified

MONACO, Nov 19, (AP): The results of the London Olympics are still changing more than 12 years

Shannon Rowbury of the United States took another step toward a long-delayed bronze medal on Tuesday when Russian runner Tatyana Tomashova was officially disqualified from the women's 1,500 meters final at the London Games.

The Athletics Integrity Unit, which oversees doping cases in track and field, said Tomashova had not filed an appeal against a doping ban she was given at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in September.

That means the decision is "final and binding" in the records of World Athletics, and the International Olympic Committee has been informed, the AIU added.

"We are committed to protecting the integrity of athletics and, even when events have long passed, we will investigate potential violations fully," AIU chair David Howman said in a statement. "I believe this outcome will still be meaningful for those who are justly recognised as a consequence.'

Tomashova's disqualification should also raise Abeba Aregawi into the silver medal position. She was competing for Ethiopia at the time and later represented Sweden.

Tomashova was given a 10-year

doping ban in September. The court said at the time that she tested positive for anabolic steroids in samples she gave in June and July 2012, weeks ahead of the Olympics in London. The AIU has said the case was based on records that emerged much later indicating doping coverups at what was then the Moscow anti-doping laboratory.
The women's 1,500 final from

the 2012 Olympics ranks among the most tainted events in Olympic history following more than a decade of doping revelations and legal bat-

The original gold and silver medalists from Turkey, Asli Cakir Alptekin and Gamze Bulut, have long since been disqualified and banned for doping, and so have other athletes. Tomashova was originally the fourth-place finisher and Rowbury crossed the line sixth.

There might be another long wait

for the medals. The IOC has final approval to reallocate medals. Medal presentation ceremonies can be held at a world championships or a future Olympics. The next Summer Games is in 2028 in Los Angeles. The IOC

board is set to meet next month. Rowbury is now aged 40 and retired from racing, and worked as a broadcaster at the Paris Olympics analyzing track races for NBC.



Xie Wenneng (front, left) of China vies with Kubo Takefusa (front, right) of Japan during the 2026 FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifier match between China and Japan in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province. (Xinhua)

Kazma knocks out Kuwait Club to book semis spot in Asian Handball Clubs Championship

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Nov 19: Kazma secured a decisive 32-25 victory in the Kuwaiti derby against Kuwait Club in the quarter-finals of the Asian Handball Clubs Championship in Doha, Qatar. The championship runs until November 23.

In another quarter-final clash, Sharjah of the UAE defeated Mes Kerman of Iran with a commanding 36-25 win.

Kazma sealed its victory four minutes before the match concluded, capitalizing on Kuwait Club's defensive and offensive errors. Key contributions came from standout performers like goalkeeper Abdulaziz Al Dhafiri, who earned the Best Player of the Match award, and Wajdi Sinan. Meanwhile, Kuwait Club's players struggled to match its reputation as Arab champion, with the exception of goalkeeper Ali Safar, who delivered a commendable performance.

Kazma will face the winner of the Qatari derby between Al Duhail and Al Rayyan in the semi-finals tomorrow, Thursday.

In the preliminary round of the championship, Kazma finished fourth in Group 2. They achieved a victory over Oman's Al-Ahly Sidab but suffered defeats against Saudi Arabia's Al-Khaleej, Qatar's Al-Duhail, and Iran's Mes Kerman.



Kazma goalkeeper Al-Dhafiri named the best player of the match.

Japan on brink of reaching WC, Saudi Arabia upset



3rd round qualifier soccer match between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia at Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia. (AP)

Americans beat Jamaica 5-2 on aggregate

Pulisic scores brace as US advances to NL semis

ST. LOUIS, Nov 19, (AP): Mauricio Pochettino had a message for American players after a 5-2 aggregate win over Jamaica gave the three-time defending champion United States a berth in the CONCACAF Nations

League semifinals.
"My advice is look after yourself. We need to be a stronger in March," Pochettino said. "We need to be desperate to arrive to March and to be all together. That is a sign that we improve a lot and then we start to feel that we are a real group of people, that we are going to fight for something special."

