



Opinion

Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

Decisive Amir, history will remember the blessed Friday evening

IN political philosophy, a "benevolent dictatorship" refers to a system where the ruler governs for the good of all the people, rather than for personal, factional, or narrow interests. This concept, however, is rarely seen in the real world of politics.

Nonetheless, some nations have seen development under such regimes. For instance, General Franco was able to navigate political unrest and separatist pressures while working to build a strong and prosperous Spain after the devastating civil war.

A similar scenario played out in China, where Mao Zedong, the founder of the modern state, successfully unified the country after decades of chaos and the opium crisis that colonial powers had inflicted

over the previous two centuries.

However, this matter was strongly opposed by the new government, and Mao worked tirelessly to deal with the famines that plagued his country. His successors continued on this path, particularly Deng

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'Gulf Weeks' helps strengthen ties, bonds of love between GCC countries

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Air Defense photo

Kuwait Army personnel plant seedlings during a 'Greening Day' event on Saturday.

Kuwait's Air Defense holds 'Greening Day'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): Kuwait Air Defense Force of the Army organized a "Greening Day" event on Saturday, under guidance of Major-General Khaled Al-Shriaan, aimed at planting 1,500 seedlings and distributing 3,000 seedlings to various units.

The event is part of an effort to enhance environmental sustainability and improve the quality of life, contributing to achieving sustainable development, said the Defense Ministry in a statement.

Additionally, the ministry added that the initiative aims to increase the green areas in various camps of the army, resulting in a positive and healthy atmosphere for work.

322 addresses erased from PACI's database

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) announced in the official gazette "Kuwait Al-youm" that the residential addresses of 322 individuals have been deleted due to either the owner's approval or the demolition of the building.

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Hawally's bustling streets yield Kuwait lawbreakers

1,540 traffic tickets, 30 residency violators and absconders detained



Photo by Rezk Tawfiq

Volunteers are seen during the beach cleanup campaign along Kuwait Towers on Saturday.

KEPS organizes campaign to clean up Kuwait Towers' beach

The Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) organized on Saturday a campaign to clean up the beach by Kuwait Towers, in collaboration with Japanese Embassy and Society, and Environment Public Authority (EPA)

and the Scientific Center.

Speaking in a press release, KEPS Secretary General Jenan Behzad said the initiative, which is part of the "operation turtles" campaign, aims to spread awareness and healthy

environmental culture among all segments of society.

Kuwait has exerted efforts in protecting sea

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By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Kuwait's Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Defense, Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, led a significant security operation in the bustling Hawally district on Saturday. This campaign is part of the Ministry of Interior's ongoing nationwide efforts to maintain law and order.

The operation, involving multiple security sectors including public security, special security, traffic, operations, and women's police, resulted in:

- 1,540 traffic citations issued
- 30 individuals arrested for residency law violations and absconding
- 7 vehicles and motorcycles seized

High-ranking officials, including Major General Abdullah Safah, Assistant Undersecretary for Special Security Affairs, and Major General Yousef Al-Khudah, Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic and Operations Affairs, participated in the initiative.

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NewsWatch

CAIRO: The Arab League is set to convene in Cairo on Sunday at the level of permanent representatives to look into a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) memo regarding Israeli occupation threats of expanding aggressive practices in the region to include Iraq.

In a press statement, the league's Assistant Secretary-General Hosam Zaki said that the secretariat had received an Iraqi request for an extraordinary Arab meeting and it was supported by several Arab countries.

The league had notified all Arab countries of the Iraqi request for consultations about the extraordinary meeting, Zaki added. (KUNA)

BAGHDAD: Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein said Friday his country received messages of threat from the Israeli occupation authorities but did not reply to them.

"Iraq faces real threats of a potential attack from Israel but we don't want to be dragged to war," he said in a speech to the Middle East Peace and Security Forum (MEPS-2024) being held at the American University of Kurdistan (AUK) in the northern city of Duhok.

Iraq has no direct relations with Israel and the Iraqi law bans the establishment of any diplomatic or trade ties with it, he pointed out. (KUNA)



3 Kuwait mourns loss of fireman who passed away battling fire

8 stc continues to support its workers, strengthen loyalty amongst outstanding talent



9 ALSAYER Group launches Autostore Warehouse Automation System

9 Zain empowers women to lead in STEM fields

UN CAT publishes findings on Kuwait

GENEVA, Nov 23: The UN Committee Against Torture (CAT) has released its findings on Kuwait's implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The report highlights several areas of concern and offers recommendations for improvement.

Key issues identified include:

1. Torture and Ill-Treatment in Custody
- The Committee expressed concern over consistent reports of torture and ill-treatment of detainees, particularly those accused of terrorism, human rights defenders, and minority group members. These abuses allegedly involve law enforcement officers and security forces, including the General Department of Criminal Investigation, Drug Enforcement

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Kuwait sets Middle East precedent with anti-respiratory disease vaccine for kids

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): Kuwait is the first country in the Middle East region that provides anti-respiratory disease vaccines for children, Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi said on Saturday.

It is a paradigm shift that enhances Kuwait's position in pediatric medicine, Al-Awadhi told reporters in remarks after opening 2nd Kuwait Pediatric conference.

Child health is a cornerstone in nations' progress, the minister said, referring to the importance of scientific research in finding effective solutions to health diseases and problems facing society.

The Ministry of Health has paid much attention to pediatric disease over the past years through inaugurating specialized departments at varied hospitals, he noted.

The ministry is keen on coping pace with global de-

velopments in medicine, he said.

He indicated that organizing scientific conferences is evidence that the ministry gives top priorities to medical education programs.

The conference boosts joint action and opens new horizons to make use of local and global expertise, he affirmed.

Meanwhile, Dr. Iman Al-Enezi, head of the conference, said the congress is a unique gathering of expertise in different fields of pediatric medicine on local, regional and global levels.

The conference focuses this year on new topics like child health in adolescence period, she said.

It also creates an opportunity for citizens to communicate with global hospitals' doctors, she stated.

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Mol refutes social media claims

Kuwait revokes citizenship of 1,158

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Council of Ministers issued four decrees and three decisions to revoke the Kuwaiti citizenship and nationality certificate of 1,158 individuals.

These decrees and decisions were published in the official gazette -- Kuwait Al-Youm.

Decree No. 200/2024, stipulates the revocation of the citizenship of 362 women who were naturalized

through dependency, while Decree No. 201/2024 cancels the citizenship of three individuals who obtained it through dependency as well.

Decree No. 202/2024 stipulates the withdrawal of the citizenship of one person and those who acquired it with him through dependency.

Decree No. 203/2024 revokes the citizenship of 782 women and those who acquired it with them through dependency.

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'Subject Israel to IAEA safeguards'

Lebanese info minister praises Kuwait support for his country

BEIRUT, Nov 23, (KUNA): Lebanese Caretaker Minister of Information Ziad Al-Makari praised on Friday Kuwait's support for his country in confronting the destruction caused by the Israeli occupation aggression.

In an interview to KUNA, Al-Makari expressed his thanks and appreciation to Kuwait, its government and people for always standing by Lebanon and the Leba-

nese people.

He added that Kuwait has never hesitated to support Lebanon since the start of the Israeli occupation aggression on September 23, which resulted in significant human and material losses, in addition to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of residents.

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Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:55 Asr 14:31
 Sunrise .. 06:18 Maghrib .. 16:50
 Zohr 11:34 Isha 18:11

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Mild and clouds will increase gradually with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h with a chance for scattered rain.

By Night: Mild to rather cold

Weather

and partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-40 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.	Kuwait Airport	28	19
	Abdaly	29	17
	Bubyan	29	15
	Jahra	29	18
	Failaka Island	29	21
	Salmiyah	26	21
	Ahmadi	26	16
	Jal Aliyah	28	17
	Nuwaisib	27	17

'Gulf Weeks' helps strengthen ties, bonds of love between GCC countries



Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi and other dignitaries at the inauguration of the Gulf Weeks.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi inaugurated Friday the Gulf Weeks which highlight the achievements of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and is held ahead of the 45th GCC Summit in Kuwait on December 1.

Al-Mutairi, also Minister of State for Youth Affairs, welcomed the Gulf guests and stated that the Gulf weeks feature seminars, exhibitions, artistic performances, and various events will last until November 30.

The diverse activities shed lights on several key issues that concerns Gulf citizens and impact their present and

future, he pointed out.

The event, moreover, brings together members of the Gulf family and helps strengthen ties and bonds of love between the GCC countries and peoples, the minister added.

He stressed that GCC member states have made great strides in materializing the Council goals through increasing political, media, economic, commercial, security and defense and development cooperation and integration.

In addition to Minister Al-Mutairi, the ceremony was attended by Minister of Public Works and head of the higher committee for organizing the GCC Summit Dr. Nora Al-

Mashaan, Minister of Social Affairs and Family and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi, Ambassadors of the GCC member states in Kuwait and a number of senior Kuwaiti officials.

For his part, Al-Budaiwi said that these cultural events play an essential role in consolidating pan-Gulf ties and serve as platforms for fruitful interaction between the peoples of the GCC countries.

They also highlight all the achievements of the GCC in political, economic, security, military, heritage, cultural and other domains, he said.

He stated that such events emphasize the depth of belonging and the common Gulf identity and the keenness to strengthen the bonds of unity and integration.

Meanwhile, head of the Gulf Weeks organizing team Salwa Al-Qarni said the weeks activities comprise musical performances and lectures on the achievements of the GCC countries in the topics of women, people with disabilities, joint military work, cyber security, the Gulf Common Market, and other topics, a photo exhibition, workshops, skydiving shows, an event for children, as well as a symposium for GCC chief Al-Budaiwi.



Photos by Samer Shaqir
 Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Ahmed Al-Jarallah arrives at the event.

Other Voices

Kuwaiti Constitution and sustainable development

Dr. Jaber Eid Al-Wandah

International Consultant, Sustainable Development
 Deputy General Manager – Al-Najaf Charity

In our previous articles, we touched on key aspects of sustainability, starting from its concept, passing through significant milestones, and ending with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), along with some observations on them and how to positively engage with them in our institutions and environments, drawing from our values and traditions.

Today, our discussion will focus on whether the concept of sustainability or its traces can be found within the Constitution of the State of Kuwait.

Regarding the Kuwaiti Constitution and whether it respects or incorporates these principles, if we consider that the 17 SDGs aim to elevate human dignity, preserve the elements of life for current and future generations, protect the environment and its resources, and regulate relationships, the Kuwaiti Constitution is rich with articles that codify and reflect these principles. For instance:

Article 7: "Justice, liberty, and equality are the pillars of society; cooperation and compassion are firm bonds between citizens."

Article 8: "The State safeguards the pillars of society and ensures security, peace of mind, and equal opportunities for citizens."

Article 9: "The family is the cornerstone of society. It is founded on religion, morals, and love for the homeland. The law preserves its structure, strengthens its bonds, and protects motherhood and childhood under its umbrella."

Article 10: "The State cares for the youth, protects them from exploitation, and shields them from moral, physical, and spiritual neglect."

Article 11: "The State guarantees

assistance to citizens in cases of old age, illness, or incapacity for work. It also provides them with social security services, social aid, and healthcare."

Article 12: "The State preserves Islamic and Arab heritage and contributes to the advancement of human civilization."

Article 13: "Education is a fundamental pillar for the advancement of society. The State guarantees and oversees it."

Article 14: "The State fosters sciences, literature, and arts, and encourages scientific research."

Article 15: "The State is concerned with public health and means of prevention and treatment of diseases and epidemics."

Article 16: "Property, capital, and labor are the foundations of the social entity of the State and the national wealth. All are individual rights with a social function, regulated by law."

Article 20: "The national economy is based on social justice and cooperation between public and private sectors. Its aim is to achieve economic development, increase production, raise living standards, and ensure prosperity for citizens, all within the limits of the law."

You may also refer to Articles 21, 23, 24, 25, 29, 35, 40, and 41 as further examples of what we are discussing. Without delving into the explanation of each article and its connection to the pillars of sustainability and its goals, it is clear that each of these articles falls within the scope of environmental, economic, or social domains. These articles establish the rights, demands, and objectives that align with the 17 SDGs, fostering growth, prosperity, and continuity for a strong, cohesive, and constructive society. This society safeguards its solid foundations for its people and current residents, as well as for future generations, which is the essence of sustainability.

Moreover, all of these articles – along with others in the Constitution – are regulated and define the nature of relationships within society and among its various groups and components. This requires no further explanation regarding its impact on the sustainability, continuity, and vitality of society and the environment.

To be continued

Second pediatrics confab launched

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Head of the Pediatrics Department at Al-Sabah Hospital Dr. Iman Al-Enezi has announced the launching of the Second Pediatrics Conference, from Nov 22-24 at the Four Seasons Hotel.

The conference will be held under the patronage of Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, with the participation of 30 international experts from the United Kingdom, US, India, Spain and Turkey, alongside 65 local

specialists.

Al-Enezi disclosed that the conference will focus on the latest advancements in pediatric science and research, providing a platform for knowledge exchange with renowned international and regional institutions.

She affirmed that the conference seeks to address the rapid progress in various medical fields and enhance the skills of healthcare professionals by keeping them informed about the latest diagnostic and treatment protocols for children -- from infancy to adolescence.

Kuwait decorated, roads fixed as day for GCC Summit nears

Preparations underway to host Gulf Cup

By Enas Awadh & Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Kuwait is preparing in style for the 45th GCC Summit, which is set to take place on December 1.

In this regard, sources from the Ministry of Public Works revealed that the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) is working diligently to develop the important roads, particularly those leading to the airport and Bayan Palace, where the summit will be hosted.

They said efforts include installing traffic signs on the asphalt to improve the aesthetics of the roads, dealing with any issues in the existing traffic signs, resurfacing the roads, and filling any potholes.

The sources explained that the Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mishaan is closely overseeing the preparations for the summit. She recently accompanied the Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy and the Director General of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), on an inspection tour of the airport road. During the visit, she issued directives to remove any obstacles and ensure the maintenance of both the airport road and Amiri Airport ahead of the summit.

Meanwhile, PAAAFR has planted ornamental plants and trees along the roads leading to the airport and Bayan Palace to enhance the appearance of the streets in preparation for this important event.

This initiative was carried out several weeks ago under the supervision of the Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy Dr. Mahmoud Boushahri, who has been closely monitoring the progress since the start of the project.

Field operations

Director of the Public Cleanliness and Road Occupancy Department at the Capital Municipality Faisal Al-Otaibi explained that cleaning teams have ramped up their field operations since mid-November. They have formed dedicated teams to clean expressways and main roads of sand and waste in preparation for the Gulf Summit, which will be held in Kuwait early next December.

Preparations are also underway for Kuwait to host the Gulf Cup from December 21, 2024 to January 3, 2025.

In a press statement, Al-Otaibi explained that the municipality's cleaning teams are using specialized equipment, sweepers, and other designated machinery to clean the streets and main roads. These efforts are being carried out in close coordination with the Ministry of Interior's General Traffic Department.

Cleaning work has been completed on the First, Second, and Third ring roads, as well as part of the Fourth Ring Road. In addition, efforts have been exerted to ensure the cleanliness of important areas such as the Airport Road, Damascus Street, Mohammad bin Al-Qasim Street, the Arabian Gulf Street, and King Fahad Expressway.

He concluded by affirming that the municipality's field cleaning teams will continue their intensive cleaning efforts throughout the current period, right up until the conclusion of the Gulf Summit and the Gulf Cup events. This includes removing any obstacles that may detract from the overall appearance, such as abandoned vehicles, unlicensed food trucks, street vendors, and other items that impact cleanliness.

In this regard, the supervisor of decorations and flag-raising at the municipality Ghosoun Al-Jassem confirmed that all responsibilities related to street and road decorations for the upcoming Gulf Summit, scheduled for December 1, have been completed.

She explained that maintenance work has been carried out on approximately 545 flagpoles along the route leading to Kuwait, starting from Amiri Airport, through surrounding streets and bridges, and extending to King Fahd Expressway, all the way to the gate of Bayan Palace.

The maintenance of the flagpoles involved repainting them and replacing damaged ropes on some of them. These preparations are in place ahead of the official flag-raising, which will begin on Tuesday, November 26.

She revealed that the flags to be raised on these flagpoles will represent the six Gulf countries - the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, and the host nation, the State of Kuwait.



Photo by Rizk Tawfiq
 A green sea turtle is released on the Qaruh Island.

Kuwait releases 9 endangered green turtles on Qaruh Island

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): The Scientific Center, a division of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), has successfully released nine endangered green sea turtles on Qaruh Island. This initiative is part of the national project to track sea turtles in Kuwait, conducted in collaboration with the Environment Public Authority (EPA) and Kuwait University.

Musaed Al-Yassin, Director General of the Scientific Center, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that this release is a continuation of a two-decade-long national effort to study and protect endangered sea turtles. It also supports Kuwait's recent commitment to the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles and their Habitats in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia (IOSEA), signed in June.

The project demonstrates Kuwait's dedication to marine conservation and the implementation of sustainable development goals, particularly Goal 14 focused on preserving marine life. Al-Yassin explained that the collaboration aims to gather crucial scientific data for sea turtle protection and

raise public awareness about the importance of preserving their natural habitats.

Advanced tracking devices are being used to monitor the turtles' migration paths, collect data on nesting sites, and develop plans to establish nature reserves, protecting these habitats from harmful human activities.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaidan, Deputy Director General for Technical Affairs at the EPA, emphasized that this release aligns with Kuwait's international commitments to preserve biodiversity. He highlighted the importance of cooperation between official, civil, and voluntary organizations in ensuring the sustainability of endangered species and marine environment conservation.

Al-Zaidan noted that five to six species of sea turtles are currently on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list, facing threats from loose nets, nest destruction, habitat loss, boat collisions, rising temperatures, and climate change. In Kuwait, two species - the green turtle and the hawksbill turtle - inhabit the southern islands, with Qaruh Island being a crucial habitat.

Platform '51' launches '51 Nights'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): The Ministry of Information announced on Saturday the launch of "51 Nights," a unique event series for its digital platform "51," taking place across various tourist destinations in Kuwait, aiming to enhance audience engagement.

Head of the Platform's Coordination Committee and Assistant Undersecretary for Media Services and New Media, Saad Al-Azmi, told KUNA that the first event kicked off Friday as part of the "Makashat 3" project, organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs, and drawing over 4,000 attendees.

He explained that the event will continue at the Makashat site in the coming weeks, to al-

low the largest possible number of visitors, afterwards rotating weekly to different locations, including Al-Mubarakiya area and various shopping malls.

Al-Azmi emphasized that the platform, under the direction of Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, and Undersecretary Dr. Nasser Muhaissen, seeks to showcase Kuwait's national heritage.

By using diverse programming to revive the past and reintroduce it to the public in innovative and direct ways that ensures their interaction and enhances their connection to the national identity, he added.

diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

Capitalism creeping into Arab world; economies threatened

"THE capitalist system, with its intertwined political and economic ideologies, is often regarded as one of the most perilous and oppressive systems in existence," columnist **Habib Al-Sanafi** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"The United States and its allies continue to mobilize efforts to entrench capitalist dominance across the globe, cloaking their actions under pretexts like the promotion of democracy, the globalization of human rights and liberation from ignorance, poverty and backwardness.

"Since the early 1980s, the emergence of neo-liberalism — also termed globalization or free-market doctrine — under leaders like Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan and later championed by Milton Friedman, propelled capitalism into a force of unchecked radicalism.

"This aggressive economic model extended its reach to various nations and continents, often igniting civil wars and fostering internal discord through covert American intelligence operations.

"These strategies aimed to destabilize financial, banking and economic systems, often under the auspices of institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

"These entities, as instruments of imperialist capitalism, facilitated the destruction of national economies, only to rebuild them in a deregulated, capitalist mold dominated by multinational corporations — primarily American, European and Japanese.

"The expansion of unbridled capitalism has historically thrived in environments devoid of peaceful and popular democracy.

"A glance at its toll reveals the devastating impact on nations worldwide. In Latin America, for instance, capitalism dismantled economies and democracy.

"The Chilean economy crumbled under the dictator Augusto Pinochet, backed by US administration, while in Brazil, the socialist economy was destroyed, democracy was abolished and elected leaders like João Goulart were overthrown in favor of US-backed military regimes. Similar interventions unfolded in Argentina, where Isabel Perón was ousted and General Jorge Videla's capitalist agenda was imposed against popular will. Countries such as Mexico, Uruguay and Bolivia also fell victim to this relentless campaign.

"By the 1990s, even Russia — a former adversary of capitalism — succumbed economically, allowing its resources to be exploited freely. Asia was not spared either. The so-called 'Asian Tigers' — Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea — suffered from orchestrated economic crises.

"Their economies were dismantled, resources plundered and national corporations like Daewoo, Samsung and LG were acquired at meager prices by multinational firms, leaving millions unemployed and impoverished. Approximately 24 million Asians lost their jobs and 20 million more were pushed below the poverty line.

"Key figures of neo-conservatism, including George Shultz, Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, George Bush, Henry Kissinger, John Bolton and James Baker, played pivotal roles in implementing the neo-liberal policies devised by the Chicago School. These policies wreaked havoc on socialist economies, leaving deep scars.

"Today, the Arab region faces the encroachment of these neo-liberal policies, with occupied Palestine serving as a gateway for the spread of capitalist ideologies.

"The occupying power acts as a base for the political and economic expansion of savage capitalism, which now eyes the resource-rich Gulf states with their abundant oil and gas reserves.

"The question remains: will we learn from history's lessons, or will we continue to fall victim to the unrelenting march of capitalist hegemony?"

Also:

"The practice of child trafficking and unethical adoptions has evolved into a global phenomenon, with distressing cases emerging in urban centers and beyond. Women unwilling to undergo pregnancy or childbirth have turned to purchasing children, sometimes discarding them through commercial advertisements when the bond they expected does not materialize," columnist **Abdullah Khalaf** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"This unsettling trend has fueled a black market for children, perpetuated by organized mafias that exploit economic disparities. Many children are sourced from impoverished nations to meet the demand in wealthier countries, with the United States reportedly importing 90 percent of its adopted children from developing regions.

"In Britain, a practice has emerged involving the sale of one twin to unrelated families, often concealed by the mother who claims the child was lost or stolen, bypassing the father's awareness.

"This issue gained international attention in Missouri in 2001 when parents were legally permitted to choose custody of one twin while selling the other, as documented in Emmanuel Todd's book *After the Empire* (2003).

"A 1997 UNICEF study revealed that 22,000 children were adopted from

poor countries into wealthier ones, with Germany and other developed nations frequently participating in this adoption system.

