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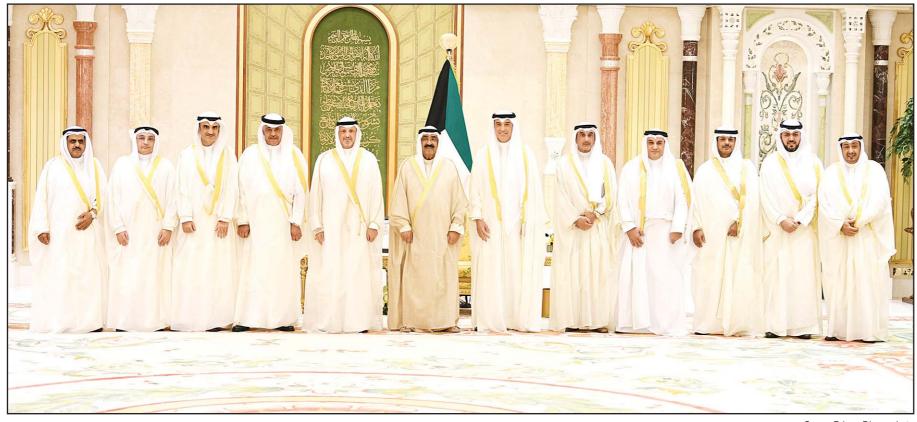
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# **Unpaid traffic violations in Kuwait reach KD 44 million**

Details Page 2 —

# Parliament passes key housing bills



His Highness the Crown Prince with Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and newly-appointed heads of diplomatic and consulate missions.

**Opinion** 

### How have 29 govts benefited us?

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

FROM the time of the liberation of Kuwait until today, 29 governments have been formed, and 19 of them were formed in just the last two decades.

This is not an indication of the wellness of the country. Rather, it suggests a major problem in terms of the lack of a serious vision for tackling the files between the National Assembly and successive governments. The testimony to that is the parliamentary encroachment on the powers of ministers and their boss.



Al-Jarallah

That is why the citizens are always asking -What have these many governments achieved? The answer does

not require much research, as the matter is clear. It is confusion, and failure to make a decision, or hesitation to do so. Both situations are the

same. Their actions indicate corruption, which is the greatest achievement that can be recorded for all Cabinets from 1991 until today.

There is no doubt that this is an indication of loss of bearing because the ministerial goals were limited to avoiding accountability, passing illegal demands to parliamentarians, implementing partisan agendas, and achieving the interests of powerful people.

All of the prime ministers were concerned with maintaining their positions for as long as possible, and making sure to weaken the opponents from the ruling

This does not build a state, and it cannot ensure stability. This is because attention to personal affairs at the expense of national interests destabilizes the state's identity, causes it to weaken, and arouses the anger of citizens who look at the neighboring countries and find them racing against time to develop and progress while his country is trapped in a naïve slogan "All is well" or "Kuwait is different because it has democracy" due to which citizens are

These slogans caused a change in the general Kuwaiti mood. The culture was based on openness, tolerance and individual initiative but today it is based on doubts and suspicions about everyone including brothers and friends.

This is why the country was closed because the vision is limited to what others can benefit from, whether they are investors or visitors. This is why we lost opportunities, and Kuwait became an investment repellent.

In addition, confusion in decisions was the main reason for distorting the state's

When the Minister of Education and

**Continued on Page 5** Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

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### Newswatch

MUSCAT: The GCC Committee of Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Transport and Communications discussed on Wednesday in Muscat setting a date for operating the GCC railway project.

During the meeting the officials reviewed multiple topics, including the progress of the railway project, the Gulf Authority project budget in 2024, Gulf projects protection scheme, the GCC land transport strategy and the executive regulation of the international land transport GCC law.

Oman's Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology Khamis Al-**Shammakhi** said during the meeting that the transport sector is one of the basic pillars in the economic development. (KUNA)

LUCKNOW, India: Some of the 40 construction workers trapped in a collapsed road tunnel for a fourth day were getting sick as falling debris and technical glitches delayed the work to free them, officials in northern India said Wednesday.

Rescuers have been trying to drill wide pipes through excavated rubble to create a passage to free the workers trapped since Sunday after a portion of the under-construction road collapsed in mountainous Uttarakhand state. (AP)

SRINAGAR, India: A passenger bus slid off a Himalayan highway killing at least 37 people and injuring 18 others after rolling down a steep slope onto another road in Indian-controlled **Kashmir** on Wednesday. officials said.

The 42-seater bus was on the way to southern Jammu city from Kishtwar town when it veered off the road and fell down about 660 feet (200 meters) on an older road in the mountainous region, said Harvinder Singh, a civil adminis-

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP):

The Biden administration has ex-

tended by four months a sanctions

waiver that will allow Iraq to con-

tinue to purchase electricity from

Iran and gives Iran limited access

to the proceeds to buy humanitar-

Secretary of State Antony

Blinken signed the 120-day

waiver extension and it was

ian goods.

### **Crown Prince receives FM, newly-appointed diplomats**

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received, Wednesday, at Bayan Palace, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and newly-appointed heads of diplomatic and consulate missions as they're sworn in before His Highness.