Christian Pulisic scored twice in the first half, Tim Weah got a goal in his return to the U.S. national team from a red card and the Americans beat Jamaica 4-2 on Monday night in the

quarterfinal series finale. "We came out really hot," Pulisic said. "We should definitely feel good after these results. We're obviously learning a lot of new things obviously

with the new coach.' Pochettino has led the team in two windows since replacing Gregg Berhalter following first-round elimination at the Copa America. Just six camps with the top player pool remain before Pochettino picks his 2026 World Cup roster, the next ahead of a March 20

semifinal at Inglewood, California. "Building our way up for the World Cup at home. I think that's the main goal," Weah said. "I think we're on the right track."

The U.S. dominated with 68% possession and a 16-9 advantage in shots. The Americans also qualified for next year's CONCACAF Gold Cup, while Jamaica

will have to play in qualifying. Pulisic put the U.S. ahead in the 13th minute when he ran onto a long, looping pass from Weston McKennie and onetimed the ball past onrushing goalkeeper Andre Blake. Pulisic doubled the lead off a pass from McKennie that Tanner Tessmann dummied in the 33rd minute. Pulisic's shot deflected in off Di'Shon Bernard for his 33rd international goal

and sixth multigoal game. Ricardo Pepi, who scored off a Pulisic pass in the opening leg in Kingston on Thursday, boosted the lead to 3-0 in the 42nd with his 13th goal, a rightfoot shot for his first international goal

from outside the penalty area. Demarai Gray scored the first of his two goals for Jamaica with a volley past goalkeeper Matt Turner in the 53rd. Weah, who hit a post in the fourth minute, put the U.S. ahead 4-1 in the 56th when he settled a pass from der the crossbar for his seventh goal. Gray scored off a rebound in the 68th for his seventh goal and second brace, after Turner parried Renaldo Cephas' initial shot.

Weah started in place of injured Johnny Cardoso after completing a two-game suspension for a red card against Panama in the Copa America last summer. That was the only change made by Pochettino from the first leg.

Defender Tim Ream, at 37 the oldest player on the roster, captained the Americans in his hometown of St. Louis.

Jamaica coach Steve McLaren, a former England manager, told the media that star Michail Antonio wasn't available because he lost his passport and couldn't get a U.S. visa.

Panama reached the semifinals, beating Costa Rica 3-2 on aggregate after a 2-2 draw in Panama City. César Blackman scored in the 13th minute and José Rodríguez in the third minute of first-half stoppage time for the hosts. Los Ticos got goals from Alejandro Bran in the 24th and Adrián Martínez in the 72nd. Panama finished a man short after Fidel Escobar's 80thminute red card.

On Tuesday, Mexico is at home trying to overturn a 2-0 first-leg loss at Honduras, and Canada is home with a 1-0 lead against Suriname.

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania,

Nov 19, (AP): Borussia Dortmund

star Serhou Guirassy will miss the

Africa Cup of Nations next year

after Tanzania upset Guinea 1-0 to

Indonesia earns famous victory

XIAMEN, China, Nov 19, (AP): Japan is within touching distance of an eighth successive World Cup appearance after beating China 3-1 on Tuesday put the team 10 points clear in its Asian qualifying group on Tuesday.

Despite beating China 7-0 at home in September, it took Japan 39 minutes to break the deadlock in Xiamen with a Koki Ogawa header. Ko Itakura added a second before halftime.

Home fans grew hopeful when Lin Liangming pulled a goal back early in the second half but Ogawa headed home his second and Japan's third soon after.

The Samurai Blue have 16 points from six games, with four to go in Group C. Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and China all have six points, as does Australia, which could move three points clear in second with a win at last-placed Bahrain on Tuesday evening.

Indonesia shocked Saudi Arabia 2-0 in Jakarta. A goal in each half from Marselino Ferdinan, who plays for Oxford United in England's second tier, nailed down a famous victory for the Southeast Asian nation which last appeared at the World Cup in 1938 as Dutch East Indies.