"What was once a phenomenon among ancient and primitive cultures has been modernized under the guise of legal adoption in developed nations.

"In Europe, this practice was controversially referred to in 2001 as 'adoptions in civilized Western countries.' A notable example involves a Cuban child whose mother perished attempting to enter the United States illegally. Although the father sought his son's return to Cuba, US authorities chose to retain the child, prioritizing American custody over familial ties.

"Kuwaiti fathers have also suffered under the restrictive policies of Western countries, particularly the United States. When Kuwaiti men married American women and later divorced, custody battles often led to heart-wrenching outcomes.

"Fathers were frequently denied the right to bring their children back to Kuwait, instead being obligated to pay for their upbringing in US orphanages or shelters.

"In many cases, fathers were required to pay for their child's education, living expenses and insurance, leaving them financially strained and emotionally devastated.

"Legal appeals proved futile unless the father agreed to reside in the US, meet financial obligations and relinquish the right to raise their child in Kuwait.

"These injustices raise critical questions about the treatment of foreign parents in Western judicial systems. Should countries like Kuwait adopt similar policies to protect their citizens from such discriminatory practices?"

"The disparity in how parental rights are upheld across borders highlights the need for a balanced approach to international custody and adoption cases.

"The global child adoption system, while framed as a humanitarian effort, often conceals troubling power dynamics and exploitation.

"As nations grapple with these ethical dilemmas, it is essential to address the inequalities that perpetuate such practices, ensuring that the best interests of children and families are prioritized over profit and political agendas."

"A trusted friend, who just returned from vacation in a sisterly Arab country, said: 'A pregnant woman, who was about to give birth, sat next to me on the plane by chance. It seems it was the first time she boarded a plane. I do not know how she was allowed to board the plane when she was about to give birth, as the law prohibits this.'" **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Here is another question that takes a long time to research. She asked me about the basics of traveling on a plane, including fastening the seatbelt, while she was in her last month of pregnancy! I responded to her according to my knowledge.

"The gist of the matter is that she came to Kuwait on a visit visa, sponsored by her husband who resides in the country, and the duration of the visit is one month in order to give birth in Kuwait. Giving birth here is much cheaper than giving birth in her country, and the possibilities and care are greater. If, God forbid, the newborn has any health problem, the State will cover the cost.

"Now, a new maternity hospital is about to open. It seems they are aware of this and they will try to get there before the citizens to register the first birth in the new hospital for an expatriate. Basically, the new maternity hospital was established for them, as one of our most important customs is to honor the guest, and they are our guests. We must take a bite from our mouths and offer it to them!"

"According to the information I obtained, the visit visa is non-renewable and whoever violates the rule will be sent away along with the sponsor. Will a month's visit be enough for a woman about to give birth, considering she needs at least 40 days to rest after giving birth? What will happen if the newborn needs special healthcare, which could force the mother to stay in Kuwait until the baby recovers? Is this the only case or there are other holders of 'visit cards' who come to the country for a purpose other than that mentioned in the visit visa?"

"We do not want to go into details, but certainly the government sees, hears and monitors, just like us, so it is unreasonable that we are the only ones who notice this!"

"May Allah help us. We have reached a point where we are following and regretting the exploitation of our services in this way! For your information, all hospitals treat holders of 'visiting cards' for free, until the 'card' became the entry ticket to any hospital in Kuwait.

"The blessing is in laws that are not implemented and the weakness of oversight. We have never heard of a doctor whose services were terminated for violating the law, but we heard that a certain expensive medicine is not available as the supply ran out... We do not know where it went... Well?"

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes / Mahmoud Attiyeh**



Habib Al-Sanafi



Al-Saeed

Drugs found on 2 seen quarreling in car park

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: A Bedoun and another individual whose identity is under investigation were detained by securitymen from the Drug Control General Department at the Interior Ministry due to their involvement in a narcotics-related incident, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

According to a security source, the Operations Unit at the ministry received a report from a concerned citizen who witnessed a violent altercation between two individuals at a school parking lot. The citizen reported that the two men were exchanging blows while both were armed with knives, and the witness expressed fear of intervening due to safety concerns.

The source further revealed that security personnel quickly responded to the scene, where they apprehended the two men. It was discovered that one of the individuals, born in 2000, is a Bedoun, while the other was unable to provide identification.

During a search, the officers found substances suspected to be narcotics in their possession. The two men did not provide any explanation for the altercation.

A case of mutual assault and possession of sharp objects was registered against them at Abu Halifa Police Station.



The damaged Coaster bus at the site of the accident.

KFF photo

Eight people injured in accident

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Al-Manqaf Center Fire Brigade responded to a collision between a bus and a truck on Fahaheel Road Friday morning, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

The accident resulted in 8 people being injured. Personnel from the emergency medical services handled the situation and the site was subsequently handed over to the relevant authorities for further action.

Revamp strategies to foresee peddlers moves, states urged

Kuwaiti anti-drugs team attends 3-day confab

TUNIS, Nov 23, (KUNA): The 38th Arab conference for chiefs of anti-narcotics apparatuses and the second meeting grouping the departments for fighting drugs and health ministries concluded on Friday.

The meetings that had lasted for three days were organized by the Secretariat General of the Arab Interior Council at its headquarters, with collaboration with the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes — the regional office of the Middle East and North Africa — with participation by representatives of the Arab interior ministries including that of Kuwait, along with the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the International Criminal Police (the Interpol).

The Secretariat General of the Arab Interior Council said in a statement that the conference called for boosting pan-Arab cooperation and coordination in the face of narcotics, amphetamines, and tackling their impact on the Arab communities.

The participants in the meetings acclaimed a plan for enhancing "capacity of the council" and the member states in fighting the global drugs issue, with emphasis on synthetic narcotics.

They also applauded, according to the statement, the Interpol role in combating drugs in the region and the world, and asked the Secretariat General to cooperate with the stakeholders namely the European Union at this level.

Moreover, the convention urged the member states to revamp their plans and strategies to foresee the traffickers' schemes, with consideration that some states have legalized usage of the 'controversial prescriptions' for medicinal purposes.

It also called on the member states to coordinate with international conventions and study activities undertaken by the Regional Expertise Center for Combating Drugs and Crime — established by Naif University for Security Sciences and cooperate with the UN office to overhaul the Arab security apparatuses' potentials.

Furthermore, the conference final statement called for boosting instant swap of data regarding the narcotics and mental medicines among the relevant Arab apparatuses.

The State of Kuwait took part in the conference with a delegation including Director General of the Narcotics Department Brigadier General Mohammad Mustafa Qabazard, the head of the Arab Cooperation Division Jurist Brig. Gen. Mohammad Khaled Al-Rabie, Director of the Local Department for Combating Drugs Jurist Colonel Hisham Walid Al-Ibrahim, Assistant Undersecretary for Supervision of Medicines Ahmad Mnawer Al-Saeed, Director of Kuwait Center for Treating Addiction Dr. Hussein Hmayed Al-Shatti, the head of the Department for Drugs Permits Ali Abdullhusein Jrakh.



The body of the deceased fire-fighter is carried by his colleagues for burial.

Photo by Rizk Tawfiq

Kuwait mourns loss of fireman who passed away battling fire

By **Munif Naif**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Kuwait bade farewell to Warrant Officer Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Farsi, a martyr of duty, as he was laid to rest in the Martyrs' Cemetery at Sulaibikhat yesterday afternoon.

Al-Farsi had passed away on Friday night while performing his duty in dealing with a fire incident.

The funeral was attended by Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Major General Talal Al-Roumi, several senior leaders from KFF, and a large group of mourners.

Major General Al-Roumi conveyed the condolences of the Acting Prime

Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef to the family of the martyr of duty Abdullah Al-Farsi, stressing that he performed his duties with utmost dedication and sincerity.

After the funeral ceremony, Major General Al-Roumi said, "Today, the soil of Kuwait embraced a martyr from its finest sons, who sacrificed his life and gave his soul for the nation's cause. We feel proud and honored for the sacrifice made by the martyr.

We ask Almighty Allah to have mercy on his soul, grant him eternal peace in His vast gardens, and provide his family with patience and comfort."

PAI shuts 4 commercial bodies, warns 25 firms

By **Marwa Al-Bahravi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Public Authority for Industry (PAI) has issued 25 warnings to companies and commercial establishments for breaching laws and executive regulations related to industrial projects and safety requirements. Additionally, four commercial establishments were shut down for non-compliance with these regulations.

In a related development, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Khalifa Al-Ajeel, has renewed the mandate of the Permanent Committee for the Appointment of Conformity Assessment Bodies within the Public Authority for Industry. The committee is chaired by the Deputy Director General for Specifications and Industrial Services, with eight members representing the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Public Authority for Industry.

The committee's responsibilities include: Establishing standards and requirements to evaluate and appoint conformity assessment bodies, including inspection entities, product certification organizations, laboratories, and other related bodies.

Reviewing and updating technical regulations and related documents.

Examining requests and documents submitted by conformity assessment bodies seeking appointment.

The committee is also tasked with conducting evaluations, inspections, and regular follow-ups on both applicant bodies and already-appointed entities. This ensures that the appointment processes are transparent and compliant with standards. Furthermore, the committee is authorized to make decisions regarding the appointment of new conformity assessment bodies, allowing them to perform conformity investigations.

To address disputes, a separate standardization committee has been established to review grievances related to the decisions of the appointment committee. This committee handles complaints and may suspend or revoke appointments if the appointed entities fail to meet the required standards.



Khalifa Al-Ajeel



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KUNA photo
Minister of Finance Noura Al-Fasam meets with Uzbekistan Deputy PM and Minister of Economy and Finance Jamshid Kochkarov.

First session of Kuwaiti-Uzbek joint panel meets in Tashkent

Kuwait, Uzbekistan to strengthen economic co-op

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Noura Al-Fasam met with Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Jamshid Kochkarov and Minister of Foreign Affairs Bakhtiar Saidov separately on Thursday.

The meeting between Al-Fasam and Kochkarov reviewed the variables of the global economic outlook and their financial impacts on both nations, according to a statement from the Ku-

waiti Ministry of Finance.

The meeting also shed light on the promising economic and financial cooperation between the two friendly countries, with a focus on upcoming financial and investment initiatives.

During her discussion with Saidov, Al-Fasam reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to enhancing bilateral relations, particularly in the areas of trade and economics, instilling a sense of reassurance and confidence in the au-

The meeting also explored the shared aspirations and ambitions of the two countries, inspiring a sense of motivation and determination to strengthen their bilateral relations.

She pointed out that these meetings come on the sidelines of Al-Fasam's chairmanship of the Kuwaiti delegation participating in the first session of the Kuwaiti-Uzbek Joint Committee for Economic, Trade, and Scientific Cooperation, which was held in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, during the period from Nov 19 to 21.

GTD opens Hawalli, Shaab intersection

Darwazat Abdul Razzaq intersection opens: PART

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The General Public for Roads and Land Transport has announced the opening of the Darwazat Abdul Razzaq intersection today, Saturday.

This follows the completion of necessary repairs to address engineering defects that had previously appeared at

the intersection.

PART stated that, in coordination with the General Traffic Department of the Ministry of Interior, the decision was made to open the intersection as part of the first phase of the project.

Additionally, the pedestrian tunnel designated for safe crossing will be opened as a second phase at a later stage.

Meanwhile, after nearly two years

of closure for maintenance, the General Traffic Department (GTD) has announced the reopening of the intersection between the Hawalli and Al-Shaab areas, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Located at the entrance to Ibn Khaloun Street from Cairo Street the reopening follows the completion of road works and the construction of a new, improved intersection.

MoSA's Central Aid Platform to streamline charity efforts

Platform to become operational within two weeks

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Ministry of Social Affairs has said it is ready to launch the Central Aid Platform, in confirmation of what was published earlier by the Al-Seyassah daily, aimed at unifying the efforts of charity societies and organizations in providing assistance to needy citizens and residents, reports the daily.

This initiative is designed to enhance the effectiveness of charitable work and ensure justice in the distribution of aid.

The ministry, in a statement received explained that the platform aligns with the directives of the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah.

It is intended to organize charity activities in the country by linking aid requests to the "My Identity" program, which will ensure transparency and efficiency in aid distribution.

The statement emphasized that this initiative represents a significant step forward in organizing and optimizing charitable work in Kuwait, while reinforcing the ministry's commitment to continuously developing tools that support an integrated vision to unify the efforts of charitable associations and organizations.



Dr Al-Huwailah

The key features of the platform include: Unified Database -- The platform integrates aid requests submitted to all charitable societies and organizations in Kuwait, creating a centralized system for managing assistance applications.

Anonymized Applications -- To protect applicants' privacy, the system conceals the names of those seeking help. Instead, it displays essential details such as the type of assistance requested, nationality and the number of family members.

Wide Accessibility -- The platform is open to citizens, residents and stateless persons (Bedoon), ensuring inclusivity in access to aid.

Efficient Case Management -- Aid requests are reviewed by the relevant association, which assesses the applicant's eligibility within 14 days.

If a request remains unaddressed, the ministry will notify associations of the pending case.

In situations where no association responds, the ministry will assign the case to a suitable association to ensure the applicant receives help.

This is in addition to the platform ensuring that applicants cannot receive aid from multiple associations simultaneously, promoting equitable distribution by automating notifications and streamlining case review, the platform aims to reduce delays in providing assistance.

Improved Oversight: The ministry will have better control and visibility over aid distribution, enhancing accountability among associations through improved oversight.

The platform is expected to become operational within two weeks, marking a pivotal development in Kuwait's approach to social welfare and charitable work.

This initiative reflects Kuwait's commitment to leveraging technology to optimize social services, ensuring that aid is directed to those who truly need it while minimizing inefficiencies in the system.

Council's technical panel okays Shaab plots division

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Technical Committee at the Municipal Council, headed by council member Munira Al-Amir, held its 12th meeting for the third round recently; during which it approved one out of three requests listed on its agenda -- the division of plot numbers 3 and 121; measuring 3,991 square meters and 50

square meters respectively, in Block 8 in Shaab, owned by Sheikh Hamad Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

This is in accordance with the system of dividing and subdividing plots for construction and permitting construction according to the regulations in force within the investment housing areas, after deducting the percentage that goes to the State without a price from the property.

Meanwhile, the committee referred

to the executive body the proposed amendment to Chart 16 attached to Ministerial Resolution No. 278/2021 regarding the organization of construction work and other attached charts with the addition of some proposed activities in order to prepare a detailed study.

The proposal of council member Alia Al-Farsi regarding investment housing car parks was also referred to the executive body to prepare the technical opinion and provide it to the committee.

Importance of all staff highlighted

Dr. Al-Huwailah inspects services offered to people with disabilities

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, the Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, conducted a field visit to the Public Authority for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities to assess the progress of operations and the service provided in the review halls.

During the visit she emphasized the importance of all staff and supervisors adhering strictly to the law and ensuring its proper implementation.

The minister was welcomed by Wafaa Al-Muhanna, Acting Director General of the Authority, who guided her on an inspection tour of the facilities.

Dr. Al-Huwailah observed the equipment in the review halls and the services provided to individuals with disabilities. She also examined the processes in place for delivering medical and social support to

this community.

Dr. Khalifa Al-Hila'a, Acting Deputy Director General of the Medical Sector, offered a detailed briefing on the key medical services provided to people with disabilities and the initiatives taken to improve the work environment, ensuring comfort and necessary support for those in need.

Minister Al-Huwailah highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts among various departments to achieve optimal outcomes and improve the services provided to individuals with disabilities, aligning with their needs and rights.

At the conclusion of her visit, Dr. Al-Huwailah expressed her appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the authority in caring for individuals with disabilities.

She reaffirmed her continued support for this vital sector and emphasized the importance of enhancing services to achieve excellence in care and attention for people with disabilities in Kuwait.

Other Voices

Words and their origins

By Ahmed alsarraf

The Kuwaiti dialect, like many regional dialects, reflects a rich tapestry of linguistic influences shaped by history, geography, and cultural exchange. Embedded within it are words borrowed from neighboring dialects and the languages of communities that came to Kuwait for work or settlement, eventually becoming integral to the country's linguistic fabric.

These borrowed terms were either seamlessly Arabized or adopted for their utility, particularly when no equivalent existed in the native lexicon.

For instance, the introduction of cars to Kuwait brought with them a host of foreign terms, such as 'Backlight' for rear lights, 'Dashboard', 'Gear', and 'Axel', which found their way into the local dialect unchanged.

Similar patterns of borrowing occurred during earlier periods, influenced by interactions with English, Turkish, Persian, and other languages spoken in regions with which Kuwaiti merchants and sailors frequently engaged.

The shipbuilding industry, for example, though dominated by Arab craftsmen from Bahrain, incorporated many Persian terms for parts of the ships.

English contributed words like 'Wide', used to mean 'deep' or 'plentiful.' From Spanish, Kuwaitis adopted terms like 'El gato' (cat), 'shirt', and 'pillow'. Persian gave the dialect words such as 'darbaz' (gate), 'badkir' (air catcher), and 'Fashq' (bullet).

Turkish influenced with terms like 'Bayrak' (flag), 'çinko' (corrugated met-

al sheet), and 'Döşek' (mattress), among others. Everyday items like 'Kayış' (belt), 'masa' (hair catcher), and 'Kapak' (cap or car hood) also came from Turkish origins.

Other borrowed words from Turkish and Persian include 'perde' (curtain), 'meyve' (fruit), 'zift' (pitch or tar), and 'eşarp' (scarf). Additionally, unique terms such as 'qumlak', 'dendarma', 'shalayti', and 'hitli' hint at the deep integration of foreign words into daily Kuwaiti speech.

Interestingly, the linguistic exchange was not one-sided. Persian, Turkish, and minority languages such as Kurdish, Assyrian, and Chaldean absorbed many Arabic terms into their vocabularies, a testament to the interconnectedness of cultures in the region.

The sheer volume of Arabic borrowings into these languages underscores the depth of this cultural and linguistic interplay.

The late Abdulwahab Al-Haroun, an esteemed MP and minister, once encouraged a deeper exploration of this linguistic phenomenon through works like Hamad Al-Saeedan's 'The Concise Kuwaiti Encyclopedia' and Hamad Al-Hamad's 'The Kuwaiti Dialect, Journey and Documentation'. Pioneers like Abdulaziz Al-Rasheed and Abdullah Al-Hatem also made significant contributions to documenting and preserving the richness of the Kuwaiti dialect.

While the scope of this article limits detailed references to these works, they remain invaluable resources for understanding the evolution and diversity of Kuwait's linguistic identity.

The Kuwaiti dialect, with its mosaic of borrowed words, is a living reflection of the country's historical connections and its openness to the world.

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Left-right: Some of the guests during the National Day celebrations at the Algerian Embassy.



Photos by Samer Shiqer

'Algeria and Kuwait ties solid and distinguished'

Algerian Embassy celebrates November 1st Revolution

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Minister of Oil Tariq Al-Roumi highlighted the strong relations between Kuwait and Algeria, "but we aspire to further strengthen and expand these ties in all fields."

He made this statement during the Algerian Embassy's celebration of the November 1st Revolution, which was held under the theme of "Glorious November, Loyalty and Renewal" in the presence of Minister Al-Roumi and a number of diplomats.

Regarding oil cooperation between the two countries, Minister Al-Roumi said, "I had discussed with the Algerian ambassador about the upcoming OPEC meeting, where I and the Algerian minister of Energy would meet to create a future plan for enhancing economic and oil cooperation between the two countries."

He assured that cooperation would continue at all levels.

Regarding the future of oil in light of

political fluctuations and falling prices, Minister Al-Roumi highlighted Kuwait's ongoing communication with oil ministers from other countries, indicating a policy for controlling prices.

He reiterated that Kuwait would remain committed to the agreements made during the latest OPEC meeting, and the policy to stabilize oil prices would continue until there are signs of recovery, adding that coordination efforts with oil ministers are ongoing.

Meanwhile, the Algerian Ambassador to Kuwait Abdulkader Qasimi affirmed in his speech during the ceremony that the relationship between Algeria and Kuwait is both solid and distinguished, marked by a deep historical connection.

He highlighted that these relations date back to the period of Algeria's liberation revolution, which received strong official and popular support from the State of Kuwait.

Ambassador Qasimi said the relationship between the two nations has always been characterized by mutual respect, understanding, and fruitful co-



Ambassador and the chief guest cutting the ceremonial cake.

operation across various sectors.

He highlighted that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the November Revolution in Algeria, coinciding with

the 62nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Kuwait.

The ambassador praised the dis-

tinguished level of bilateral relations, which have flourished under the wise leadership of both countries, represented by Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune and His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad.

Both leaders, he stated, are committed to elevating these relations to new, broader horizons.

He said, "The distinguished relations between the two countries are characterized by ongoing consultation and close coordination. We are working continuously to develop and strengthen them to meet the aspirations of our leaderships and the ambitions of our peoples. Both countries are looking forward to holding the joint committee meeting next year, with the aim of further enhancing bilateral cooperation and elevating it to the highest levels."

Ambassador Qasimi extended his heartfelt congratulations to the members of the Algerian community in Kuwait, and wished them a pleasant stay in this brotherly country.

He assured them that the embassy would spare no effort in facilitating their stay and remains always at their service and disposal.

Ambassador Qasimi highlighted the great interest that President Tebboune has shown the Algerian community abroad.

He expressed his sincere appreciation to the minister of oil for his participation in the embassy's celebration, which reflects Kuwait's interest in strengthening the fraternal relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Qasimi said, "On November 1, the Algerian people were resolute in their fight to break the chains of colonialism, and make immense sacrifices to reclaim their freedom and national sovereignty."

This year, we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the November 1st Revolution under the theme 'Glorious November, Loyalty and Renewal.' It is a precious milestone that reminds us, with the utmost reverence, of the sacrifices made by the Algerian people throughout 132 years of occupation."

Palestinian presidency welcomes ICC's decision, claims ambassador

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub says the Palestinian presidency has issued a statement welcoming the International Criminal Court's decision to issue arrest warrants against the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former defense minister Yoav Gallant.

Ambassador Tahboub stressed that this is an important first step towards achieving justice for Palestinians who have been waiting for it for over 76 years.

He affirmed that the return to international justice marks the beginning of efforts to hold war criminals accountable, wherever they may be.

The ambassador also expressed hope that all

countries that signed the Rome Statute would implement the ICC's decision.

In a press statement issued on Saturday, Ambassador Tahboub said several countries, including Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Ireland, Jordan, Britain, Canada, Norway, and Italy, have pledged to uphold the decision, adding, "No country should be swayed by any opposition to the ICC's decision."

He highlighted that 124 countries have signed the Rome Statute, and there is a global majority that believes international justice must be achieved for the Palestinian people, who are enduring killing, starvation, and forced displacement as weapons of war against the children.

The ambassador said, "According to the decision of the International Criminal Court, Netanyahu must be arrested wherever he is, in any country that is a signatory to the Rome Statute. The court also has the authority to request countries that are not signatories to the Rome Statute to enforce the arrest of the Israeli Prime Minister.

More than 750 infants and newborns under

the age of one have been killed due to bombing, starvation, and forced displacement, all of which are crimes against humanity."

Regarding international reactions to the decision, Ambassador Tahboub explained that, "A large number of countries quickly announced their commitment to implementing the International Criminal Court's decision. The European Union had also issued a statement. All these are very encouraging responses."

He revealed that the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell affirmed the commitment of EU countries to the decision.

Ambassador Tahboub stressed that the Palestinian leadership has been in constant coordination with Arab countries since the beginning of the Israeli aggression in Gaza.

Regarding the right to criticize the United States' recent use of the "veto" to block actions aimed at halting the aggression, he said, "This is the fourth veto America has used in this situation, and it is not surprising. This can be expected from the United States, as it is the sponsor of all of this."

KEPS organizes

Continued from Page 1

turtles from extinction, she said, noting that challenges facing turtles are plastic pollution, urban extinction and abuse while activities affect negatively their lives.

Sea turtles play a vital role in maintaining maritime environment health as they curb the excessive growth of seaweeds.

Meanwhile, EPA Deputy Director General Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaidan lauded Japanese Embassy and Society's efforts in organizing their annual campaign to clean up "operation sea turtles" to spread awareness on this matter.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Zaidan affirmed EPA keenness of EPA on this activity with Japanese Embassy, and other institutions.

Individual, institutional and societal cooperation contributes to offering the best solutions for sustainable environment in light of global climate changes, he noted.

For his part, Charge d'Affaires at Japanese Embassy in Kuwait Kaneko Koji said the campaign seeks to preserve environment and cleanliness.

He referred to the increasing number of participants in the move, thanking the Scientific Center for its role in this matter.

The KEPS marked its Golden jubilee while the "sea turtle" campaign celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. (KUNA)

Recommendations:

The CAT strongly recommended that Kuwait abolish the kafalah system and replace it with a residence permit system for migrant workers. This change aims to prevent exploitation and abuse while allowing workers to change employers without risk or punishment.

These findings underscore the need for significant reforms in Kuwait's human rights practices, particularly in law enforcement and migrant worker protection.

Lebanese info

Continued from Page 1

He praised the efforts of Kuwait in launching the relief air bridge in order to limit the deterioration of the humanitarian conditions of those affected and displaced in Lebanon.

Al-Makari stressed that Lebanon has a historical relations with Kuwait, expressing his country's keenness to protect, develop and grow the special relations.

He pointed out that the Ministry of Information is working with the Minister of Justice to draft a legal text that allows Lebanon to file complaints against the Israeli occupation's war crimes on civilians and journalists.

The minister will make an official visit to Paris this month to visit an organization affiliated with UNESCO (IPDC) in an effort to approve an item related to protecting journalists from attacks in war zones and conflicts.

Meanwhile, the State of Kuwait called on the international community to apply pressures on the Israel occupation authorities to open their nuclear facilities to monitors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to verify meeting the nuclear safeguards.

The international community must shoulder the responsibility for forcing Israel into joining the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Kuwait Ambassador to Austria Talal Al-Fassam said in a speech at a meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors on Israel's nuclear capabilities on Friday.

Although all countries of the Middle East joint the NPT and apply the nuclear safeguards, Israel persist in keeping its nuclear activities away from monitoring of the UN nuclear watchdog, said Al-Fassam, also Kuwait's permanent representative to the international organizations in Vienna.

Decisive Amir,

Continued from Page 1

Xiaoping, the builder of the modern renaissance, who transformed the country into a global economic power.

Similarly, Lee Kuan Yew, who governed Singapore, which was a small, impoverished island filled with forests, poverty, harsh weather, and rampant drug addiction, pursued a similar determined course.

Realizing that ignorance and illiteracy exacerbated poverty and social challenges, and knowing that time waits for no one, Lee set out to change this reality through a series of coordinated reforms after becoming president.

To diversify the republic's national income and transform it into the most financially successful nation in Southeast Asia, Lee Kuan Yew established the Economic Development Authority. He prioritized modernity and progress, drawing strength from the country's ethnic diversity. His son, elected by the people to succeed him, proved to be equally astute.

Similarly, Ahmed Sukarno, Indonesia's first president, faced challenges like those of the aforementioned leaders. He inherited a poor nation composed of roughly 17,500 islands and a densely populated population, all of which were grappling with the crises left behind by colonialism.

However, Sukarno worked tirelessly to build economic and educational power in the country, and his successor, Suharto, continued this path of development, ultimately turning Indonesia into an economic powerhouse with huge global influence.

In political societies that strive for leadership, some of these models have successfully built strong, stable nations capable of withstanding challenges.

In contrast, nations that adopt a particular style of government without making changes often deteriorate from within after succumbing to crises caused by a lack of renewal. Others may drown in chaos and corruption, requiring harsh reforms to eliminate the parasitic forces that thrive in the murky waters of selfish interests and the false claim of monopolizing the constitution and the law.

On this basis, at 9:00pm on May 10, Kuwait found itself at a crossroads between decades of political chaos, which intensified after the liberation from the Iraqi invasion, and the beginning of much-needed reforms.

From administrative corruption and a lack of productivity, which transformed institutions into

diwanis rather than functional hubs serving the people, to the monopolization of national projects by a select few at inflated costs, the chaos posed a serious threat to every aspect of life, much like a swamp teeming with the causes of disease.

Despite its poorly executed plans, deliberate delays, and manipulation of national identity, the country's recent catastrophes, caused by certain parliamentarians seeking electoral gain at the expense of the people, only became apparent recently. Meanwhile, ministers, fearful of being grilled, carried out these demands without hesitation.

On the evening of Friday, May 10, the bravest of men, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, stepped forward to put an end to the chaos. Through his speech, he immediately restored Kuwait's strength and put it back on the path of patriotism, evoking memories of the past that the people of the region still talk about.

By Saturday morning, May 11, the majority of Kuwaiti citizens breathed a sigh of relief, even if it simply meant that traffic on the streets returned to normal.

Of course, this path has both supporters and opponents, the latter being those whose interests were disrupted and whose influence over state institutions was curtailed.

Today, after more than six months, the achievements that have been realized demonstrate that the state is beginning to recover and is on the right track to regain its leadership and the historical role it has played for decades.

It is true that fruits do not ripen overnight, and time is required for their benefits to materialize. However, anyone who knows His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, or has met with him, can attest that he will never wrong anyone and does not tolerate injustice.

His Highness swore to this, placing his hand on the book of his Lord, and after the noise of discord subsided, it became clear to all that the time for seriousness and action had arrived, and that "there is good ahead."

322 addresses

Continued from Page 1

PACI stated that these individuals must visit the authority to update their address by providing the necessary supporting documents within 30 days. Failure to do so will result in penalties as outlined in Article 33 of Law No. 32/1982, which imposes a fine of up to KD 100, multiplied by the number of individuals involved.

Hawally's bustling

Continued from Page 1

Hawally, a major residential-commercial area in Kuwait known for its diverse businesses and facilities, was the focus of this latest security sweep. The district, typically busy both day and night, saw a significant law enforcement presence during the operation.

This campaign underscored Kuwait's commitment to apprehending violators and maintaining security across all governorates. It follows similar operations conducted in other areas of the country, reflecting the government's ongoing efforts to enforce residency laws and ensure public safety.

Kuwait revokes

Continued from Page 1

Cabinet Decision nos. 1297, 1360 and 1392/2024 stipulate the withdrawal of the citizenship certificates of 10 people and those who acquired it with them through dependency.

In a related development, the Ministry of Interior denied rumors spread on social media regarding amendments related to Kuwaiti citizenship on Kuwait Mobile ID application.

This came after a video clip went viral on various social media platforms, alleging there are changes to the procedures for citizenship application.

Mohammad Al-Rashidi, head of the Electronic Media Union's Cyber Security Committee, clarified on his account on the 'X' platform that the term 'high' in Kuwait Mobile ID application means high protection, which requires a password, face and handprint; while 'medium' means medium protection and 'low' means low protection. He emphasized that the clip has nothing to do with citizenship and that the circulating clip was untrue.

Kuwait sets

Continued from Page 1

Dr. Sondus Alsharidah, head of the conference's scientific committee, said the three-day event is an outstanding scientific platform, which is featuring more than 90 local and international experts.

It has seven interactive workshops covering specialized topics like heart disease, medical leadership and emergency, she pointed out.

UN CAT

Continued from Page 1

Administration, and State Security Agency.

2. Lack of Accountability

The CAT noted a severe lack of accountability for such abuses, contributing to a climate of impunity. Kuwait is urged to ensure all complaints of torture and ill-treatment are investigated by an independent body, with perpetrators and responsible superior officers tried and punished according to the gravity of their acts.

3. Migrant Worker Exploitation

The Committee voiced deep concern over widespread abuse and exploitation of migrant workers. Reported issues include murders, physical and sexual abuse, excessive working hours, food deprivation, movement restrictions, passport confiscation, and denial of annual paid leave. These practices, enabled by the kafalah sponsorship system, may amount to forced labor and resemble slavery.

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INTERNATIONAL



A pedestrian walks along a flooded street during a storm on Nov 21, in Santa Rosa, Calif. (AP)

Storm dumps record rain in N. Calif

A major storm dropped more snow and record rain in California, causing small landslides and flooding some streets, while on the opposite side of the country blizzard or winter storm warnings were in effect Saturday for areas spanning from the Northeast to central Appalachia.

The storm on the West Coast arrived in the Pacific Northwest earlier this week, killing two people and knocking out power to hundreds of thousands, mostly in the Seattle area, before its strong winds moved through Northern California.

Santa Rosa, California, saw its wettest three-day period on record with about 12.5 inches (32 centimeters) of rain falling by

Friday evening, according to the National Weather Service in the Bay Area.

Flooding closed part of scenic Highway 1, also known as the Pacific Coast Highway, in Mendocino County and there was no estimate for when it would reopen, according to the California Department of Transportation.

On the East Coast, another storm brought much-needed rain to New York and New Jersey, where rare wildfires have raged in recent weeks, and heavy snow to northeastern Pennsylvania. Parts of West Virginia were under a blizzard warning through Saturday morning, with up to 2 feet (61 centimeters) of snow and high winds making travel treacherous. (AP)

Voters reject historic election reforms across US, despite more than \$100m push

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Nov 23, (AP): Two weeks before Election Day, activists from across the country gathered for an online rally heralding the historic number of state ballot initiatives seeking to change the way people vote. Hopes were high that voters would ditch traditional partisan primaries and embrace ballots with more candidate choices.

Instead, the election reform movement lost almost everywhere it appeared on a statewide ballot.

"It turns out, in retrospect, we weren't yet ready for prime time," said John Opdycke, president of the advocacy group Open Primaries, which organized the rally.

In Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Oregon and South Dakota - a mixture of red, blue and purple states - voters rejected either ranked choice voting, open primaries or a combination of both.

The open primary proposals sought to place candidates of all parties on the same ballot, with a certain number of top finishers advancing to the general election. Under ranked choice voting, people can vote for multiple candidates in order of preference. If no one receives a majority of first place votes, then candidates who receive the fewest votes are eliminated and their votes redistributed to people's next choices.



Attorneys and observers review a printout from a voting machine to ensure the numbers match with the reported results as the state conducts additional tabulations under ranked choice voting in a congressional race on Nov 12, in Augusta, Maine. (AP)

Election reform advocates raised about \$110 million for the statewide ballot measures, vastly outpacing their opponents, according to an Associated Press analysis of campaign finance figures that could grow even larger as post-election reports are filed. Still, their promotional push wasn't enough to persuade most voters.

"While Americans are frustrated with politics, I think most Americans are just fine with the traditional way

of voting," said Trent England, executive director of Save Our States, which opposes ranked choice voting.

Advocates for alternative election methods had thought momentum was on their side after Alaska voters narrowly approved a combination of open primaries and ranked choice voting in 2020. Then voters in Nevada - where initiatives proposing constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive elec-

tions - gave first-round approval to a similar measure in 2022. But Nevada voters reversed course this year.

In Alaska, an attempt this year to repeal open primaries and ranked choice voting appears to have fallen just short of passing, garnering 49.9% support in results released Wednesday. Final results are expected to be certified Nov. 30.

In addition to Alaska, versions of ranked choice voting already exist in Maine's federal elections and about 50 counties or cities. Voters in Washington, D.C., and the Chicago suburb of Oak Park, Illinois, both approved ranked choice voting this November. And voters in the Minneapolis suburb of Bloomington, Minnesota, reaffirmed their use of it.

Data suggests that ranked choice voting rarely results in different outcomes than traditional elections won by candidates receiving a plurality, but not majority, of support. The AP analyzed nearly 150 races this fall in 16 jurisdictions where ranked choice voting is authorized, ranging from the Board of Assessors elections in the Village of Arden, Delaware, to the presidential elections in Alaska and Maine. The ranking system was needed in just 30% of those cases, because the rest were won by candidates receiving a majority of the initial votes.

'JD probably has lot of current allies in Senate'

Vance takes on new visible role, working to boost Trump's most contentious picks

WASHINGTON, Nov 23, (AP): After several weeks working mostly behind closed doors, Vice President-elect JD Vance returned to Capitol Hill this week in a new, more visible role: Helping Donald Trump try to get his most contentious Cabinet picks to confirmation in the Senate, where Vance has served for the last two years.

Vance arrived at the Capitol on Wednesday with former Rep. Matt Gaetz and spent the morning sitting in on meetings between Trump's choice for attorney general and key Republicans, including members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The effort was for naught: Gaetz announced a day later that he was withdrawing his name amid scrutiny over sex trafficking allegations and the reality that he was unlikely to be confirmed.

Thursday morning Vance was back, this time accompanying Pete Hegseth, the "Fox & Friends Weekend" host whom Trump has tapped to be the next secretary of defense. Hegseth also has faced allegations of sexual assault that he denies.

Vance is expected to accompany other nominees for meetings in coming weeks as he tries to leverage the two years he has spent in the Senate to help push through Trump's picks.

The role of introducing nominees around Capitol Hill is an unusual one for a vice president-elect. Usually the job goes to a former senator who has close relationships on the Hill, or a more junior aide.

But this time the role fits Vance, said Marc Short, who served as Trump's first director of legislative affairs as well as chief of staff to Trump's first vice president, Mike Pence, who spent more than a decade in Congress and led the former president's transition ahead of his first term.

"JD probably has a lot of current allies in the Senate and so it makes sense to have him utilized in that capacity," Short said.

Unlike the first Trump transition, which played out before cameras at Trump Tower in New York and at the president-elect's golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, this one has largely happened behind closed doors in Palm Beach, Florida.

There, a small group of officials and aides meet daily at Trump's Mar-a-Lago



US Sen. Marco Rubio, (center left), and Vice President-elect Sen. JD Vance, (center right), walk together after leaving Vance's office on Capitol Hill, on Nov 21 in Washington. (AP)

resort to run through possible contenders and interview job candidates. The group includes Elon Musk, the billionaire who has spent so much time at the club that Trump has joked he can't get rid of him.

Vance has been a constant presence, even as he's kept a lower profile. The Ohio senator has spent much of the last two weeks in Palm Beach, according to people familiar with his plans, playing an active role in the transition, on which he serves as honorary chair.

Vance has been staying at a cottage on the property of the gilded club, where rooms are adorned with chubs, oriental rugs and intricate golden inlays. It's a world away from the famously hardscrabble upbringing that Vance documented in the memoir that made him famous, "Hillbilly Elegy."

His young children have also joined him at Mar-a-Lago, at times. Vance was photographed in shorts and a polo shirt playing with his kids on the seawall of the property with a large palm frond, a U.S. Secret Service robotic security dog in the distance.

On the rare days when he is not in Palm Beach, Vance has been joining the sessions remotely via Zoom.

Though he has taken a break from TV interviews after months of constant appearances, Vance has been active in the meetings, which began immediately after the election and include interviews and as well as presentations on candidates' pluses and minuses.

Among those interviewed: Contenders to replace FBI Director Christopher Wray, as Vance wrote in a since-deleted social media post.

Defending himself from criticism that he'd missed a Senate vote in which one of President Joe Biden's judicial nominees was confirmed, Vance wrote that he was meeting at the time "with President Trump to interview multiple positions for our government, including for FBI Director."

"I tend to think it's more important to get an FBI director who will dismantle the deep state than it is for Republicans to lose a vote 49-46 rather than 49-45," Vance added on X. "But that's just me."

While Vance did not come in to the transition with a list of people he wanted to see in specific roles, he and his friend, Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., who is also a member of the transition team, were eager to see former Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. find roles in the administration.

Trump ended up selecting Gabbard as the next director of national intelligence, a powerful position that sits atop the nation's spy agencies and acts as the president's top intelligence adviser. And he chose Kennedy to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, a massive agency that oversees everything from drug and food safety to Medicare and Medicaid.

Canadian security forum begins

'Trump would laugh at Canada military spending'

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, Nov 23, (AP): A US senator and supporter of Donald Trump said Friday the president-elect would laugh at Canada's current military spending plans and said the country must do more.

Idaho Republican Sen. Jim Risch, ranking member of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, made the remarks at the start of the annual Halifax International Security Forum which attracts defense and security officials from Western democracies.

According to NATO figures, Canada was estimated to be spending 1.33% of GDP on its military budget in 2023, below the 2% target that NATO countries have set for themselves.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said Canada will meet the alliance's target by 2032.

"With all due respect. We're good with friends with Canada and they say 'Well, we're working on this.' We say 'What does that mean? And they say 'Well, we're kind of looking at 2032,'" Risch said during a panel discussion.

"If Trump were in this room you would get a large guffaw from him on 2032. It's got to be better than that. It truly, truly has to be better than that."

Canadian Defense Minister Bill Blair said his government knows it



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau makes his way to Question Period in the House of Commons, in Ottawa, Ontario on Nov 20, (AP)

needs to increase defense spending, but he has to ensure Canada gets "good value" for its investments.

"When our allies say they want us to meet the commitment, I've told them the answer is 'Yes,' and I've told them you're pushing on an open door," Blair said. "We are going to make those investments."

Canada already plans to buy surveil-

lance aircraft, helicopters and restock its ammunition supplies. And has plans to buy submarines in the future.

Trudeau recently re-established a special Cabinet committee on Canada-U.S. relations to address his administration's concerns about another Trump presidency.

Former U.S. ambassador to Canada Kelly Craft said in the waning days of the U.S. presidential election campaign that Canada would be wise to accelerate its timeline for meeting its NATO spending commitments in the event of a Trump victory.

Retired Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie - a former lawmaker in Trudeau's government - told a Parliament defense committee two days after the U.S. election that he detects "no sense of urgency" from the government to meet those commitments.

After Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014, NATO allies agreed to halt budget cuts and move toward spending 2% of their gross domestic product on defense within a decade. Canada was barely spending 1% at the time.

Last year, as it became clear that Russia's war with Ukraine would grind on, they decided that 2% should be a spending minimum.

NATO and Ukraine to hold emergency talks after Russia's attack with hypersonic missile

KYIV, Ukraine, Nov 23, (AP): NATO and Ukraine will hold emergency talks Tuesday after Russia attacked a central city with an experimental, hypersonic ballistic missile that escalated the nearly 33-month-old war.

The conflict is "entering a decisive phase," Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Friday, and "taking on very dramatic dimensions."

Ukraine's parliament canceled a session as security was tightened following Thursday's Russian strike on a military facility in the city of Dnipro.

In a stark warning to the West, President Vladimir Putin said in a nationally televised speech that the attack with the intermediate-range Oreshnik missile was in retaliation for Kyiv's use of U.S. and British longer-range missiles capable of striking deeper into Russian territory.

Putin said Western air defense systems would be powerless to stop the new missile.

Ukrainian military officials said the missile that hit Dnipro had reached a speed of Mach 11 and carried six non-nuclear warheads each releasing six submunitions.

Speaking Friday to military and weapons industries officials, Putin said Russia is launching production of the Oreshnik.

"No one in the world has such weapons," he said with a thin smile. "Sooner or later other leading countries will also get them. We are aware that they

are under development."

But he added, "we have this system now. And this is important."

Testing the missile will continue, "including in combat, depending on the situation and the character of security threats created for Russia," Putin said, noting there is "a stockpile of such systems ready for use."

Putin said that while it isn't an intercontinental missile, it's so powerful that the use of several of them fitted with conventional warheads in one attack could be as devastating as a strike with strategic - or nuclear - weapons.

Gen. Sergei Karakayev, head of Russia's Strategic Missile Forces, said the Oreshnik could reach targets across Europe and be fitted with nuclear or conventional warheads, echoing Putin's claim that even with conventional warheads, "the massive use of the weapon would be comparable in effect to the use of nuclear weapons."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov kept up Russia's bellicose tone on Friday, blaming "the reckless decisions and actions of Western countries" in supplying weapons to Ukraine to strike Russia.

"The Russian side has clearly demonstrated its capabilities, and the contours of further retaliatory actions in the event that our concerns were not taken into account have also been quite clearly outlined," he said.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, widely seen as having the

warmest relations with the Kremlin in the European Union, echoed Moscow's talking points, suggesting the use of U.S.-supplied weapons in Ukraine likely requires direct American involvement.

"These are rockets that are fired and then guided to a target via an electronic system, which requires the world's most advanced technology and satellite communications capability," Orbán said on state radio. "There is a strong assumption ... that these missiles cannot be guided without the assistance of American personnel."

Orbán cautioned against underestimating Russia's responses, emphasizing that the country's recent modifications to its nuclear deployment doctrine should not be dismissed as a "bluff." "It's not a trick... there will be consequences," he said.

Separately in Kyiv, Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský called Thursday's missile strike an "escalatory step and an attempt of the Russian dictator to scare the population of Ukraine and to scare the population of Europe."

At a news conference with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, Lipavský also expressed his full support for delivering the necessary additional air defense systems to protect Ukrainian civilians from the "heinous attacks."

He underlined that the Czech Republic will impose no limits on the use of its weapons and equipment given to Ukraine.