Indonesia deserved to win this game," Saudi Arabia coach Herve Renard said. "We have four games left and it will be tough but it will be tough for everybody.

It was a first ever win for Indonesia in the third round of qualification.

"I am so proud of my team and the country," goalkeeper Maarten Paes said. "Marselino scored two great goals and we defended so well. We knew that this was an important game and, to get a win, that gives us so much confidence. It is so close in our group."

In Group A, Uzbekistan took a big step towards a first World Cup after edging North Korea 1-0. The Ûzbeks took the points with a first half strike from Abbosbek Fayzullaev, though Jong Il Gwon missed a late penalty for the Koreans, playing their home games in Laos.

The top two from each of the three groups of six progress automatically to the World Cup while the six teams who finish third and fourth will advance to the next stage of qualifica-

Al-Qadsiya and Kuwait Club intensify preparations for regional challenges



A file photo of players in action.

Bv Hassan Mosa Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 19: Al-Qadsiya will face Al-Sulaibikhat in a friendly match as part of preparations for its trip to Manama, where it will face Bahrain's Al-Riffa next Wednesday in the third round of Group B in the Gulf Clubs Cham-

pionship. Currently, Al-Qadsiya stands third in the group with one point, edging Qatar's Al-Arabi (fourth place) on goal difference. Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq leads the group with 6 points, followed by Al-Riffa with 3 points. Al-Qadsiya's last match ended in a narrow 1-0 loss to Al-Ettifaq.

but Msuva's goal lifted Tanzania

into second place - one point ahead

of Guinea - to qualify as runner-up

Two more spots were to be de-

behind group winner Congo.

hab, and Moaz Al-Dhafiri. Meanwhile, Kuwait Club's delegation is scheduled to depart for Uzbekistan next Sunday to face Nasaf Qarshi in the fifth round of Group D matches in the AFC Champions League 2.

Montenegrin coach

Petrovic aims to assess the readi-

ness of all players, including those

returning from international duty

with Al-Azraq in the 2026 World

Cup qualifiers. Today, Al-Qadis-

iya is set to welcome back inter-

national players Khaled Ibrahim,

Khaled Al-Rashidi, Eid Al-Rashi-

di, Rashed Al-Dosari, Adhbi She-

Zeljko

Kuwait Club is currently at the bottom of the group with 2 points. Jordan's Al-Hussein Irbid tops the group with 9 points, followed by UAE's Shabab Al-Ahli with 7 points, and Nasaf Qarshi with 4 points. Kuwait Club's qualification hopes hinge on winning its next two matches against Nasaf Qarshi and Al-Hussein Irbid, coupled with Shabab Al-Ahli losing their remaining fixtures.

Fahad Al-Hajri, Sami Al-Sanea, Abdulrahman Kamil, Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Reda Hani, Mishari Ghannam, Faisal Zayed, Mohammed Daham, Yousef Nasser, and Khaled Al-Kharqawi, are set to rejoin the squad.

Montenegrin coach Nebojsa Jovovic has also requested a friendly match before the team's departure for Uzbekistan.



United States' Cade Cowell (19) and Jamaica's Greg Leigh (22) challenge for the ball during the second half in a CONCACAF Nations League quarterfinal second leg soccer match in St. Louis. (AP)

Airport Road, Shuwaikh

nia hosting Cape Verde in Group Tuesday. Simon Msuva scored with a div-C, hoping for a favor from group ing header to Mudathir Yahya's

cided later Tuesday with Mauritaqualify at the visitors' expense on winner Egypt against Botswana. cross in the 61st minute, giving Botswana would qualify as runner-Tanzania the first of three qualifiup if it avoids defeat against the cation places to be decided on the Pharaohs. final day of qualifying.

Tasmania stuns Guinea to qualify

Guinea needed just a point from the teams' final game in Group H,

Morocco will host the 24-team Africa Cup from Dec. 21, 2025 to Jan. 18, 2026.

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