From left: Yordanka Chobanova, the head of the Representation of the European Commission in Bulgaria, Maria Gabriel, deputy Prime Minister, Nikolay Denkov, Prime Minister, Jesus Caballero, Sofia Airport's CEO, press the red button during an official opening of Schengen borders by air, at Sofia airport, Bulgaria on March 31. (AP)

Bulgaria, Romania one step closer to full membership in Schengen zone

Bulgaria and Romania could become full members of Europe's Schengen travel zone starting at the beginning of 2025, Hungarian officials said on Friday.

The two Balkan countries joined the European Union in 2007 but were not integrated into the borderless Schengen zone until March, when border checks were lifted

from maritime and air travel. Land border checks remained in place due to opposition primarily from Austria, which has long blocked Schengen entry for the two countries over illegal migration concerns.

But following a meeting of the Austrian, Bulgarian, Hungarian and Romanian interior ministers in Bu-

dapest on Friday, Austria lifted its opposition, paving the way for a final decision by a summit of EU interior ministers in December.

Hungary's Interior Minister Sándor Pintér said Friday that Romania and Bulgaria, which both have borders with countries outside the EU, are now "one step closer to becoming full Schengen members." (AP)



Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman and the head of the United Russia party Dmitry Medvedev, (third left), visits the Uralvagonzavod named after Felix Dzerzhinsky in Nizhny Tagil, Russia on Nov 22. (AP)

Two leaders had bitter falling-out over key differences

Philippines vice president publicly threatens to have president assassinated

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 23, (AP): Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte said Saturday she has contracted an assassin to kill the president, his wife and the House of Representatives speaker if she herself is killed, in a brazen public threat that she warned was not a joke.

Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin referred the "active threat" against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr to an elite presidential guards force "for immediate proper action." It was not immediately clear what actions would be taken against the vice president.

"Acting on the vice president's clear and unequivocal statement that she had contracted an assassin to kill the president if an alleged plot against her succeeds, the Executive Secretary has referred this active threat to the Presidential Security Command for immediate proper action," a government statement said.

"Any threat to the life of the president must always be taken seriously, more so that this threat has been publicly revealed in clear and certain

terms," it said.

Marcos ran with Duterte as his vice-presidential running mate in the May 2022 elections and both won with landslide victories on a campaign call of national unity.

The two leaders and their camps, however, rapidly had a bitter falling-out over key differences, including in their approaches to China's aggressive actions in the disputed South China Sea. Duterte resigned from the Marcos Cabinet in June as education secretary and head of an anti-insurgency body.

Like her equally outspoken father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, the vice president became a vocal critic of Marcos, his wife Liza Araneta-Marcos and House Speaker Martin Romualdez, the president's ally and second cousin, accusing them of corruption, incompetence and politically persecuting the Duterte family and its close supporters.

Her latest tirade was set off by the decision by House members allied with Romualdez and Marcos to detain her chief of staff, Zuleika



Philippine Vice President-elect Sara Duterte, daughter of outgoing populist president of the Philippines, delivers her speech during her oath-taking rites in her hometown in Davao city, southern Philippines, on June 19, 2022. (AP)

Lopez, who was accused of hampering a congressional inquiry into the possible misuse of her budget as vice president and education secretary.

Lopez was later transferred to a hospital after falling ill and wept when she heard of a plan to temporarily lock her up in a women's prison.

In a pre-dawn online news conference, an angry Sara Duterte accused Marcos of incompetence as a president and of being a liar, along with his wife and the House speaker in expletives-laden remarks.

When asked about concerns over her security, the 46-year-old lawyer suggested there was an unspecified plot to kill her. "Don't worry about my security because I've talked with somebody. I said 'if I'm killed, you'll kill BBM, Liza Araneta and Martin Romualdez. No joke, no joke,'" the vice president said without elaborating and using the initials that many use to call the president.

"I've given my order, 'If I die, don't stop until you've killed them.' And he said, 'yes,'" the vice president said.

Under the Philippine penal code, such public remarks may constitute a crime of threatening to inflict a wrong on a person or his family and is punishable by a jail term and fine.

Amid the political divisions, military chief Gen Romeo Brawner issued a statement with an assurance

that the 160,000-member Armed Forces of the Philippines would remain nonpartisan "with utmost respect for our democratic institutions and civilian authority."

"We call for calm and resolve," Brawner said. "We reiterate our need to stand together against those who will try to break our bonds as Filipinos."

The vice president is the daughter of Marcos' predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, whose police-enforced anti-drugs crackdown when he was a city mayor and later as president left thousands of mostly petty drug suspects dead in killings that the International Criminal Court has been investigating as a possible crime against humanity.

The former president denied authorizing extrajudicial killings under his crackdown but has given conflicting statements. He told a public Philippine Senate inquiry last month that he had maintained a "death squad" of gangsters to kill other criminals when he was mayor of southern Davao city.

'N-buildup only way to counter threats'

Past diplomacy only confirmed US hostility: Kim

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 23, (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his past negotiations with the United States only confirmed Washington's "unchangeable" hostility toward his country and described his nuclear buildup as the only way to counter external threats, state media said Friday.

Kim spoke Thursday at a defense exhibition where North Korea displayed some of its most powerful weapons, including intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to target the U.S. mainland as well as artillery systems and drones, according to text and photos published by the North's Korean Central News Agency. While meeting with army officers last week, he had pledged a "limitless" expansion of his military nuclear program.

Kim has yet to comment directly on Donald Trump's reelection as US president. During his first term, Trump held three highly orchestrated summits with the North Korean leader in 2018 and 2019, before the diplomacy collapsed over disagreements on exchanging a relaxation of US-led economic sanctions with North Korean steps to wind down its nuclear program.

During the speech at the exhibition, Kim touched on the failed summits without naming Trump.

"We have already gone as far as possible with the United States with negotiations, and what we ended up confirming was not a superpower's



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un delivers a speech during an opening ceremony of a defense exhibition in Pyongyang, North Korea on Nov 21. (AP)

will for coexistence, but a thorough position based on force and an unchangeable invasive and hostile policy" toward North Korea, Kim said.

Kim accused the United States of raising military pressure on North Korea by strengthening military cooperation with regional allies and increasing the deployment of "strategic strike means," apparently a reference to major U.S. assets such as long-range

bombers, submarines and aircraft carriers. He called for accelerated efforts to advance the capabilities of his nuclear-armed military, saying the country's only guarantee of security is to build up the "strongest defense power that can overwhelm the enemy."

Kim's expanding nuclear weapons and missile programs include various weapons targeting South Korea and Japan and longer-range missiles that have demonstrated the range to reach the U.S. mainland. Analysts say Kim's nuclear push is aimed at eventually pressuring Washington into accepting North Korea as a nuclear power and to negotiate economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

In recent months, the focus of Kim's foreign policy has been Russia as he tries to strengthen his international footing, embracing the idea of a "new Cold War" and aligning with President Vladimir Putin's broader conflicts with the West.

Washington and its allies have accused North Korea of providing Russia with thousands of troops and large amounts of military equipment, including artillery systems and missiles, to help sustain its fighting in Ukraine. Kim in return could possibly receive badly needed economic aid and Russian technology transfers that would possibly enhance the threat posed by his nuclear-armed military, according to outside officials and experts.



People visit remains of a Sado gold mine seen on Sado Island, northern Japan, on Aug 26. (AP)

Japan to hold 1st memorial for 'all workers' at Sado gold mines; S.Korea will not attend

SADO, Japan, Nov 23, (AP): Japan will hold a memorial ceremony on Sunday near the Sado Island Gold Mines, which were listed this summer as a UNESCO World Heritage site after the country moved past years of historical disputes with South Korea and reluctantly acknowledged the mines' dark history.

At these mines, hundreds of Koreans were forced to labor under abusive and brutal conditions during World War II, historians say. The Japanese government said Sunday's ceremony will pay tribute to "all workers" who died at the mines, but without spelling out who they are - part of what critics call a persistent policy of whitewashing Japan's history of sexual and labor exploitation before and during the war.

The ceremony, which was supposed to further mend their wounds, renewed tensions between the two sides. On Saturday, South Korea's government said it will boycott the memorial service due to unspecified disagreements with Tokyo over the event.

There was no immediate response from Japanese officials.

Ahead of the ceremony on Sunday, The Associated Press explains the Sado mines, their history and the controversy.

The 16th century mines on the island of Sado, about the size of the Pacific island of Guam, off the western coast of Niigata prefecture, operated for nearly 400 years beginning in 1601 and were once the world's largest gold producer. They closed in 1989. During the Edo period, from 1600 to 1868, the mines supplied gold currency to the ruling Tokugawa Shogunate.

Today, the site has been developed as a tourist facility and hiking site where visitors can learn about the changes in mining technology and production methods while looking at the remains of mine shafts and ore dressing facilities.

Critics say the Japanese government only highlights the glory of the mines and covers up its use of Korean victims of forced labor and their ordeals. The mines were registered as a cultural heritage site in July after Japan agreed to include an exhibit on the conditions of Korean forced laborers and to hold a memorial service after repeated protests from the South Korean government.

South Korea's government said Saturday it will not attend a memorial service near Japan's Sado Island Gold Mines due to disagreements with Tokyo over the event, which stirred

longstanding tensions over the abuse of Korean forced laborers at the site before the end of World War II.

The decision marked a rare display of friction between the countries since the 2022 inauguration of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol. Yoon has prioritized improving relations with Japan following years of disputes over their bitter history and solidifying three-way security cooperation with Washington to counter North Korean nuclear threats, but has faced accusations at home that he was neglecting the suffering of Korean survivors.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement it was impossible to settle the disagreements between both governments before the planned event near the mines on Sunday. Japanese officials had no immediate comment.

Some South Koreans had criticized Yoon's government for throwing its support behind an event without securing a clear Japanese commitment to highlight the plight of Korean laborers. South Korean sentiment over the event worsened after the Japanese government said this week it would send Akiko Ikuina, a parliamentary vice minister, to the event. Ikuina had reportedly visited Tokyo's controversial Yasukuni Shrine following her



Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado waves a Venezuelan national flag during a rally to protest official results that declared President Nicolas Maduro the winner of the July presidential election, in Caracas, Venezuela on Aug 17. (AP)

Venezuela's govt to investigate opp'n leader Machado for supporting US House bill

CARACAS, Venezuela, Nov 23, (AP): Venezuela's government on Friday announced another investigation against opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, continuing its efforts to blame her for the economic sanctions that the United States and other nations have imposed against the South American country.

Machado will be investigated for expressing support for a bill passed by the US House of Representatives earlier this week that would block the federal government from contracting any company doing business with Venezuela's government.

A statement from Venezuela's At-

torney General's Office announcing the latest investigation said Machado's comments "constitute the commission of crimes of treason against the country," conspiracy with foreign countries and association. The statement characterized the House bill as an effort "to increase the catalogue of sanctions" against Venezuela.

The announcement came four days after the US government recognized Venezuelan opposition candidate Edmundo González as that nation's "president-elect." President Nicolás Maduro claimed to have won the July election, but he and his government

have refused to show vote tallies backing his supposed victory.

Machado won the primary organized last year by the main opposition coalition with more than 90% of support. But she did not appear on the July 28 ballot because Maduro's government banned her from running for office, alleging she had sought the economic sanctions the U.S. imposed last decade in an effort to topple Maduro.

Machado's hand-picked substitute was also barred from representing the Unity Platform opposition coalition. That prompted the faction's leadership to choose González as candidate.

Zimbabwe court convicts opposition leader Timba and 34 activists

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Nov 23, (AP): A Zimbabwean court has convicted an opposition leader and 34 activists on charges of participating in an unlawful gathering, more than five months after they were taken into pre-trial detention.

Jameson Timba, interim leader of a faction of the splintered Citizens Coalition for Change opposition party, and the activists face up to five years in prison or a fine. Sentencing is set for next week, said Webster Jiti, one of the activists' lawyers.

The court acquitted 30 others who had been detained together with Timba.

Police arrested the activists on June 16 at Timba's residence in the capital, Harare, and charged them with disorderly conduct and participating in a gathering with the intent to promote violence, breaches of peace or bigotry.

The court in September acquitted them of the disorderly conduct charges.

Their lawyers said they were at the house for a barbecue to commemorate the Day of the African Child, a calendar event of the African Union.

Amnesty International described the detention as "part of a disturbing pattern of repression against people exercising their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression." The rights group called for an investigation into allegations that some of the activists were tortured while in police detention.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who promised democratic reforms after taking over from the late repressive longtime ruler Robert Mugabe in a coup in 2017, denies the allegations, but has also repeatedly warned the opposition against inciting violence.



Then-Zimbabwe's minister of state in the Prime Minister's office Jameson Timba, arrives at the High Court in Harare on June 26, 2011. (AP)

Subcontinent

Pakistan seals off capital:

Pakistan is sealing off its capital, Islamabad, ahead of a planned rally by supporters of imprisoned former premier Imran Khan. It's the second time in as many months that authorities have imposed such measures to thwart tens of thousands of people from gathering in the city to demand Khan's release.

The latest lockdown coincides with the visit of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, who arrives in Islamabad on Monday.

Local media reported that the Interior Ministry is considering a suspension of mobile phone services in parts of Pakistan in the coming days. On Friday, the National Highways and Motorway Police announced that key routes would close for maintenance. (AP)

□ □ □

Party heads for win: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist party headed for a stunning victory Saturday in state elections in politically significant Maharashtra while the opposition seemed about to clinch victory in mineral-rich Jharkhand. Polling in the two states has been widely seen as a test of Modi's popularity after his party returned to power five months ago in national elections truncated for a third term without a parliamentary majority, forcing him to form a coalition government with help from regional partners.

India's Election Commission said Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies led with 215 of 288 seats in Maharashtra. India's wealthiest state and home to the country's financial and entertainment capital, Mumbai. (AP)

Lat/Am

Police chief kills self: The police chief in a small town in central Mexico took his own life Friday as troops closed in to arrest him as part of anticorruption raids that also detained several other top police commanders and a mayor in other towns.

The massive, near-simultaneous raids, which federal officials called "Operation Swarm," took place in two rural towns in the State of Mexico, west of Mexico City, as well as in two populous suburbs right on the edge of the country's capital.

The federal Public Safety Department said the seven officials arrested

"were linked to criminal groups," and were accused of "crimes like extortion, kidnapping and homicide." It was not clear if formal charges had been filed against them yet.



State prosecutors said the police chief of one of the rural towns, Texcaltilan, killed himself with his own weapon as marines, National Guard and soldiers closed in to try to arrest him on unspecified charges. (AP)

'Cartel leader faked death': A high-ranking leader of a Mexican drug cartel who lived in the US under a phony identity after faking his own

death has been arrested on federal charges, the Justice Department said Thursday.

Cristian Fernando Gutierrez Ochoa - the son-in-law of the fugitive Jalisco New Generation cartel boss known as "El Mencho" - was arrested this week on drug trafficking and money laundering offenses in Riverside, California, where he had been living using a fake name after fleeing Mexico, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors say Gutierrez Ochoa, 37, faked his own death and fled to the US to avoid Mexican authorities after kidnapping two members of the Mexican Navy in 2021. (AP)

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
 JAPAN PAKISTAN BRITAIN EUROPE	- Nikkei 225	+0.68	38,283.85	 UAE PHILIPPINES	- DFMGI	-0.24	4,723.64
	- KSE 100	+0.56	97,931.62		- PSEI	-1.21	7,343.24
	- FTSE	+1.38	8,262.08				
	- Euro Stoxx 50	+0.70	4,789.08				

Business

'Enthusiastic engagement and responses'

KIB concludes its successful Int'l Fraud Awareness Week campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently concluded its participation in International Fraud Awareness Week, running a comprehensive anti-fraud awareness campaign on its social media platforms, in addition to launching numerous initiatives to raise banking awareness. This initiative comes as part of KIB's continuous support of the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) financial awareness campaign, which aims to promote financial literacy across diverse segments of the community to help protect them from falling victim to fraud.

Commenting on the occasion, Basil Al-Suwaidan, General Manager of the Information Security, Privacy and Anti-Fraud Department, said: "We are delighted with the enthusiastic engagement and responses from our customers and the community throughout the week-long anti-

fraud campaign. Our primary goal was to empower individuals with the knowledge needed to protect their financial assets, and we believe we've made a significant impact in achieving that goal."

Throughout the campaign, KIB focused on empowering its customers and the community with the tools needed to safeguard against deceitful tactics and various forms of fraud, including phishing attacks, identity theft, and online payment fraud. To this end, the Bank published a series of informative social media posts that shed light on prevalent fraudulent activities, both in the digital world and beyond. These posts also detailed the heightened security measures implemented by financial institutions to safeguard customers' assets and data, ensuring the security of their online banking transactions. In addition, the Bank's social media



KIB's Basil Al-Suwaidan.



A flyer of the campaign.

content featured modern strategies to counter cyberattacks, data breaches, phishing attempts, and network or app piracy.

Reinforcing KIB's dedication to its customers' financial well-being, Al-Suwaidan stated: "Our commitment to our customers extends beyond providing financial services; it encompasses ensuring their financial security as well. We understand the increasing threat of fraud in the digital world, and we are determined to continue being a part of the solution."

As KIB wrapped up its participation in the campaign, Al-Suwaidan called on the public to engage with KIB's social media posts on information security and protection. He also called on the Bank's customer to report any fraud or breach attempts instantly, as well as any unusual banking activity, by calling 1866866.

Company implementing stock option plan to enhance work environment

stc continues to support its workers, strengthen loyalty amongst outstanding talent

Kuwait companies post KD 2.12 bln in nine-month profits, up 3.8% from 2023

Banking and financial services lead growth

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): A specialized economic report by Al-Shall Consulting reveals that 138 companies listed on Boursa Kuwait have announced their financial results for the first nine months of 2024, representing 96.5% of the 143 listed companies.

These companies reported a combined net profit of KD 2.12 billion (approximately USD 6.4 billion), marking a 3.8% increase compared to the KD 2.047 billion (USD 6.2 billion) profit recorded in the same period of 2023.

The third quarter of 2024 saw profits of KWD

696.9 million (USD 2.12 billion), a 1.7% increase from the second quarter's KWD 685.1 million (USD 2 billion). However, this represents a 6.4% decrease from the first quarter's KWD 744.1 million (USD 2.2 billion).

Nine out of thirteen sectors reported increased profits compared to the first nine months of 2023, while three sectors experienced declines, and one sector increased its losses.

The banking sector led in absolute profits and was second in performance growth, with profits of KWD 1.245 billion (USD 3.7 billion), a 4.6% increase from the previous year. The financial services sector showed the highest performance growth, with profits rising 39.2% to KWD 245.5 million (USD 748.7 million).

Conversely, the telecommunications sector experienced the largest decline, with profits falling 30.2% to KWD 201.1 million (USD 613.3 million).

Overall, 85 companies improved their performance compared to the same period in 2023, with 63 increasing profits and 22 either becoming profitable or reducing losses. Fifty-three companies saw declining performance, with 37 reporting decreased profits and 16 increasing losses or moving from profit to loss.

The top ten profitable companies accounted for 68.1% of the total profits, earning KWD 1.447 billion (USD 4.4 billion).

This report indicates a generally positive trend in Kuwait's corporate sector, despite some areas of decline.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, approved an amendment to its Articles of Association during its Extraordinary General Meeting as part of its sustainable strategy to foster a thriving work environment. The amendment to Article No. 17 allows the Company to utilize its treasury shares as stock options that can be exercised by employees. The action aims to empower employees and encourage them to excel further within their roles, while also serving as an additional benefit that can attract top talent from the local market.

Introducing the employee stock option plan aligns with stc's strategic approach to strengthening its workforce and building loyalty amongst its employees. The program will be implemented once approved by the Board of Directors, followed by obtaining the approval during the Company's Annual General Meeting.

stc indicated in a statement that the Board of Directors aims to strengthen the relationship between the Company and its employees, inspiring them to continue innovating and progressing within their respective fields. Considering that employees will become shareholders in the Company through the stock option program, stc believes that employees will be more driven to achieve new milestones. Aside from its existing employees, the stock option program is set to attract new talents through this additional benefit that will be provided by the Company. The amendment to the Article of Association comes under stc's ongoing commitment to enhance its human resources policies by adopting



stc logo

global best practices in enhancing workplace environments.

stc expects the stock option program to foster a stronger sense of ownership among employees, creating a deeper alignment between their individual goals and the Company's overarching objectives. By providing employees with the opportunity to become shareholders, the program will further reinforce their commitment to stc's success and drive long-term value creation for all stakeholders, including employees, shareholders, and customers.

The announcement of the stock option program came in a disclosure released by stc on Boursa Kuwait, confirming the approval of the use of treasury shares as well as the introduction of the program during the EGM. The amendment stated that the Company will be permitted to sell or grant its employees all or part of its shares through the stock option program in accordance with the regulating rules approved by the general meeting of shareholders.

It is worth mentioning that stc was ranked the number one ideal employer of choice for engineers and IT professionals in Kuwait according to Universum's custom research in comparison with 19 of the strongest brands in Kuwait. The recognition serves as a testament to stc's progressive approach to fostering a dynamic and innovative work environment.

NBK wealth thought leadership

Wealth transfer and optimal capital allocation

HOW will your success impact your loved ones and how will you transfer your wealth to the next generation?

Wealth transfer and optimal capital allocation are key concepts to managing and maximizing inter-generational wealth and establishing a legacy. Wealth transfer is the passing of assets from one individual or group to another, this can occur through inheritance or gifts. The largest wealth transfer in modern history is currently underway, as Baby Boomers (people born between 1946-1964) are projected to pass on an estimated \$84 trillion to the next generation through various forms of direct and indirect transfer including inheritance and estate planning; in the coming decades according to consulting firm Cerulli Associates.

Older investors are often advised to take less risk, this is sensible when the investor has saved just enough for a comfortable retirement and there is a risk that he/she runs out of money in case of a draw-down. For a high-net-worth individual who has created significant wealth there is less need for a defensive asset allocation, such an investor should maintain a long-term horizon and take relatively higher risk to maximize the family's long-term wealth. An overly defensive asset allocation is likely to reduce the long-term return and limit the family's long-term wealth.

Wealthy individuals must decide if they want to leave as much as possible to the next generation or if they just want to provide a certain level of support? Are there other larger philanthropic causes they would like to support and how can they ensure maximum impact on those causes? It is also important to discuss wealth transfers with family members however, re-



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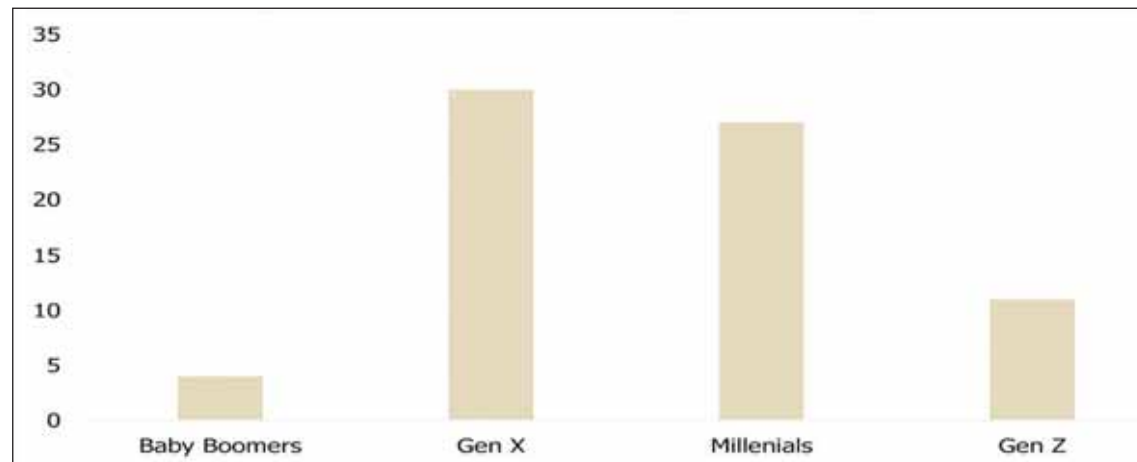
search from Milken Institute indicates that 35% of all Americans don't plan on having such a discussion with their families. Having discussions about wealth transfer can be difficult as it includes talking about when a loved one is no longer alive. However, discussions about wealth transfer are crucial for family members to align on a family vision for the future, to manage expectations and ensure that the next

generation has the knowledge to effectively handle the wealth that they will eventually inherit.

Many heirs inherit significant assets without the necessary knowledge to manage them wisely, this can lead to financial mismanagement. By receiving financial education, heirs can learn about investment strategies, risk management, and the importance of diversification as well as other important concepts such as budgeting, taxation and estate planning. Financial education for heirs can help prevent conflicts within families, which often arise from misunderstandings or differing perspectives on money. Ultimately, financial education empowers heirs to continue building upon the family's wealth and creating a legacy of prosperity. A trusted advisor or wealth manager can play a key role in educating heirs and helping them make informed decisions about how to invest their wealth in ways that generate long-term returns at an acceptable level of risk. Ideally, heirs that inherit significant wealth will invest in productive assets that generate

long-term returns, such as businesses, stocks, bonds, or real estate. However, poor financial decisions – such as spending on luxury consumption or investing in low-return assets – could result in the rapid depletion of inherited wealth. Heirs should ensure adequate diversification and have a long-term investment horizon to create inter-generational wealth and build lasting legacies. With a time horizon that stretches across generations it is also more likely to be appropriate with an asset allocation that targets a higher return and accepts a higher level of risk.

The younger generation (21-43 years old) has different viewpoints on asset classes and asset allocation and therefore the great wealth transfer is likely to also have an impact on financial markets. According to Bank of America's 2024 Study of Wealthy Americans, the most significant differences of the younger generation include a greater focus on sustainability and on companies making a positive impact, as well as less focus on public stocks.



Bitcoin approaches \$100K, sets new record

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Bitcoin surged to a record high of \$99,046.94 on Thursday, driven by investor optimism regarding the potential impact of a second Donald Trump presidency, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The cryptocurrency later settled at \$98,273.50, with Friday trading seeing it reach \$98,810, according to CoinMarketCap data reported by Al Arabiya Business.

Despite Bitcoin's gains, cryptocurrency stocks struggled, with Coinbase down 7.7 percent, MicroStrategy dropping 16.2 percent, and mining stocks, aside from Mara Holdings, which rose 6.9 percent.

The November surge in Bitcoin's price is attributed to expectations that a Trump return could benefit the cryptocurrency sector through supportive legislation and national currency strategies, as highlighted by CNBC and reviewed by Al Arabiya Business.

Additionally, data from CryptoQuant indicated increased funding rates and open interest in futures markets, while insurance premiums in spot markets fell. The surge also triggered a wave of short liquidations, amounting to over \$100 million in just 24 hours, according to CoinGlass.

Gold prices set for best performance in a year amid geopolitical tensions

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Gold prices were on track for their strongest weekly performance in a year on Thursday, bolstered by safe-haven demand as tensions between Russia and Ukraine escalated, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Spot gold rose 0.7 percent to \$2,688.70 per ounce, marking a 5 percent gain for the week, its best performance since early October 2023. US gold futures also climbed 0.6 percent, reaching \$2,691 per ounce.

Analysts, including Edward Meir of Marex, attributed the rise in gold prices to both the geopolitical instabil-

ity stemming from the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the surge in Bitcoin prices, which approached \$100,000.

Bitcoin's increase, fueled by expectations that President-elect Donald Trump will ease cryptocurrency regulations, has risen more than 40 percent since the U.S. election earlier this month.

The ongoing conflict intensified on Thursday when Russia launched a hypersonic ballistic missile at the Ukrainian city of Dnipro, following the US and UK decision to provide Kyiv with advanced weapons to strike Russian territory.

Other Voices

OPEC patience reaches limit

By Kamel Al-Harami
Independent Oil Analyst

FOR how long will the OPEC members bear the burden of keeping freshly-produced crude oil in storage, without lifting it or putting it on crude vessels?

They are missing the opportunity to earn money from their investments, while observing non-OPEC



Kamel Al-Harami

producers pouring and selling their oil globally.

OPEC+ will meet on December 1 to decide on their plans and strategy for the coming year. In consideration of the fact that they will be facing unprecedented challenges, the OPEC+ members must focus on actions, not words.

The main challenge is to determine when to release their captive six million barrels of oil that are still sitting idle in tanks. These barrels could be moved to earn money for their investments. Meanwhile, other oil producers are freely pumping and selling their oil globally, with no restrictions or conditions, and are flooding the markets with more supply.

The increase in the recent tensions between Russia and

Ukraine are contributing to pushing oil prices to the \$75 level for Brent crude. However, this is a temporary situation and is unlikely to lead to a further increase in global demand.

There is very little happening to trigger any jump in oil demand. OPEC is closely monitoring market conditions to decide on releasing more oil. However, this strategy carries the risk of lowering oil prices, which could impact OPEC's financial revenues. Meanwhile, the six million barrels in surplus remain in storage, waiting for a "miracle".

OPEC's upcoming meeting must examine and discuss the impact of releasing six million barrels of oil into the market. How much oil should be released to deter other producers and discourage further oil investments?

The incoming U.S. administration is likely to encourage more oil production with no limits, with a clear message that America aims for energy independence.

Given this new factor, OPEC has no choice but to release its stored oil and await market reactions. OPEC can no longer remain captive to other producers, and lose its share of the global market.

Patience has reached its limits, and OPEC must make a decision.

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Award granted by the Asian Banker Global Awards Program

KFH named the Best Retail Bank in Kuwait for 2024

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has been named the Best Retail Bank in Kuwait by The Asian Banker's Middle East & Africa Awards program for 2024.

These awards are the most rigorous, prestigious and transparent award programs for retail banking, fintech, risk management, sustainable green finance, and banking services in the Middle East and Africa region. Financial institutions are selected based on their vision, ability to offer top-notch financial services in the banking sector, as well as their major achievements and best practices.

Financial institutions are selected based on several criteria such as strong business processes that lead to consistent and profitable performance. It recognizes financial institutions for their vision, execution and market leading propositions that make a positive impact on their business and the local consumers, in addition to customer experience, consistent financial performance,

corporate strategy, brand and digital journey.

During the awards' ceremony held in Dubai, KFH Deputy General Manager Products, Nehal Almosalem said that Best Retail Bank in Kuwait award, which is part of The Asian Banker's Middle East & Africa Awards program, reaffirms KFH's excellence in retail banking services, which serve the largest segment of customers. She pointed out that KFH has always been keen to enhance customer confidence and satisfaction, and keeping abreast of their aspirations to offer them the best innovative banking services and products according to the highest quality standards.

She added: "KFH has achieved significant successes, driven by the Group's acquisition of Ahli United Bank Group and the operational integration with the (formerly) Ahli United Bank - Kuwait. These milestones mark a new chapter in KFH's journey as the largest bank in Kuwait by market capitalization and the world's second-largest Islamic bank by assets. Additionally, KFH recorded outstanding financial results and growth across

most key indicators. These achievements enable KFH to deliver exceptional value to its customers by offering innovative and unique banking services and solutions."

"This underscores the bank's commitment to always prioritizing customer satisfaction at the core of its strategy. Such dedication has placed KFH at the forefront of the financial sector in Kuwait and globally, enhancing its ability to boost its market share and achieve remarkable progress in the retail banking sector. This is especially evident in light of its remarkable success in digital transformation and the launch of innovative digital banking solutions tailored to meet its customers' needs," she commented.

Almosalemsaid that KFH is moving forward in leading the digital transformation of banking services to meet the needs of customers who aspire for innovative banking services and technological solutions that combine ease of access, speed, quality, security and innovation as part of simple banking experience.



Nehal Almosalem receiving the award.

First Toyota distributor in the world to implement this project

ALSAYER Group launches Autostore Warehouse Automation System



Top and above photos from the launch of Autostore Warehouse Automation System.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est. Co. held the launch ceremony of Autostore Warehouse Automation at Sabhan's Parts Distribution Warehouse, one of the largest Toyota and Lexus parts warehouses in the region. ALSAYER is the first Toyota distributor globally to implement this technology, which is highly advanced standard in automotive parts logistics.

The ceremony was attended by: Mubarak Naser Al Sayer CEO, Bengt Schultz COO from ALSAYER Group, Takuro Yoshida - Department General Manager of Spare Parts, Toyota Motor Corporation representative, Desmond Lew - Senior Business Director Parts & Group Logistics, delegates from principals, Senior Management Members, Group Parts Management Team and representatives of the press and media.

According to Mubarak Al-Sayer: "Over the past ten years, we have invested heavily in developing IT infrastructure to improve business efficiency and digital transformation. We will continue to develop and innovate in various fields. Today, I am pleased to announce that we are thankfully the first Toyota dis-

tributor in the world to implement this project.

"I take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to this project, especially the spare parts and warehouse logistics team, the Administration department, the IT team and the Constructions and maintenance department. I would also like to appreciate Dematic's contribution and effective role in the success of this project" added Mubarak Al Sayer.

Desmond Lew commented: "This parts distribution center was built to Toyota Motor Corporation's global standards, and before today our employees walked at a rate of 5 kilometers per day to go to pick up spare parts. But now things have evolved with our ultimate goal bringing spare parts to the worker and not the other way around.

One of the advantages of Autostore technology is the best use of space, achieving the highest level of efficiency with minimal or even minimal human intervention. Thus, increasing customer satisfaction by reducing the waiting time for customers to receive their parts".

Takuro Yoshida said: "Toyota Motor Corporation is pleased to note that the

Autostore project will accelerate deliveries to your service centers, which will increase customer satisfaction with the service. I thank the parts and accessories team at Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons for their unwavering support. We look forward to collaborating to increase the sales of genuine parts and put more smiles on the faces of Toyota and Lexus customers in Kuwait."

During the ceremony, the attendees witnessed a live broadcast of the distribution of spare parts using Autostore technology and the operations of the automated system. This was followed by the ribbon-cutting ceremony and inviting attendees for an internal tour of the facility.

The paradigm shift was recognized, thanks to mobile tools compatible with modern SAP technology. Developed in collaboration with ALSAYER Group's IT Department. This technology enhances repository utilization processes by updating data in real time and removing manual notes and papers.

ALSAYER Group remains fully committed to developing digital technology to achieve better and faster levels of customer service and ensure the highest levels of customer satisfaction.

Company held 'Women in Tech' program to advance female talent in technology

Zain empowers women to lead in STEM fields

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Zain recently launched Women in Tech, an initiative aimed at empowering women in technology by providing talented Kuwaiti women with essential skills related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The program prepared participants to excel in an ever-evolving job market by focusing on career development, skill enhancement, and fostering opportunities for networking and mentorship.

This effort aligns with Zain's corporate sustainability strategy, which centers on key pillars such as investing in human capital, nurturing national talent, advancing gender equality, and fostering inclusion and diversity to support sustainable growth.

Led by Zain's specialized team in areas such as data management, quality assurance, business technology solutions, cloud systems, and network optimization, the Women in Tech program featured interactive sessions and workshops on topics like STEM education, data management, cloud computing, and 5G technology. Participants also honed



Zain's team with a number of participants.



The initiative aimed at advancing women's tech skillsets.

crucial soft skills, including leadership, teamwork, overcoming

challenges, and maintaining work-life balance.

This initiative builds on many other programs that Zain has supported over the years to develop national female talent in technology fields. Zain remains committed to investing in youth and education as a cornerstone of its initiatives.

With the economy rapidly advancing towards digital innovation, Zain prioritizes the development of digital and coding skills among Kuwaiti youth - especially women and girls - recognizing their vital role in shaping the community's future.

OPEC, Russia hold high-level meeting on 'energy issues'

Important milestone in energy dialogue

VIENNA, Nov 23, (KUNA): The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Russian Federation held the Ninth High-level Meeting of the OPEC-Russia Energy Dialogue in Moscow, according to a joint press release.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Alexander Novak, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, and Haitham Al Ghais, Secretary General of OPEC.

Novak said: "Russia will continue to be a key player in the oil market, maintaining its status as a reliable supplier. The OPEC+ member countries are in constant contact, monitor the market situation and are ready to flexibly and promptly respond to any changes in market conditions. The current mechanism for implementing the OPEC+ Agreement is the most effective tool for maximizing the efficiency of oil production and state revenues".

Al Ghais highlighted the important

partnership between the Russian Federation and OPEC at all levels and commended the leadership role exerted by the Russian Federation in the Declaration of Cooperation framework as a co-chair of the OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meetings (ONOMM) and the Meetings of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMCC).

The Secretary General also praised the OPEC-Russia Energy Dialogue as a dynamic platform that facilitates discussion, knowledge sharing and exchange of views between the two parties.

The meeting constitutes an important milestone in the energy dialogue. It emphasized the strategic importance of cooperation between OPEC and the Russian Federation, including through the frameworks of the Declaration of Cooperation and the Charter of Cooperation.

Discussions revolved around developments in the global oil and energy markets and the outcome of the recent climate change negotiations at COP29, which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 11-22 November 2024, as well as various issues related to the oil and energy industries, such as energy security, risk of underinvestment and the importance of market stability in driving global economic growth.



KUNA photo

OPEC, Russia affirm necessity to maintain oil-energy market stability to stimulate economic growth.

'Kuwait's growth potential supported by sovereign wealth'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: HSBC's top economists gathered in Kuwait to present their outlook for the economy at the bank's annual Economic Roadshow event. The successful engagement brought together key clients and stakeholders for a series of global, regional and local economic updates.

While noting some global economic headwinds, the economists outlined Kuwait's significant potential for future growth thanks, in part, to the relative strength of the country's sovereign wealth when compared with regional peers and how Kuwait can support its economic development and diversification efforts.

"Our economists' presentations high-

lighted Kuwait's immense economic potential. With the right policies and in-

vestments, Kuwait is well-positioned to accelerate growth and development in



Samer Alabed CEO of HSBC Kuwait and Simon Williams, HSBCs Chief Economist for CEEMEA.

the coming years," said Samer Alabed, CEO of HSBC in Kuwait.

Simon Williams, HSBC's Chief Economist for CEEMEA, added: "While Kuwait faces some near-term cyclical challenges, its long-term potential remains positive. The country's substantial financial resources provide flexibility to navigate global economic uncertainties while investing in future growth drivers."

More than 100 clients and business leaders in Kuwait attended the presentations which were made by the HSBC Global Research economics team which, in addition to Simon Williams, included Senior Economic Adviser, Stephen King and Global Economist, James Pomeroy.

Music fest finale sparkles with star performances



Performers enchant during the concert dubbed 'Ghanawi Arabiya'.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23, (KUNA): A magnificent concert, dubbed "Ghanawi Arabiya" (Arabian song), drew the curtain on the 24th International Music the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center on Friday.

A constellation of Arab singing stars, including Bader Nouri, MUSAED AL-TATTAN, MOHAMMAD ASDI, GHANIMA AL-ANZI, ABDULLAH AL-FADHLI and SAUD AL-FAYEZ, led by maestro Dr. Khaled Al-Nouri, performed popular traditional songs.

Assistant Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL) and President of the Festival MUSAED AL-ZAMEL said the Higher Committee of the Festival decided to honor Mohammad Al-Baloushi as per-



Left: Musaed Al-Zamel, Assistant Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature (NCCAL). Right: Singing star Ghanima Al-Anzi.



sonality of this year's event.

Al-Baloushi and a number of celebrated artists, being honored too, have made apparent contributions to the music field, Al-Zamel said in a speech to the closing ceremony.

He noted that the coming session of the annual festival will celebrate Kuwait selection by the Arab League as Capital of Arab Culture and Media 2025.

The celebrations will be supported by Minister of Information and Culture Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi and NCCAL Secretary-General Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar, he added.

Opened on Sunday, the Festival is part of an annual chain being organized by NCCAL since 1998 to commemorate the Kuwaiti and Arab musical legacy.



Photos during the launch.

LuLu Hypermarket's 'Super Friday' promises thrilling deals

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: LuLu Hypermarket, a name synonymous with exceptional value and quality, has officially launched its most awaited annual sale, 'Super Friday', as part of Kuwait's own 'Black Friday' festivities. With unbeatable discount deals of up to 70 percent across multiple categories, and a lineup of exciting activities, this mega event is set to redefine discount shopping in the country.

The event was launched on 21 November at the LuLu Qurain Outlet by renowned Kuwaiti influencers and LuLu Kuwait's management. The inauguration set the stage for two weeks of non-stop offers and surprises. From big-brand bargains to exclusive in-store deals, 'Super Friday' is where value meets excitement!

Shoppers can expect extraordinary savings on a range of categories including electronics like mobiles, tablets, TVs, laptops, and gaming consoles, beauty products, fashion garments and accessories, home appliances, fragrances, toys, and groceries.

'Super Friday' promises something for everyone at bargain prices, with prices like never before being made available even for iconic brands, making this the perfect opportunity to upgrade your gadgets, wardrobe, or home essentials.

In addition to spectacular discounts, the retailer is taking the shopping experience to the next level with added perks such as free delivery, extended warranties, free installation, and flexible installment payment plans on specific purchases, whether you shop for them in store

or online.

Beyond the discounts, 'Super Friday' also brings excitement to shopping trips through opportunities to engage in live deals, try your luck with the 'Spin the Wheel' contest, or score big with the 'Mystery Box' challenge – available to customers spending KD50 or more.

Experience 'One Day Wonders', featuring flash deals that sell out fast, and the 'End of Season Sale', where seasonal must-haves are available at unbeatable prices. Tech enthusiasts can take advantage of the 'Digital Sale', offering amazing discounts on electronics and IT accessories, while in-store shoppers can explore 'Exclusive Deals' packed with surprises at their nearest outlet.

For those seeking fast-paced excitement, 'Hourly Offers' deliver ever-changing deals, and the '48-Hours Super Sale' promises a non-stop shopping extravaganza. Do not miss the 'Big Brands Sale', showcasing your favorite brands at reduced prices, or the 'Super Day Flat 50%', offering half-the-price-off on select products for one special day.

The fun continues with 'Evening Madness', featuring thrilling discounts during evening hours, and a 'Price Match Guarantee', ensuring you shop with confidence.

LuLu Hypermarket's 'Super Friday' is more than a sale – it is a celebration of value, variety, and innovation. Visit your nearest LuLu outlet or shop online to experience Kuwait's biggest Black Friday sale event of the year!

FAIPS–DPS reimagines 'Happily Ever After – Fairy Tales'

Fahaheel Al Watanieh Indian Private School, Kuwait recently held its highly anticipated Annual Day celebration for middle school, specifically for Class 5, with great style and enthusiasm. The event, which took place on November 12, 2024, was centered on the captivating theme "Happily Ever After – Fairy Tales Re-imagined." This theme introduced a fresh and innovative perspective on classic fairy tales, enchanting both guests and parents alike. It showcased the power of creativity, teamwork, and the art of reinterpreting traditional stories in a contemporary context. The occasion was a true testament to the school's dedication to nurturing young minds and fostering imaginative exploration.

The celebrations commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, a powerful symbol marking the start of an inspiring and joyful morning. The attendance of esteemed dignitaries enriched the occasion significantly. Mr. Ravi Ayanoli, the esteemed Principal, took the opportunity to address the Chief Guest, dignitaries, and parents, conveying his sincere appreciation for their involvement. In his speech, the principal highlighted the vital role parents play in nurturing their children's academic success and fostering strong moral values. He emphasized that a collaborative partnership between schools and parents is crucial for cultivating excellence and responsible citizenship in students, paving the way for their future achievements.

His Excellency Dr. Manelisi Paulose Genge, Ambassador of South Africa, served as the esteemed Chief Guest for the day, joined by distinguished guests Ms. Chaitali B. Roy, a notable writer, journalist, and media personality, and Mr. Rahul J. Nair, Chief Lifologist and Co-founder of Lifology. In his address, His Excellency commended the school for its steadfast commitment to holistic education and highlighted the vital role that cultural exchange and storytelling

play in nurturing empathy, understanding, and global citizenship among young individuals. He encouraged the audience to recognize how storytelling not only shapes our perceptions but also connects diverse cultures, fostering a shared human experience that enriches our collective journey.

The event was a vibrant showcase of performances that offered a refreshing and imaginative take on well-known fairy tales. The students' creativity shone as they reinterpreted classic tales such as Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Peter Pan, and Hansel and Gretel, each infused with contemporary themes of resilience, kindness, and courage. The segment, titled "Funky fairy tales," added a lively and modern twist to these timeless narratives. This was followed by a mesmerizing ballroom dance performance that brought an air of elegance to the evening.

A standout moment of the event was

the "Arabian Nights" performance, where students transported the audience into the enchanting realm of Arabian folklore through their graceful dances and captivating storytelling. The evening reached its climax with a vibrant Grand Finale, featuring all performers uniting in a spectacular display of energy and talent, which left the audience in awe. Throughout the night, the students' enthusiasm was palpable, and the audience remained thoroughly engaged by the diverse performances, each reflecting the spirit of the theme.

The event concluded on a gracious note with a Vote of Thanks from Ms. Deepa Elizabeth, the Headmistress. She thoughtfully acknowledged the contributions of the Chief Guest, esteemed dignitaries, parents, and all who participated in making the annual day a success. Their efforts not only highlighted the collective spirit of our community but also set a strong foundation for future events.



Some photos of the performances.

Singer surprises fans with early holiday present

Lamar's pride, anger and confidence drive 'GNX'

LOS ANGELES, Nov 23, (AP): With his surprise-dropped "GNX," Kendrick Lamar roars from zero to 60 faster than a turbocharged '87 Buick, faster than you can shout "Mustaaaaard." And waaaaay faster than you can decode the dense biblical centerpiece "Reincarnated."

Keeping the same energy of his landmark Pop Out concert five months ago, Lamar surrounds himself with up-and-coming Los Angeles artists - from Az-Chike to Peysoh - and raps over thumping New West Coast soundscapes shaped by his longtime producer Sounwave, along with Jack Antonoff and a garageful of other beat mechanics. He's once again "possessed by a spirit," sprinkling 2Pac, Biggie and Nas references throughout and maintaining a me-against-the-world antipathy that includes but extends well beyond a certain Canadian: "I just strangled me a GOAT" and "now it's plural."

Lil Wayne, Snoop Dogg, Andrew Schulz, and even Fox's Super Bowl broadcast can't escape K-Dot's chaotic crosshairs. Here's hoping the chorus of "tv off" - an urgent call to "turn this TV off" repeated eight times - confuses the masses during his New Orleans halftime show in February.

This is Lamar leaning into the same creativity-juicing pride, self-righteous anger and supreme confidence that fueled the Grammy-nominated "Not Like Us" and won his Drake feud: "I kill 'em all before I

let 'em kill my joy." And yet, as with his first-ever hit "Swimming Pools (Drank)," even the most club-ready braggadocio songs - and there are plenty, including the massive "squabble up" and synth-stabbed Mustard production "hey now" - are slapped with a caution sticker. Introspection is baked into Lamar's art. In "man at the garden," he's surveying his kingdom and glory and declares that while "I deserve it all," "dangerously / nothing changed with me / still got pain in me."

At age 37, Lamar remains in peak form (that breath control!) and stands alone in the rap world as a star who bridges generations without chasing trends. He generates his own gravity in the hip-hop universe. Pulling samples from the early '80s - Debbie Deb, Luther Vandross, Whodini - he's able to switch cadences and lyrical perspectives mid-song without ever losing the listener.

Album closer "gloria," one of two tracks featuring former TDE labelmate SZA, is a glorious celebration of the pain and power of writing. In the vein of Common's "I Used to Love H.E.R." or Nas' "I Gave You Power," Lamar's love story details a "complicated relationship" that listeners at first may think is about his longtime partner Whitney Alford, but turns out to be dedicated to his pen.

While carefully structured, "GNX" feels a bit more scattershot than Lamar's traditionally concept-heavy studio albums. And there are hints that this collection

of 12 songs is more of a "Part 1" or mixtape-type prelude to something more formal: The brief music video announcing the album features a snippet of a song that doesn't even appear on "GNX."

Whatever comes next, the Pulitzer Prize winner has written another thrilling chapter in what remains the most fascinating longform story in hip-hop: an ambitious and searingly talented poet from Compton working through his - and the world's - contradictions on the biggest stage, forever discomforted by his crown.

Lamar gave music listeners an early holiday present Friday with the surprise drop of a new album.

The Grammy winner's 12-track "GNX" is the rapper's first release since 2022's "Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers" and his sixth studio album overall. It also comes just months after his rap battle with Drake.

Lamar first teased the album with a cover art of "GNX," which features multi-instrumentalist Jack Antonoff as a co-producer on every track except for "Peekaboo." Other notable producers includes Sounwave and DJ Mustard, who both contributed production on the hit "Not Like Us," the ubiquitous diss track emanating from the Drake feud.

Lamar's former Top Dawg Entertainment labelmate SZA appears on a couple songs including "Gloria" and "Luther," which also features sampled vocals from Luther Vandross and Cheryl Lynn through "If This World Were Mine."



Kendrick Lamar performs during the Festival d'ete de Quebec in Quebec City, Canada on July 7, 2017. (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: Sean "Diddy" Combs' lawyers tried for a third time Friday to persuade a judge to let the hip-hop mogul out of jail while he awaits his sex trafficking trial, but a decision won't come until next week as prosecutors warned of his "concerted effort" from behind bars to disrupt the case.

US District Judge Arun Subramanian said he'll rule promptly on Combs' bail request after the defense and prosecution file letters by noon Monday fleshing out some of the arguments they made during a two-hour hearing in Manhattan federal court.

Combs' lawyers pitched having him await trial under around-the-clock surveillance either at his mansion on an island near Miami Beach or - after the judge scoffed at that location - at an apartment on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Their \$50 million bail proposal, secured by his Florida home, essentially amounts to keeping Combs on house arrest instead of in custody at the troubled Brooklyn federal jail where he's been held for 67 days since his September arrest.

Under their plan, Combs' lawyers said he'll be under near-total restrictions on his ability to see or contact anyone but them. But prosecutors argued that no bail conditions can mitigate Combs' "risk of obstruction and dangerousness to others." (AP)

NEW YORK: Alice Brock, whose Massachusetts-based eatery helped inspire Arlo Guthrie's deadpan Thanksgiving standard, "Alice's Restaurant Massacree," has died at age 83.

Her death, just a week before Thanksgiving, was announced Friday by Guthrie on the Facebook page of his own Rising Son Records. Guthrie wrote that she died in Provincetown, Massachusetts, her residence for some 40 years, and referred to her being in failing health. Other details were not immediately available.

"This coming Thanksgiving will be the first without her," Guthrie wrote. "Alice and I spoke by phone a couple of weeks ago, and she sounded like her old self. We joked around and had a couple of good laughs even though we knew we'd never have another chance to talk together."

Born Alice May Pelkey in New York City, Brock was a lifelong rebel who was a member of Students for a Democratic Society among other organizations. In the early 1960s, she dropped out of Sarah Lawrence College, moved to Greenwich Village and married Ray Brock, a woodworker who encouraged her to leave New York and resettle in Massachusetts. (AP)

MEMPHIS, Tenn.: A Tennessee man who helped two hired killers after they gunned down rapper Young Dolph at a Memphis bakery will not serve time in prison under a sentence of six years' probation, a judge ruled Friday.

Jermarcus Johnson, 27, pleaded guilty in June 2023 to three counts of serving as an accessory after the shooting. Johnson helped Cornelius Smith Jr. and Justin Johnson, his half-brother, communicate by cellphone while they were on the run from authorities after the daytime ambush.

Justin Johnson was convicted on Sept. 26 of first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder and being a felon in possession of a gun. He was sentenced to life in prison plus 35 years. Smith has been charged with first-degree murder and he testified at Justin Johnson's trial, saying they fatally shot Young Dolph.

Shelby County Judge Jennifer Mitchell sentenced Jermarcus Johnson to a six-year diversionary program where he will undergo job training, submit to drug testing, refrain from possessing a gun and serve 20 hours of community service per year. (AP)



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Connie Nielsen in a scene from 'Gladiator II.' (AP)

'Wicked' and 'Gladiator II' collide in theaters

Is 'Glicked' the new 'Barbenheimer'?

LOS ANGELES, Nov 23, (AP): "Barbenheimer" was a phenomenon impossible to manufacture. But, more than a year later, that hasn't stopped people from trying to make "Glicked" - or even "Babyratu" - happen.

The counterprogramming of "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" in July 2023 hit a nerve culturally and had the receipts to back it up. Unlike so many things that begin as memes, it transcended its online beginnings. Instead of an either-or, the two movies ultimately complemented and boosted one another at the box office.

And ever since, moviegoers, marketers and meme makers have been trying to recreate that moment, searching the movie release schedule for odd mashups and sending candidates off into the social media void. Most attempts have fizzled (sorry, "Saw Patrol").

This weekend is perhaps the closest approximation yet as the Broadway musical adaptation "Wicked" opens Friday against the chest-thumping sword-and-sandals epic "Gladiator II." Two big studio releases (Universal and Paramount), with one-name titles, opposite tones and aesthetics and big blockbuster energy - it was already halfway there before the name game began: "Wickiactor," "Wadiator," "Gladwick" and even the eyebrow raising "Glicked" have all been suggested.

"Glicked" rolls off the tongue a little bit more," actor Fred Hechinger said at the New York screening of "Gladiator II" this week. "I think we should all band around 'Glicked.' It gets too confusing if you have four or five different names for it."

As with "Barbenheimer," as reductive as it might seem, "Glicked" also has the male/female divide that make the fan art extra silly. One is pink and bright and awash in sparkles, tulle, Broadway bangers and brand tie-ins; The other is all sweat and sand, blood and bulging muscles.

Both films topped Fandango's most anticipated holiday movie survey, where 65% of respondents said that they were interested in the "Glicked" double feature. Theaters big and small are also pulling out the stops with movie-themed tie-ins. B&B Theaters will have Roman guards tearing tickets at some locations and Maximus popcorn tubs. Marcus Theaters is doing Oz photo ops and friendship bracelet-making. Alamo Drafthouse is leaning into the singalong aspect (beware, though, not all theaters are embracing this) and the punny drinks like "Defying Gravi-Tea."

"Rather than it being in competition, I think they're in conversation," "Gladiator II" star Paul Mescal said. "This industry needs a shot in the arm. Those films gave it last year. We hope to do it this year."

And the hope is that audiences will flock to theaters to be part of this moment as well. It's a sorely needed influx of could-be blockbusters into a marketplace that's still at an 11% deficit from last year and down 27.2% from 2019, according to data from Comscore.

"Competition is good for the marketplace. It's good for consumers," said Michael O'Leary, the president and CEO of the National Association of Theatre Owners. "Having two great movies coming out at the same time is simply a multiplier effect."

"Glicked" is currently tracking for a combined North American debut in the \$165 million range, with "Wicked" forecast to earn around \$100 million (up from the \$80 million estimates a few weeks ago) and "Gladiator II" pegged for the \$65 million range.

"Barbenheimer" shattered its projections last July. Going into that weekend, "Barbie" had been pegged for \$90 million and "Oppenheimer" around \$40 million. Ultimately, they brought in a combined \$244 million in that first outing, and nearly \$2.4 billion by the end of their runs.



This image released by Universal Pictures shows promotional art for the film 'Wicked.' (AP)

Film

Xmas movies

Swift's love life inspires 2 films

LOS ANGELES, Nov 23, (AP): Two new Christmas TV movies have a Taylor Swift connection that her fans would have no problem decoding.

"Christmas in the Spotlight" debuts Saturday on Lifetime. It stars Jessica Lord as the world's biggest pop star and Laith Wallschleger as a pro football player, who meet and fall in love - not unlike Swift and her boyfriend, Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce.

"It's clearly inspired by Taylor and Travis, but I don't know them and I don't know what is going on behind the scenes. I only know what's been put out there," said Eirene Tran Donohue, a longtime, devoted fan who jumped at the opportunity to write a script even loosely based on her favorite musician.

She was inspired by the couple's support of each other's accomplishments, particularly Kelce's ease with dating the star despite the glare of the spotlight, adding, "I love the way that he celebrates her."

Tran Donohue wants fellow Swift fans to know she wrote the script with them in mind.

"There are so many Easter eggs," she said of little details added that a Swift fan would pick up on. "I put in as many as I could."

Then, on Nov. 30, Hallmark will air "Holiday Touchdown: A Chiefs Love Story." Instead of a nod to Swift, it's an ode to family traditions and bonding, like rooting for a sports team. Hallmark's headquarters is also in Kansas City, so it makes sense why the company chose the Chiefs to be highlighted.

In this story, written by Julie Sherman Wolfe, sparks fly when a new employee for the Chiefs organization (Tyler Hynes) meets a woman - played by Hunter King - whose family's dedication to the team goes back generations.

Sherman Wolfe, a San Francisco 49ers fan, said she got the call a week after Super Bowl LVIII, when the Chiefs beat the 49ers 25-22.

"I was still nursing my wounds," she said adding that Hallmark asked, "Can you can you separate yourself from the loss and do this movie?" I said, "Absolutely. I mean, I'm a professional," Sherman Wolfe said, laughing.

While "Holiday Touchdown" has no mention of Swift or Kelce, it does feature a few Chiefs player cameos and Donna Kelce also has a small role.

In "Wicked," Elphaba and Glinda travel from Shiz University to the Emerald City on a glistening green train to meet the wizard. In real life, Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande have traveled much farther and wider and longer - and on airplanes - to promote their hotly anticipated film.

The Oscars. The Met Gala. CinemaCon in Las Vegas. Premieres on both US coasts and around the globe in London, Mexico City and Sydney. The two stars even appeared at the Paris Olympics, where they should really have won a gold medal for fashion.

At the Oscars in March, Erivo channeled her green-skinned character with a Louis Vuitton gown in shiny green leather. Grande evoked spritely Glinda in a bubble-gum pink concoction. Onstage, the duo presented the awards for best song and score, and Erivo managed to get in some lines from "The Wizard of Oz." Replied Grande: "How wickedly subtle of you."



Swift

Baalbaki vows to rebuild family home as cultural center

Conductor mourns childhood home's loss in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Nov 23, (AP) — Lubnan Baalbaki, the conductor of the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, watched on his phone screen as an aerial camera pointed to a village in southern Lebanon. In seconds, multiple houses erupted into rubble, smoke filling the air. The camera panned right, revealing widespread devastation.

He zoomed in to confirm his fears: His family's house in the border village of Odaiseh, where his parents are buried, was now in ruins. "To see your house getting bombed and in a split second turned into ash, I don't think there is description for it," Baalbaki said.

The destruction of his childhood home in October came during Israel's offensive in Lebanon. The aim, Israel says, is to debilitate the Hezbollah militant group, push it away from the border and end more than a year of Hezbollah fire into northern Israel. The Israeli military has released videos of controlled detonations in areas along the border, saying it is targeting Hezbollah facilities and weapons.

But the bombardment has also wiped out entire residential neighborhoods or even villages. The World Bank in a recent report said over 99,000 housing units

have been "fully or partially damaged" by the war in Lebanon.

Baalbaki's family home in Odaiseh, designed by his late father, renowned Lebanese painter Abdel Hamid Baalbaki, held more than just personal memories. It held a collection of Abdel Hamid's paintings, his art workshop and over 1,500 books. All were destroyed along with the house.

What cut even deeper, Baalbaki said, was the loss of the letters his parents exchanged during his father's art studies in France. Only a few remain as digital photos.

"The language of passion and love they shared was filled with poetry," Baalbaki said.

In a book of poems and photographs his father created for his wife following her sudden death in a car accident, the first page reads, "Dedication to Adecba, the partner of my most precious days, the love bird that left its nest too soon."

Abdel Hamid painstakingly designed his wife's tombstone. Later, he was laid to rest beside her in the garden next to the house. For their son, watching his childhood

home go up in smoke brought back the pain of losing them. It was a moment he had feared for months.

Hezbollah began firing missiles into Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, in solidarity with Hamas in Gaza. Israel responded with airstrikes and shelling. For nearly a year, the conflict remained limited.

After the war dramatically escalated on Sept. 23 with intense Israeli airstrikes on southern and eastern Lebanon as well as Beirut's southern suburbs, Baalbaki and his siblings frequently checked satellite images for updates on their village.

On Oct. 26, explosions in and around Odaiseh triggered an earthquake alert in northern Israel. That day, videos circulated online, one of which showed their home being obliterated. Until a few days before that, the satellite images showed their house still standing.

Now, Baalbaki said, he is resolved to honor his father's dream. "The mourning phase started to turn to determination to rebuild this project," he said.

When the war is over, he plans to rebuild the house as an art museum and cultural center.



Lubnan Baalbaki speaks during an interview with The Associated Press at his house in Geitawi, Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024. (AP)

Music



Members of K-pop group (G)I-DLE arrive for the red carpet of the MAMA Awards in Osaka, western Japan, Saturday, Nov. 23. (AP)



Members of boy band INI arrive for the red carpet of the MAMA Awards in Osaka, western Japan, Saturday, Nov. 23. (AP)

Film

A new era for low-cost films

How 'Beavers' reshaping cinema

NEW YORK, Nov 23, (AP) — Hard as it may be to believe, changing the future of cinema was not on Mike Cheslik's mind when he was making "Hundreds of Beavers." Cheslik was in the Northwoods of Wisconsin with a crew of four, sometimes six, standing in snow and making his friend, Ryland Tews, fall down funny.

"When we were shooting, I kept thinking: It would be so stupid if this got mythologized," says Cheslik.

And yet, "Hundreds of Beavers" has accrued the stuff of, if not quite myth, then certainly lo-fi legend. Cheslik's film, made for just \$150,000 and self-distributed in theaters, has managed to gnaw its way into a movie culture largely dominated by big-budget sequels.

"Hundreds of Beavers" is a wordless black-and-white bonanza of slapstick antics about a stranded 19th century applejack salesman (Tews) at war with a bevy of beavers, all of whom are played by actors in mascot costumes.

No one would call "Hundreds of Beavers" expensive looking, but it's far more inventive than much of what Hollywood produces. With some 1,500 effects shots Cheslik slaved over on his home computer, he crafted something like the human version of Donald Duck's snowball fight, and a low-budget heir to the waning tradition of Buster Keaton and "Naked Gun."

At a time when independent filmmaking is more challenged than ever, "Hundreds of Beavers" has, maybe, suggested a new path forward, albeit a

particularly beaver-festooned path.

After no major distributor stepped forward, the filmmakers opted to launch the movie themselves, beginning with carnivalesque roadshow screenings. Since opening in January, "Hundreds of Beavers" has played in at least one theater every week of the year, though never more than 33 at once. (Blockbusters typically play in around 4,000 locations.) More than half of its approximately \$500,000 in ticket sales came after the movie went to video-on-demand.

Daniel Scheinert, the co-director of the best picture-winning "Everything Everywhere All at Once," recently called "Hundreds of Beavers" "the future of cinema." That bold pronouncement, which ricocheted around film blogs, might seem extreme for a movie about a guy wearing a comically large beaver hat.

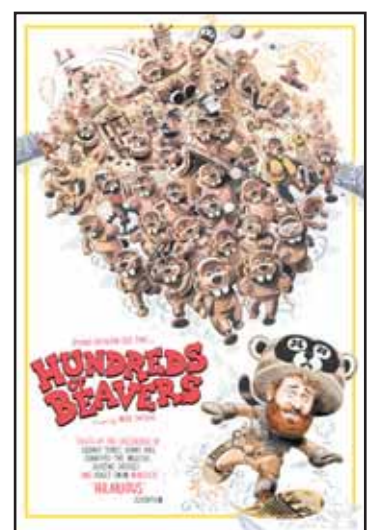
But in a shrinking movie industry, DIY microbudget filmmaking may increasingly be left to fill some of the void left by risk-averse, corporate-driven Hollywood.

"I hope people can stop shooting things to make them look like commercials and just get back to more of the nitty gritty and letting your imagination flow," says Tews, who also cowrote the movie with Cheslik. "I just hope we stop bowing down to Hollywood and thinking they're the gold standard. Because they just aren't."

The year-to-date box office in North America is down 11% from last year and about 25% from before the pan-

dem. More movies are making a tiny impact in theaters; according to Franchise Entertainment Research, 41 wide releases in 2024 have grossed less than \$3 million — nearly three times the amount in 2019.

The costs not just to make wide-release films but to market them has greatly shifted what even indie distributors are willing to back. Just to get eyeballs on "Gladiator II," which carries a \$250 million budget, Paramount Pictures took the extraordinary step of running a trailer of the film simultane-



This image released by SRH shows promotional art for the film 'Hundreds of Beavers.' (AP)

ously on more than 4,000 platforms, including TV networks, radio stations and digital outlets. For even the biggest movies, it's hard to get people's attention.

In such an environment, where the expense of making and marketing a movie is potentially prohibitive for everything but the safest of bets, more filmmakers are questioning the economics. That's especially because after last year's strikes, movie production hasn't rebounded. In a contracting movie industry, many remain out of work.

Brady Corbet, director of the highly touted "The Brutalist," a 3 1/2-hour epic shot in VistaVision, for less than \$10 million, has preached that smaller budgets don't have to mean less artistic ambition. Sean Baker, whose breakthrough film "Tangerine" was shot with iPhones, has argued movie budgets can come down without sacrificing what's on the screen. His \$6 million "Anora" is one of the year's most acclaimed films.

"Right now, it's panic in L.A.," Baker said in an earlier interview. "I'm like: We don't have to make films for that much. They don't have to cost as much."

"Hundreds of Beavers" is a more micro example, but it was likewise made with a strong belief in the big screen. On Dec. 5, the movie will begin an encore tour in theaters, at some 70 locations. That's the widest release yet for "Hundreds of Beavers," nearly a year after it opened. They're calling it "A Northwoods Christmas."

Sports, music icons unite

Biles to join Snoop as mentor on 'The Voice'

LOS ANGELES, Nov 23, (AP) — Snoop Dogg and Simone Biles turned their vOlympic bond from this summer's Paris Games into a new challenge: The superstar tandem will team up on NBC's "The Voice."

Biles will join Snoop for an episode on the reality competition television series, airing Monday. As a coach on the show, the rap star enlisted Biles as a mentor in the playoff round to help advise five vocalists who are vying for a spot in the live shows.

For Snoop and Biles, their pairing was a superb match for the sports and music icons — who carried their effortless chemistry from the Olympics to the TV set of "The Voice."

"We were able to riff off each other and give the artists the best insight going into the next round," Biles told The Associated Press in a recent interview with Snoop after both finished filming the episode in Los Angeles.

"It was pretty easy, simple," added Biles, the most decorated gymnast of all-time who won four medals — three of them gold — at the recent Olympics. "We're both very mellow. But if we need to bring that energy up, then we can. For us, it was about instilling confidence going into the next week."

Biles might be famous for her athletic prowess, but she was able to relate to the music contestants — from one competitor to another.

Learning

"These are the learning steps: Learn, process, go back in and work," she said. "They all have the vocal talent. It's about harnessing that, knowing when to bring it out and which songs to sing and which genre you fit in. And what you want your legacy to be. This is truly a special show as well as the judging. They don't get to see the physical appearance first. It's all off of ears, listening and putting their craft together as well."

Despite having different career paths, Snoop and Biles share a mutual respect for each other's ability to shine on the biggest stages.

"We have such diverse careers. But the things that we dealt with, they're dealing with now," said Snoop, the ultra-smooth entertainer who took on a starring role as



Simone Biles arrives at the 58th Annual CMA Awards on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024, at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

a special correspondent in NBC's record-breaking coverage. He's a coach on "The Voice" along with Michael Bubl , Reba McEntire and Gwen Stefani, with each attempting to discover and coach the next singing phenomenon.

Snoop said they felt the need to instill wisdom and confidence in each participant.

Experience

"We have the best experience and knowledge to give to these performers," he said. "She's a performer. I'm a performer. We've performed under extreme conditions. We always do our best. But sometimes things happen behind closed doors that you don't know about. So, we're able to speak to those things and give them real reassurance."

During the Olympics, Biles and Snoop had a few viral moments. Both caught up with each other to cheer on Sydney McLoughlin-Levrone during her 400-meter hurdles race; he gifted Biles' father, Ronald Biles, with a Death Row Records gold necklace for his 75th birthday; and he was spotted dancing in the crowd during the women's gymnastics qualifying round as Biles and her teammate Jordan Chiles joined in.

While on set, Biles was often all smiles while watching Snoop in his charismatic element.

"I knew Snoop would stay true and authentic to himself here on 'The Voice,'" she said. "It's nice that you don't have to fit a mold. There's a space for everyone."

Snoop said it made sense for

Variety

NEW YORK: Jonathan Majors' ex-girlfriend has dropped her assault and defamation lawsuit against the once-rising Hollywood star after reaching a settlement.

Lawyers for Majors and Grace Jabbari agreed to dismiss the case with prejudice, according to a joint filing in Manhattan federal court Thursday.

Jabbari's lawyer said Friday that the suit was "favorably settled" but declined to elaborate.

"Grace Jabbari has exhibited tremendous courage throughout this very long and difficult process," attorney Brittany Henderson said in a statement. "We hope that she can finally put this chapter behind her and move forward with her head held high."

Representatives for Majors didn't respond to emails seeking comment Friday. (AP)



Majors

NEW YORK: DirecTV is calling off its planned acquisition of rival Dish after the offer was rejected by bondholders at that company.

The deal was reliant on Dish bondholders agreeing to trade in the debt they held for debt in the new company, a swap that would have cost them about \$1.6 billion, collectively.

The retreat by DirecTV this week may end a years-long effort by the company to acquire both Dish and Sling after it announced the bid in September.

DirecTV was looking to acquire Dish TV and Sling TV from its owner EchoStar in a debt exchange transaction that included a payment

of \$1, plus the assumption of approximately \$9.8 billion in debt. The deal was contingent on several factors, including regulatory approvals and bondholders writing off debt related to Dish. (AP)

NEW YORK: Jason Kelce will try his hand at late-night television early next year.

Kelce announced during an appearance on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" on Thursday night that he will host "They Call It Late Night with Jason Kelce," on ESPN. The one-hour show will tape on five straight Friday nights beginning Jan. 3. That coincides with the last week of the NFL's regular season and the playoffs.

The show will originate in front of a live audience from Union Transfer in Philadelphia. The first four episodes will air at 1 a.m. EST starting on Jan. 4 with the final episode coming on at 1:30 a.m. EST on Feb. 1. (AP)

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.: The Illinois Supreme Court on Thursday overturned actor Jussie Smollett's conviction on charges of staging a racist and homophobic attack against himself in 2019 and lying to Chicago police, saying he should not have been charged a second time after reaching a deal with prosecutors.

The ruling, which did not address Smollett's continued claims of innocence, was the latest twist in a yearslong saga. Smollett, who is Black and gay, made headlines around the world after he told police in January 2019 that two men assaulted him in his downtown Chicago neighborhood, spouting slurs, tossing a noose around his neck, and yelling that he was in "MAGA country," an apparent reference to Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" presidential campaign slogan. The report prompted a massive search for suspects by Chicago police before investigators announced that they believed the attack was a hoax. (AP)

Institut Curie leads with AI in digital pathology solutions

AI boosts prostate cancer diagnosis

BOSTON & PARIS, Nov 23, (AP) — Ibx Medical Analytics (Ibx), the leader in AI-powered cancer diagnostics, and Institut Curie, France's globally renowned cancer center, today announced the introduction of Ibx's AI solution in routine clinical practice. Pathologists at Institut Curie are now using Ibx's AI tools when diagnosing prostate cancer to enhance accuracy, efficiency and improve patient outcomes; and plan to expand to a series of other Ibx applications in the coming months.

"We're excited to now use Ibx's AI technology in routine practice, further building upon our impressive research partnership. It's a team success between the Pathology team, the IT department, the data protection officer and the Information systems security managers" says Professor Anne Vincent-Salomon, head of the pathology department at Institut Curie, Professor at the University Paris-

Sciences et Lettres. "We realize the vital role that accurate diagnostics play in selecting optimal treatment paths, and we're committed to providing our pathologists with the top-tier technology and tools to ensure every patient receives the highest quality care."

Institut Curie continues their leadership in digital pathology adoption by implementing Ibx via their Sectra Digital Pathology Solution, providing an integrated workflow for pathologists to access Ibx's AI findings when reviewing cases. They are among the first academic laboratories in the world to utilize this recently released solution that ensures seamless diagnostic workflows. "The implementation of this tool in our department will allow our teams to save time, make our results more reliable, target areas of interest and improve the accuracy of our diagnoses," says Professor Yves Alory, head of the pathology department

at the Institut Curie, Saint-Cloud site, Professor at the University Versailles Saint Quentin.

This deployment marks the latest chapter in the ongoing collaboration between the two organizations, which has already yielded groundbreaking advancements in AI-driven cancer diagnostics, including the validation of the Ibx Breast solution published in Nature's npj Breast Cancer.

"We are honored to see our AI platform deployed in routine practice at such a prestigious institution as Institut Curie," said Joseph Mossel, CEO of Ibx Medical Analytics. "As one of the world's leading medical and research centers, Institut Curie remains at the forefront of transforming cancer care. This rollout underscores our commitment to making computational pathology a global reality and highlights the transformative potential of AI to reshape the future of cancer care."



Dr. Faisal AlHajeri with Borgan Bank representatives.

Employee wellness at the heart of CSR

Borgan Bank hosts prostate cancer awareness event with Kuwait Hospital

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Borgan Bank hosted a workshop on the detection and prevention of prostate cancer in collaboration with Kuwait Hospital, as part of its continued efforts to raise vital health awareness amongst its staff. The workshop, delivered by Urology Consultant Dr. Faisal AlHajeri at Borgan head office, is one of several activities the Bank has planned for the Prostate Cancer Awareness Month of November, as part of Borgan's comprehensive social responsibility program. Hosting the workshop is also driven by the Bank's strategy to instill the principles of sustainability into its operations and elevate the work environment by keeping an eye on employee affairs, especially those related to employee health and well-being.

"We are delighted to renew our collaboration with Kuwait Hospital, one of the country's most esteemed medical institutions, in an effort to educate our valued employees about the best preventative measures against prostate cancer," said Mr. Naqeeb Amin, General Manager – Human Resources and Development at Borgan Bank.



Mr. Naqeeb Amin, General Manager – Human Resources and Development at Borgan Bank.

"Reaching out to medical professionals in a timely manner is detrimental to the success of the treatment process, especially with diseases such as cancer. That's why it is critical for our employees to remain aware of all dif-

ferent types of cancer symptoms." He added that cancer is one of the most mentally, physically, and financially tolling diseases, not only on the individual but also on the familial level; noting that health awareness workshops are part of Borgan's commitment to contributing positively to its employees' wellness and the overall quality of life of their families.

During the workshop, Dr. AlHajeri shared valuable information with the participants on the symptoms and treatments of the disease as well as the most recommended means of prevention. The presentation was followed by an engaging and informative Q&A session.

Borgan Bank, a certified Great Place to Work®, continues to prioritize the health and well-being of its employees who constitute a primary pillar of its success, to which end it organizes year-long events and awareness campaigns that touch on various crucial health-related topics. It also spares no effort to extend its health awareness initiatives to benefit members of its employees and wider community.

Mpox case

Listeria kills one, sickens 10 in US

CALIFORNIA, Nov 23, (Agencies): A California infant has died and at least 10 other people have been sickened in an outbreak of listeria food poisoning tied to ready-to-eat meat and poultry products that include chicken feet, duck neck, beef shank and pork hock, federal health officials reported Friday.

Yu Shang Food, Inc., of Spartanburg, South Carolina, has recalled more than 72,000 pounds of meat and poultry products tied to the outbreak, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department. Some products were initially recalled on Nov. 9.

The foods were shipped to retail locations nationwide and available online, and illnesses have been reported in four states. The problem was discovered in October after routine tests detected listeria in the foods and the production environment.

Of the 11 people sickened, nine have been hospitalized, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control said. Interviews with people who were sickened and laboratory findings pointed to the Yu Shang Food products.

Mpox: The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) confirmed Friday the country's first case of clade I mpox.

The case, linked to travel, involves an individual associated with an ongoing outbreak of clade I mpox in central and eastern Africa. The individual sought medical care for mpox symptoms in Canada shortly after returning and is currently isolating, PHAC said in a statement.

A public health investigation, including contact tracing, is underway, according to PHAC.

E. coli: At least 19 people in Minnesota have been sickened by E. coli poisoning tied to a national recall of more than 167,000 pounds of potentially tainted ground beef, federal health officials said.

Detroit-based Wolverine Packing Co. recalled the meat this week after Minnesota state agriculture officials reported multiple illnesses and found that a sample of the product tested positive for E. coli O157:H7, which can cause life-threatening infections. The ground beef was sent to restaurants nationwide.

Four of those who fell ill were hospitalized, including two people who developed a serious complication that can cause kidney failure, an official with the Minnesota health department said.



Activists, some holding banners with Turkish writing that some of them reads, 'Children should not be killed, so they can eat candies', 'I couldn't play with my toys because I was killed' and 'If I had not been killed this would have been my sleeping friend' during a protest outside the courthouse where dozens of Turkish healthcare workers including doctors and nurses go on trial for fraud and causing the deaths of 10 infants, in Istanbul, Turkey, Monday Nov. 18. (AP)

Faces 583-year sentence

Doc in Turkey's baby deaths case claims trustworthiness

ISTANBUL, Nov 23, (AP) — The Turkish doctor at the center of an alleged fraud scheme that led to the deaths of 10 babies told an Istanbul court Saturday that he was a "trusted" physician.

Dr. Firat Sari is one of 47 people on trial accused of transferring newborn babies to neonatal units of private hospitals, where they were allegedly kept for prolonged and sometimes unnecessary treatments in order to receive social security payments.

"Patients were referred to me because people trusted me. We did not accept patients by bribing anyone from 112," Sari said, referring to Turkey's emergency medical phone line.

Sari, said to be the plot's ringleader, operated the neonatal intensive care units of several private hospitals in Istanbul. He is facing a sentence of up to 583 years in prison in a case where doctors, nurses, hospital managers and other health staff are accused of putting financial gain before newborns' wellbeing.

The case, which emerged last month, has sparked public outrage and calls for greater oversight of the health care system. Authorities have since revoked the licenses and closed 10 of the 19 hospitals that were implicated in the scandal.

"I want to tell everything so that the events can be revealed," Sari, the owner of Medisense Health Services, told the court. "I love my profession very much. I love being a doctor very much."

Although the defendants are charged with the negligent homicide of 10 infants since January 2023, an investigative report cited by the state-run Anadolu news agency said they caused the deaths of "hundreds" of babies over a much longer time period.

Over 350 families have petitioned prosecutors or other state institutions seeking investigations into the deaths of their children, according to state media.

Prosecutors at the trial, which opened on Monday, say the defendants also falsified reports to make the babies' condition appear more serious so as to obtain more money from the state as well as from families.

The main defendants have denied any wrongdoing, insisting they made the best possible decisions and are now facing punishment for unavoidable, unwanted outcomes.

Sari is charged with establishing an organization with the aim of committing a crime, defrauding public institutions, forgery of official documents and homicide by negligence.

During questioning by prosecutors before the trial, Sari denied accusations that the babies were not given the proper care, that the neonatal units were understaffed or that his employees were not appropriately qualified, according to a 1,400-page indictment.

"Everything is in accordance with procedures," he told prosecutors in a statement.

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Netherlands sweep Germany

The man who ended Nadal's career helps Dutch reach Davis Cup final

MALAGA, Spain, Nov 23, (AP): The last man to face - and beat - Rafael Nadal in professional tennis, 80th-ranked Botic van de Zandschulp, converted his 10th match point to finally close out a 6-4, 6-7 (12), 6-3 victory over Daniel Altmaier and help the Netherlands reach its first Davis Cup final by sweeping Germany.

Tallon Griekspoor, who is ranked 40th, sealed the 2-0 win for the Dutch in the best-of-three-match semifinal by hitting 25 aces and coming back to defeat Jan-Lennard Struff 6-7 (4), 7-5, 6-4. When it ended, appropriately, on an ace, Griekspoor shut his eyes, dropped to his knees and spread his arms wide.

"We have been talking about this for two, three years," Griekspoor said. "We believed in ourselves so much. We always felt like this was possible. To do it now feels unbelievable."

"We don't have that top 5 player. We don't that top 10 player. We don't have that top 15 player." Dutch captain Paul Haarhuis said. "But it's a team effort. ... So proud of these guys."

In Friday's opener, van de Zandschulp was up a set and just a point away from leading 5-2 in the second when Altmaier began playing more aggressively and interacting more with the German fans, yelling and throwing uppercuts or raising his arms after key points. In the tiebreaker, Altmaier managed to save five match points before converting his own fourth set point to extend the contest.

But van de Zandschulp - who upset four-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz at the U.S. Open - quickly moved out front in the final set,



Netherlands' Tallon Griekspoor celebrates winning against Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff during the Davis Cup semifinal at the Martin Carpena Sports Hall in Malaga, southern Spain. (AP)

even if he eventually needed five more match points in the last game before serving it out.

"At some point, I didn't know what to do any more on the match points," van de Zandschulp said. "I had the toughest match of my life on Tuesday (against Nadal), so everything that comes next is maybe a little bit easier."

In the quarterfinals, van de Zandschulp outplayed Nadal for a 6-4, 6-4 result that marked the end of the 22-time Grand Slam champion's career because the Netherlands went on to eliminate Spain 2-1.

The 38-year-old Nadal announced last month that the Davis Cup would be his final event before retiring.

Presumably because people purchased tickets ahead of time with plans to watch Nadal compete in the semifinals, there were hundreds of unoccupied blue or gray seats surrounding the indoor hard court at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martina Carpena in southern Spain on Friday.

Now truly a neutral site, the place was not nearly as loud and rowdy as on Tuesday, although there were shouts of "Vamos, Rafa!" that drew laughter while van de Zandschulp played the 88th-ranked Altmaier.

It took Griekspoor more than 75 minutes and nearly two full sets to figure out how to break No. 43 Struff and then did it twice in a row - to lead 6-5 in the second set, and then go up 1-0 in the third. That was plenty, because Griekspoor saved the only two break points he faced.

The Netherlands hadn't been to the semifinals since 2001. The Germans - whose best current player, two-time major finalist Alexander Zverev, is not on the team in Malaga - have won three Davis Cups, but not since 1993, when 1991 Wimbledon champion Michael Stich led them to the title.

Jaiswal and Rahul power India to 218-run lead over Australia

Openers weather much-vaunted Aussies pace attack

PERTH, Australia, Nov 23, (AP): Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah and the Indian opening batsmen put India in control of the first cricket test against Australia in the Border-Gavaskar series Saturday at the end of the second day of the five-test series.

Yashasvi Jaiswal's 90 not out and KL Rahul's unbeaten 62 took India to 172-0 at stumps and extended its lead to 218 runs after Bumrah had taken 5-30 to help bowl out Australia for 104 and secure a 46-run first innings lead.

India's only previous test win in Perth came back in 2008 at the WACA Ground.

Jaiswal redeemed himself by setting sight on his fourth test century after being dismissed for nought in the first innings. He twice called for assistance during his 4½ hour innings as he nursed his right arm. He has faced 193 balls and hit two sixes and seven fours.

When Jaiswal danced down the track and hit offspinner Nathan



Australia's Mitchell Starc bowls a delivery on the second day of the first cricket test between Australia and India in Perth, Australia. (AP)

Lyon for a huge six over long on he surpassed New Zealander Brendon McCullum's 33 sixes in a calendar year with 34 of his own. Earlier, he had gloriously flicked left-arm swing bowler Mitchell Starc over long leg, too.

Jaiswal and Rahul batted untroubled on a pitch that had claimed 17

wickets on the opening day. The openers weathered the much-vaunted Australian pace attack.

India was dismissed for 150 on the first day after it had won the toss and batted.

Starting the second innings after lunch, India comfortably progressed to 81 without loss at the tea break and extending the lead to 130 runs.

The 22-year old Jaiswal, renowned for his aggressive batting, was more circumspect and grafted his half-century off 123 balls - the slowest among his nine 50s.

Rahul was happy to play second fiddle to his junior partner and brought up his 16th 50 in his 54th test hitting just four boundaries off 124 balls.

Australia toiled for 57 overs and used seven bowlers desperately trying to separate the pair but both Jaiswal and Rahul were determined to resume battle on the third day at Perth Stadium.

Australia resumed the day on 67-7 and were dismissed following a rear-guard action by Mitchell Starc, who braved over two hours to top score with 26 runs and lift Australia from a precarious 79-9.

Bumrah, who dismantled the Australian top order on the first day, began the second by dismissing Alex

Carey for 21 with his first ball of the day. It was Bumrah's 11th five-wicket haul in his 41st test, and so far has 37 wickets in eight test matches in Australia at an average of 19.18.

Bumrah, captaining in the absence of Rohit Sharma who is awaiting the birth of his second child, spearheaded the four-pronged pace attack.

Starc skied paceman Harshit Rana (3-48) after a stubborn 26-run stand that lasted 90 minutes.

Resuming the day, Australia lost two quick wickets in Carey and Nathan Lyon (5) and was facing the prospect of being bowled out for its lowest total against its subcontinent opposition before Starc and Hazlewood dug in.

Starc was hit on the helmet when he ducked into a Rana delivery and required attention from the medical and support staff under the concussion rule. Starc and Rana are teammates at Kolkata Knight Riders in the T20 Indian Premier League, and Rana quickly apologized to Starc.

Five overs after Carey fell, Lyon lobbied a catch to Rahul at third slip to give Rana his second wicket on his test debut.

Australia and India are one-two in the World Test Championship standings.



France's Francois Gros runs at the defence during the Autumn Nations Series rugby international between France and Argentina at the Stade de France stadium in Saint-Denis on the outskirts of Paris. (AP)

The players are all winners: coach

France sinks Argentina for a hat trick of autumn test wins

PARIS, Nov 23, (AP): France punished an undisciplined Argentina by 37-23 and swept its three autumn rugby tests.

First-half tries from lock Thibaud Flament and right winger Gabin Villiere, a penalty try and Thomas Ramos' unerring goalkicking put Les Tricolores out of reach by halftime at 30-9 up.

Left winger Louis Biale-Biarrey added France's fourth try in the second half while Argentina rallied with tries by prop Thomas Gallo and replacement hooker Ignacio Ruiz to trail 37-23 with 10 minutes left, but ran out of time at Stade de France.

Fabien Galthie's side scored freely in the three tests, routing Japan 52-12 and edging New Zealand 30-29.

"I would like to praise all the players, for me there are only positives to take," the coach said. "They are all winners for me."

He also warned players who complained about being left out, after fly-half Matthieu Jalibert reportedly asked to be left out of the New Zealand game because he did not want to be a reserve.

"It's very much a team sport. The squad is bigger than any individual," Galthie said. "Players are here to strengthen the squad. Let there be no confusion about that."

Felipe Contepomi's Pumas didn't carry their Rugby Championship form into the autumn. They crushed Italy 57-17 and just failed to beat Ireland for the first time.

The Pumas beat France in July in Buenos Aires but they have not won in France for 10 years.

Despite an early harsh-looking yellow card to captain Julian Montoya for twisting the leg of Jean-Baptiste Gros, who had to leave the game, Argentina was in the contest at 13-9 down after 33 minutes.

Then came a dramatic seven minutes.

Villiere smashed over from an offload by fullback Leo Barre, and consecutive chipped kicks by Antoine Dupont and Ramos set up Biale-Biarrey to score until Pumas flanker Juan Martin Gonzalez batted the ball away, but forward. France received a penalty try and Gonzalez was yellow-carded.

Right on halftime, Ramos' fifth successful goalkick made it a commanding 30-9 and swept him past Thierry Lacroix, Morgan Parra and Dimitri Yachvili on France's all-time list of highest point-scorers. Ramos' next goalkick, perhaps in the Six Nations, will lift him past Christophe Lamaison's 380 points with only Frederic Michalak's 436 higher.

The second half was better from Argentina and an attacking lineup led to Gallo's try, which flyhalf Tomas Albornoz converted.

Pumas hopes of a comeback were dashed moments later when Biale-Biarrey chased down his own kick in the left corner for tries in every test this autumn.

Both kickers were perfect off the tee, with Ramos nailing six for 15 points and Albornoz five for 13 points.

"It's one of our strengths having players who can perform in different positions," said Ramos, who has converted from fullback into a slick flyhalf without losing any of his kicking accuracy.

France had one last attack and thought it scored another try, but replacement center Emilien Gailleton's effort down the left was ruled out for a knock-on in the buildup.

"Three matches, three wins, and we finished things off here in front of our fans. What more could you ask for?" posed flanker Charles Ollivon, who made 16 tackles.



India's Yashasvi Jaiswal bats on the second day of the first cricket test between Australia and India in Perth, Australia. (AP)

Shiffrin takes quest for 100th victory to North America

GURGL, Austria, Nov 23, (AP): Mikaela Shiffrin earned her record-extending 99th career World Cup win Saturday, taking the quest for victory No. 100 to North America.

The American ski star held on to her first-run lead in the season's second slalom to beat Italian prodigy Lara Colturi, who starts for Albania, by 0.55 seconds and Swiss skier Camille Rast by 0.57. They both got their first career podium result.

Shiffrin next enters a 16-day North American portion of the World Cup starting next weekend, with a giant slalom and slalom in Killington, Vermont; two GS races in Mont-Tremblant, Quebec; and a super-G in Beaver Creek, Colorado.

"I guess there is a bit of pressure around it, but I'll try to ignore that," said Shiffrin, who also won the first slalom of the season in Levi, Finland a week ago.

"Anyway, if it happens, it's wonderful. If it doesn't happen, kind of nothing," said Shiffrin, adding she didn't "think it's happening today."



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin, center, winner of an alpine ski, women's World Cup slalom, celebrates with second-placed Albania's Lara Colturi, left, and third-placed Switzerland's Camille Rast, in Gurgl, Austria. (AP)

ing to cry about in the grand scheme. But I hope to have a really good performance in front of the home crowd."

No other skier, male or female, has won more than 86 World Cup races. Shiffrin set the best mark when she overtook Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark in March 2023.

Shiffrin carried a lead from the first run, but acknowledged to being "really nervous at the top" before the start of her second run.

"I could hear all the women going down and their teams were cheering, and that always means they had a really good run. And it was getting dark-

er," said Shiffrin, adding she didn't "think it's happening today."

Shiffrin initially extended her lead to more than seven-tenths of a second and only lost fractions of that over the last two sections.

"It feels really satisfying to have a really great run down this slope. What a wonderful day," she said.

In the first run, Shiffrin wasn't clean going into the steep of the Kirchenkars course but gained time on all competitors with a near-flawless section toward the finish.

"It's a pretty strange surface, like cold and dry. It's hard to be clean on the skis. So, I was feeling a little bit funky on some spots," Shiffrin said after the opening run.

"But in the end, I kept pushing forward, just stayed on top of it and pushed to the finish. I find it to be really challenging on this condition to find the right setup to feel clean and to feel like you can unleash the skis."

Stolz dominates men's 1,000m at ISU Speed Skating World Cup

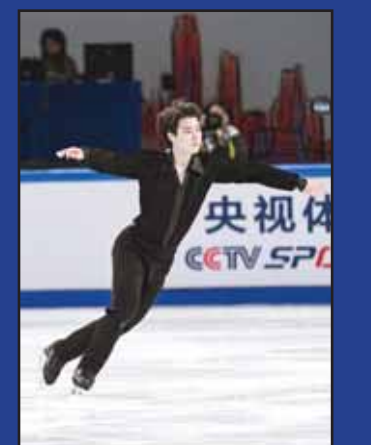
BEIJING, Nov 23, (Xinhua): Jordan Stolz of the United States clinched his third gold at the ISU Speed Skating World Cup in Nagano, Japan, after finishing first in the men's 1,000m event on Saturday.

Stolz, who was crowned in both the men's 500m and 1,500m events on Friday, clocked a track record of one minute and 7.18 seconds in the 1,000m race. Jennings De Boo of the Netherlands was 1.11 seconds behind to take the silver, while American Cooper McLeod won a bronze.

Another track record was registered by Davide Ghiotto of Italy in the men's 5,000m, who finished in 6:12.71, followed by Beau Snellink of the Netherlands. Sander Eitrem of Norway ranked third.

In the women's 1,000m, Miho Takagi of Japan seized the gold at home in 1:14.60, 0.36 seconds ahead of runner-up Jutta Leerdam of the Netherlands. The bronze went to American Brittany Bowe.

Canadian Ivania Blondin claimed the women's 3,000m gold in 4:03.76. Ragne Wiklund of Norway finished second, and the Netherlands'



Dai Dawei of China performs during the men's short program at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Cup of China in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality. (Xinhua)

Joy Beune was in the third place.

The best result for Chinese skaters on Saturday was the sixth-ranked Han Mei in the women's 1,000m.

The ISU Speed Skating World Cup in Nagano will conclude on Sunday, with 500m, team pursuit, mass start, and mixed relay events to be staged.

Celebrating culture and heritage

Warba Bank sponsors Erab International Festival as diamond sponsor

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Warba Bank, a leading provider of innovative Sharia-compliant banking services in Kuwait, announced its diamond sponsorship of the Erab International Festival for Purebred Arabian Horses. The event, which runs until November 30, 2024, at the Arabian Horse Center "Bait Al-Arab," celebrates the rich heritage and cultural significance of purebred Arabian horses through a variety of competitions and engaging activities.

Warba Bank's participation in this festival underscores its commitment to preserving cultural identity and national heritage. As part of its ongoing efforts to engage with the community, the bank actively participates in events that align

with its values. Warba Bank will host its own pavilion at the festival, offering visitors the opportunity to interact with the bank's representatives and learn more about its wide range of products and services, tailored to meet the needs of diverse customer segments.

Warba Bank's Chief Marketing and Corporate Communication Officer, Dr. Mohammad Barakat, said: "The Erab International Festival is not just a celebration of Arabian horses but a reflection of the values of authenticity and pride in our cultural heritage. At Warba Bank, we believe that supporting such events strengthens bonds within the community and helps preserve our cultural legacy. Our sponsorship reaffirms our commit-

ment to being present in culturally significant spaces, a dedication that is mirrored in our approach to providing Sharia-compliant banking services of the highest quality to meet the aspirations of our customers."

Dr. Barakat further added that Warba Bank will be present at the festival throughout its duration, which ends on Saturday, November 30. The festival promises an exceptional experience over ten days, featuring unique events such as competitions, dressage championships, purebred Arabian horse contests, and equestrian skills shows. Daily performances by professional horse riders will also provide an opportunity for attendees to connect with the foundational

elements of equestrian sports.

The Erab International Festival aims to serve as a unique platform to celebrate the Arabian horse, a timeless symbol of authenticity, pride, and solidarity. Through this partnership, Warba Bank continues to support meaningful initiatives that enrich cultural identity and help preserve Kuwaiti heritage.

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.



Dr. Mohammad Barakat

Al-Qadsiya intensifies its training in Manama

Kuwait Club slim qualification hopes hinge on victory over Nasaf Qarshi

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Kuwait Club delegation embarks on a challenging journey today, heading to Uzbekistan to face Nasaf Qarshi next Wednesday in the fifth round of Group 4 matches in the AFC Champions League 2.

The journey is expected to take 19 hours before reaching Qarshi, where the game will take place at the Markazi Stadium. The team plans to hold its first training session tomorrow under the guidance of Montenegrin coach Nebojsa Jovic. The final preparations in Kuwait Club saw the full squad assembled, with the return of international players 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.

Coach Jovic and his players aim to secure their first victory in the competition, hoping to elevate the team's standing and leave a strong impression in Kuwait Club's debut season in the AFC Champions League 2. Kuwait Club currently sits at the bottom of the group with



Petrovic meets with Al-Qadsiya players before training.

two points from four matches. Group leader Al-Hussein Irbid of Jordan has 9 points, followed by UAE's Shabab Al-Ahli with 7 points, and

Nasaf Qarshi with 4 points.

While Kuwait Club's chances of advancing remain slim, the team retains hope, requiring back-to-back wins and Shabab Al-Ahli to lose its remaining matches.

Meanwhile, Al-Qadsiya continues its training in Manama, Bahrain, in preparation for their third-round match against Al-Riffa in the Gulf Clubs Championship's Group 2.

Al-Qadsiya currently occupies third place in the group with one point from two matches. Al-Riffa sits second with three points after defeating Qatar's Al-Arabi, while Saudi Arabia's Al-Ettifaq leads the group with six points. Al-Arabi is fourth with one point.

Despite its similar standings, Al-Qadsiya is better positioned than Kuwait, having played fewer matches. A win against Al-Riffa would significantly boost their chances of advancing.

Coach Zeljko Petrovic expressed optimism, emphasizing the importance of securing a victory to keep qualification hopes alive. The team's preparations are bolstered by the return of key international players, including Khaled Ibrahim, Khaled Al-Rashidi, Eid Al-Rashidi, Rashid Al-Dosari, Adhbi Shehab, and Moaz Al-Dhafiri.

Al-Qadsiya sweeps water polo league titles

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Al-Qadsiya continued its dominance in this season's Water Sports Championships, securing the titles in the Water Polo League for all age groups: 13, 15, and 18 years.

The Yellow teams achieved perfect records in the League Championships, winning by wide margins and scoring an abundance of goals, outshining their competitors across all categories.

Hassan Abu Al-Hassan, the Secretary of the Nai

and Director General of Water Games, praised the exceptional performance and impressive results of Al-Qadsiya's Water Polo players in each age group. He also expressed gratitude to the Board of Directors, led by Sheikh Khaled Al-Fahad, for their ongoing support and dedication. Additionally, he thanked the administrative and technical staff for their hard work and efforts, as well as the parents of the players for their cooperation.



Al-Qadsiya players celebrate.

Warriors win group as Mavs recover after losing big lead

Clippers extend home winning streak to seven

NEW ORLEANS, Nov 23, (AP): Andrew Wiggins scored 30 points and the Golden State Warriors secured a knockout round spot in the NBA Cup with a 112-108 victory over the reeling New Orleans Pelicans on Friday night.

Stephen Curry scored 19 for the Warriors, who improved to 3-0 in West Group C and clinched first place in the group when Denver lost to Dallas.

Buddy Hield capped his 12-point performance with two free throws with 18.5 seconds left to help Golden State hold New Orleans at bay.

Trey Murphy III led New Orleans with 24 points but missed a 3-pointer for the lead with 5 seconds remaining - a shot made possible by Brandon Boston Jr.'s steal of a Golden State inbound pass.

Golden State's Draymond Green was fouled as he grabbed the rebound of Murphy's miss and hit both free throws for the final margin.

Mavericks 123, Nuggets 120

In Denver, Naji Marshall scored a career-high 26 points, P.J. Washington had 22 points and 13 re-



Sacramento Kings forward Domantas Sabonis, left, grabs a rebound away from Los Angeles Clippers center Mo Bamba during the second half of an Emirates NBA Cup basketball game in Inglewood, Calif. (AP)

bounds, and the Dallas Mavericks recovered after blowing a 24-point lead to beat the Denver Nuggets in an NBA Cup game.

Playing without Luka Doncic, Dallas built a 20-point halftime lead by was down by five before Wash-

ington scored nine points in the final 2:41 to improve to 2-1 in the West Group C. Denver was eliminated from the knockout round.

Doncic will be out at least four games with a right wrist sprain. Nikola Jokic returned from a three-game absence to notch his sixth triple-double of the season.

Clippers 104, Kings 88

In Los Angeles, James Harden had 22 points and nine assists to lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a 104-88 victory over the Sacramento Kings in an NBA Cup game.

Playing arguably their cleanest half of the season, the Clippers never looked back after ripping off a 20-1 run in the first quarter to take control. They led 51-29 at the break, having turned the ball over just three times.

Derrick Jones Jr. added 17 for Los Angeles, which is 1-1 in the NBA Cup and has won seven straight home games after dropping its first four at the new Intuit Dome.

De'Aaron Fox had 25 of his 29 points in the second half for the Kings, who put up a fight but couldn't overcome their early struggles.

Celtics 108, Wizards 96

In Washington, Jaylen Brown scored 31 points, and the Boston Celtics overcame an off night for Jayson Tatum to beat the Washington Wizards.

The Celtics improved to 2-1 in East Group C of this competition with one game remaining. Washington is 0-2 and has lost 10 in a row overall.

The Wizards hung in there in front of a crowd that included recently injured Capitals star Alex Ovechkin. Washington trailed by five in the final minute when Brown made a high arcing jumper to make it 99-92 with 46 seconds remaining.

Bucks 129, Pacers 117

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 37 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for his second triple-double in his last four games, and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Indiana Pacers 129-117 on Friday night.

Antetokounmpo had 22 points, 15 rebounds and 12 assists Saturday in a 115-114 loss at Charlotte.

Damian Lillard had 24 points and 12 assists for the Bucks. Gary Trent Jr. scored a season-high 18 points and Bobby Portis added 17.

Pascal Siakam scored 25, Bennedict Mathurin 20 and Tyrese Haliburton 18 for the Pacers. Haliburton also had nine assists.

The Bucks have won three straight and five of six. The Pacers have lost three straight and five of six.

Milwaukee improved to 2-0 in NBA Cup action. Indiana, the tournament runner-up last season, is 0-2. Both are playing in East Group B.

Abdullah Al-Sarraf bids farewell

Kuwait Club and Al-Qadsiya renew rivalry in Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The 10th edition of the Super Basketball Cup will take place this evening at the Union Hall in Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Halls Complex. The highly anticipated match features league champion Kuwait Club and Cup champion Al-Qadsiya, scheduled to tip off at 7:00 pm.

The Super Basketball Cup, first held in 2011, returned in 2016 after a five-year hiatus. Kuwait Club has dominated the tournament, winning eight titles, while Kazma claimed the championship once, two seasons ago.

Kuwait Club aims to maintain its dominance and secure yet another title, while Al-Qadsiya seeks to etch its name among the Super Cup champions. Al-Qadsiya is buoyed by its resurgence, having won the Federation Cup last season.

Both teams have undergone rigorous preparations. Kuwait Club held a training camp in the UAE, participated in the Al-Wahda International Championship, and began competing in the Asian Super League. Al-Qadsiya prepared with a camp in Serbia, followed by appearances in the Arab Clubs Championship and the Asian Super League.

Al-Qadsiya will field a complete squad, with key players Saleh Al-Yousef, Abdul-

lah Tawfiq, and Nasser Al-Hijris returning. In contrast, Kuwait Club faces the absence of Ali Al-Hudhud and Mohammed Adnan due to injuries, though the rest of the team is in top form.

Al-Qadsiya's American coach, Anthony Stebbing, will rely on his three American professionals—Elono, Green, and Croatian player Zebic—alongside Mohammed Ashkanani, Abdul Mohsen Muratada, and Abdulaziz Al-Hamidi. Meanwhile, Kuwait Club's German coach, Peter Schomers, will depend on his trio of American players—Augustine, Jakar, and Robert Beer—as well as Hamad Adnan, Turki Hamoud, Alexander Al-Ghais, and Hussein Al-Khabbaz.

Adding to the evening's excitement, the match will mark the retirement of Abdullah Al-Sarraf, one of Kuwait Club's basketball legends, under the patronage of former Al-Qadsiya Club President Fawaz Al-Hasawi.

Al-Sarraf is widely regarded as one of the finest players in Kuwait's basketball history. He played a pivotal role in Al-Qadsiya's numerous local and Gulf title wins and represented Kuwait in various international championships. His career also included professional stints in Gulf countries and a notable experience in China.



In this file photo Al-Qadsiya player goes for basket as Kuwait Club player defends.



Leverkusen's Piero Hincapie, right, and Heidenheim's Marvin Pieringer, left, challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Bayer 04 Leverkusen and 1. FC Heidenheim 1846 in Leverkusen, Germany. (AP)

Sports

Salwa Club crowned winner of third Women's handball tournament

By Suzan Nasser

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Salwa Sports Club emerged victorious in the third Women's Friendly Handball Tournament, narrowly defeating its Qatari counterpart on goal difference

to claim the title. The tournament concluded with Kirkuk of Iraq securing third place, showcasing exceptional levels of performance throughout the competition. Sheikha Naima Al-Ahmad, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Salwa Al-Sabah

Club, expressed her joy at the team's triumph, highlighting the fierce and high-quality competition displayed by all participating teams. She emphasized that such tournaments play a vital role in promoting women's sports in Kuwait and nurturing local talent

across various disciplines. Sheikha Naima reaffirmed the club's dedication to developing women's handball and pointed out that this is the third tournament organized by the club to foster sportsmanship and collaboration among Gulf and Arab clubs. This initiative reflects the club's commitment to elevating women's sports regionally.

The tournament concluded with Sheikha Naima presenting the awards to the players, joined by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Salah Al-Maliki, and Dr. Amira Al-Hassan, Head of the United Nations Human Settlements Program Mission.



Sheikha Naima Al-Ahmad with the winning teams during the coronation.

Kuwait Special Olympics gears up for the World Winter Games with training in Cairo

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: The Kuwaiti Special Olympics delegation departed recently to participate in a regional training camp and coaching course focused on snow running and cross-country skiing. Organized by Special Olympics International for the Middle East and North Africa, the event is being held in Cairo as part of preparations for the Special Olympics World Winter Games, set to take place in Turin, Italy, in March 2025.

Fahad Al-Sahli, Assistant Secretary of the Al-Tomooh Sports Club and official representative of the Kuwaiti Special Olympics, told KUNA that the camp brings together athletes and coaches from 22 countries. Its goal is to enhance training skills and qualify participants to lead programs on an international level.

Al-Sahli highlighted the importance of this camp in refining skills and fostering experience exchange among participants, particularly as they gear up for the challenges of the upcoming World Winter Games.

He reaffirmed the commitment of the Special Olympics to preparing athletes and technical teams for the global stage, emphasizing their aim to showcase a commendable image of Kuwaiti sports for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Al-Sahli also noted Kuwait's outstanding achievements



The Kuwaiti Special Olympics delegation.

in the 2023 World Games in Berlin, where Kuwaiti champions secured 21 medals, further solidifying their global presence and reputation.

Chelsea 'cuts' Liverpool lead

Leicester beaten

LONDON, Nov 23, (AP): Chelsea closed the gap on Premier League leader Liverpool to five points by beating Leicester 2-1 on Saturday.

Nicolas Jackson and Enzo Fernandez put the London club on course for victory at King Power Stadium, with Jordan Ayew scoring for Leicester in the 95th minute.

Liverpool doesn't play until Sunday when it travels to last-place Southampton.

Jackson showed good close control in the box before poking Chelsea in front with a clever finish in the 15th minute. It was the Senegal striker's seventh goal in 13 appearances this season.

Fernandez headed in Chelsea's second in the 75th after Jackson's header was saved by goalkeeper Mads Hermansen.



Chelsea's Cole Palmer kicks the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Leicester City and Chelsea at King Power stadium in Leicester, England. (AP)

Bayern downs Augsburg to stay atop in Bundesliga

Inter routs Verona with a brace from Thuram

ROME, Nov 23, (Agencies): Marcus Thuram scored twice and defending champion Inter Milan routed Hellas Verona 5-0 to take the provisional Serie A lead on Saturday.

Inter moved two points clear of Napoli, which hosts Roma on Sunday with a chance to reclaim the lead. Atalanta could also move level on points with Inter with a victory at Parma later.

Inter was missing top striker Lautaro Martinez, who was out sick. But five goals in the first half made Lautaro's absence a non-issue.

Joaquin Correa opened the scoring 17 minutes in, Thuram then scored twice before more goals from Stefan de Vrij and Yann Aurel Bisseck.

Correa nearly added another in second-half stoppage time but his effort hit the woodwork.

Inter's only loss across all competitions this season was a derby defeat to AC Milan in September.

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Harry Kane's hat-trick paved the way for Bayern Munich's 3-0 victory over stubborn Augsburg in the opening match of the 11th round in Bundesliga.

Bayern started on the front foot and went close after 13 minutes when Leon Goretzka had a promising shot saved before Joshua Kimmich attempted a close-range effort five minutes later.

Augsburg defended deep but couldn't prevent Bayern from creating more chances, with goalkeeper Nediljko Labrovic having to be alert to deny Harry Kane and Jamal Musiala in quick succession in the 27th minute.

Bayern should have opened the scoring on the stroke of halftime, but neither Musiala nor Goretzka could beat Labrovic.

Bayern came out firing on all cylinders after the restart, as Goretzka hit the woodwork with a header in the 49th minute, while Musiala and Michael Olise missed further chances.

Augsburg helped Bayern break the deadlock on the hour mark when Mads Pedersen was penalized for handball. Kane stepped up and converted the resulting penalty to make it 1-0 in the 63rd minute.

Kingsley Coman had a chance to double the lead two minutes later, but the Frenchman's shot hit the roof of the net.

The visitor once again helped Bayern to extend their lead when

Keven Schlotterbeck was sent off for a second bookable offence in the dying minutes of the game after bringing down Kane in the area. Kane again held his nerve from the spot, curling the ball into the bottom left-hand corner to complete his brace.

The hosts made the most of their numerical advantage and tripled their lead when Kane controlled Goretzka's pinpoint cross and slotted home his third goal of the night.

The result extended Bayern's lead at the top of the table to eight points, while Augsburg remains 13th.

"I'm very happy today. We had a lot of chances. In the end, it's typical Harry Kane. He went close a lot in the first half and at some point, it just happened. Three goals in 15 minutes is obviously great," said Bayern coach Vincent Kompany.



Easy win for Al-Qadisiya in volleyball.

Paris Saint-Germain retained a six-point lead at the top of Ligue 1 after a labored 3-0 home win over Toulouse.

The defending champion dominated the first half but it took until the 35th minute to open the scoring.

Young Portuguese midfielder João Neves spun to meet a cross from the right and struck a superb half volley from just outside the box.

Lucas Beraldo got a second with six minutes remaining when he pounced on loose ball and fired home.

Vitinha made it 3-0 in stoppage time when he showed fine footwork inside the box to finish off a quick counterattack.

The scoreline was harsh on Toulouse, which came into the game in a more even second half.

Only Vitinha's last-gasp tackle stopped Zakaria Aboukhilal from equalizing after 69 minutes and then Shavy Babicka blazed over from close range a minute later when he should have hit the target.

The win was a confidence boost for Luis Enrique's side ahead of next Tuesday's Champions League encounter at Bayern Munich.

PSG lies in 25th place in the 36-team Champions League table with

one win in four matches and outside the playoff spots.

The win came immediately after second-placed Monaco beaten Brest 3-2 to briefly close the gap at the top to three points.

Brest, which faces Barcelona next week in the Champions League, turned in another inconsistent French league performance and not the sparkling form it has shown in Europe.

Brest has struggled in Ligue 1, where it remains 12th, but shone with three wins from four in its first ever Champions League campaign.

It was behind after just five minutes on Friday when Maghnes Akliouche scored with a superb airborne volley, and 2-0 down after 24 minutes thanks to Aleksandr Golovin.

The Russian striker seized on a poor pass just outside the Brest penalty area and his low shot was perfectly placed to sneak in off the post and give him his first goal in nine league appearances.

On-loan Brighton striker Abdallah Sima used his 1.88-meter frame to out-jump the Monaco defense four minutes into the second half and cut the deficit but Akliouche restored Monaco's two-goal cushion when he brilliantly finished a quick counterattack in stoppage time.

Al-Qadisiya, Burgan cruise to wins

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah /Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 23: Al-Qadisiya secured an effortless victory in the Federation Volleyball Championship, sweeping Al-Sulaibikhat 3-0 in their third-round match. Burgan triumphed over Al-Yarmouk with the same scoreline.

With this win, Al-Qadisiya and Burgan both advanced to 9 points from three consecutive victories, while Al-Sulaibikhat and Al-Yarmouk remain

scoreless.

The round began last Thursday with Kazma earning a well-deserved 3-1 victory against Al-Arabi, while Kuwait defeated Al-Shabab 3-0.

The tournament follows a single-round league format, where the top four teams in the standings advance to the semi-finals. The first-place team will face the fourth-place team, and the second-place team will compete against the third, with the winners moving on to the championship final.