The minister introduced His Highness to the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the Arab League Talal Al-Mutairi, Ambassador to Venezuela Fadhel Al-Hassan, Ambassador to Bhutan Adel Al-Jassam, Ambassador to the Republic of Chile Ziad Al-Anbaei, Ambassador to Brazil Talal Al-Mansour, Ambassador to South Africa Salem Al-Shibli, Ambassador to Singapore Ahmad Al-Sh-

He also presented Consul General of Kuwait to Italy Sheikh Jaber Duaij Khalifa Al-Sabah, Consul General of Kuwait to China Anas Marafi and Consul General of Kuwait to Vietnam Talal

Senior government officials attended the ceremony. (KUNA)

'Anti-monopoly'

**By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh** Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The National Assembly unanimously approved the bills included in the second and third reports of the **Housing Affairs Committee in its** supplementary session Wednesday.

A total of 60 MPs and ministers approved the bills in their first reading. They then agreed to postpone voting on the bills in their second reading until the session scheduled for Nov 28, for the committee to add the comments of some MPs.

These bills include the cancellation of real estate authorization/agency, which means the owner of a house authorizes a company or individual to sell and rent out the property without a time limit. In this manner, the initial owner no longer possesses the house and he cannot pass it to his heirs. The cancellation is aimed at combating the real estate mafia - traders who monopolize the real estate market, leading to a remarkable increase in

Rapporteur of the committee MP Abdulaziz Al-Saqaabi confirmed that the committee will put the final touches on the bills to be ready for voting in the second reading on Nov 28.

He explained that addressing the housing issue in a radical way requires the issuance of laws, which the committee is currently working on. He said it is wrong to attribute the problem to the lack of space. He pointed out the available space is more than enough to meet the housing demands.

He asserted it is more accurate to attribute the problem to the wrong procedures and action of traders keen on increasing the value of the plots and real estate properties they own even if it is against the citizens' interests.

He disclosed that the other bills are on imposing fees on the owners of plots bigger than 1,000

**Continued on Page 5** 

# France issues arrest warrants for Syria president, 3 generals



Photo by Mahmoud Jadeed

On Wednesday, Kuwaiti motorists encountered rainfall, and it is anticipated to persist across the country until midnight on Thursday.

### **Kuwait braces for** hail, unusual rain

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): On Wednesday, Kuwait experienced rainfall, and these rain showers are anticipated to persist across the country until midnight on Thursday. Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi, the Director of the Meteorology Department, informed KUNA that the rain is expected to intensify gradually, accompanied by thunderstorms and heavy downpours in certain areas, possibly accompanied by hailstones.

**Continued on Page 5** 

transmitted to Congress on Tuesday, U.S. officials said. The

move is likely to draw criticism

from Iran hawks on Capitol Hill

and elsewhere who believe the

extension will reward Iran at a

time when it is coming under in-

creasing pressure to end its sup-

port for proxy groups, including

Hamas, that are destabilizing the

Middle East.

**US allows Iraq to continue** 

**buying electricity from Iran** 

# Tensions rise as Israeli forces raid Gaza's Shifa

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip, Nov 15, (AP): Israeli forces on Wednesday raided Gaza's largest hospital, a beleaguered facility filled with hundreds of patients, including newborns, that is at the heart of clashing narratives around the war and a potent symbol of Palestinian suffering.

Israel viewed Shifa Hospital as a key target in a conflict that has killed thousands of Palestinians and unleashed widespread destruction in Gaza. The war between Israel and Hamas erupted



Palestinians wounded in Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip are brought to a hospital in Khan Younis, Nov. 15, 2023. (AP)

after the militant group killed some 1,200 people and seized around 240 captives in a surprise Oct. 7 attack.

Israel says Shifa is a Hamas command post nestled under civilians, without providing visual evidence part of its broader accusation that the militants use Palestinians as human shields. Hamas and Gaza health officials deny militants operate in Shifa, and Palestinians and rights groups say Israel has recklessly endangered civilians as it seeks to eradicate Hamas.

A worsening fuel shortage, meanwhile, threatened to paralyze the delivery of humanitarian services across Gaza and shut down the mobile phone and internet network.

Munir al-Boursh, a senior official with Gaza's Health Ministry, said Israeli forces had ransacked the basement and other buildings at Shifa, including those housing the emergency and surgery departments.

"They are still here," he said by phone from inside the hospital, hours after the raid began. "Patients, women and children are terrified."

**Continued on Page 5** 

### 'War crimes'

PARIS, Nov 15, (AP): French judicial authorities on Wednesday issued international arrest warrants for Syrian President Bashar Assad, his brother and two army generals for their alleged involvement in war crimes and crimes against humanity, including a 2013 chemical attack on rebel-held Damascus suburbs, lawyers for Syrian victims said.

In addition to President Assad, the arrest warrants were issued for his brother, Maher Assad, the commander of the 4th Armored Division, and two Syrian army generals, Ghassan Abbas and Bassam al-Hassan.

Jeanne Sulzer and Clemence Witt, lawyers at the Paris Bar who represent the plaintiffs, and NGOs behind the complaint, hailed the decision.

"It marks a crucial milestone in the battle against impunity,' Sulzer told The Associated Press on the phone. "It signifies a positive evolution in case law recognizing the grave nature of the crimes committed.'

The Paris prosecutor's office has not publicly commented on the arrest warrants that remain secret under French law while an investigation is ongoing.

"Legally speaking, this is a procedural act as the investigation into the 2013 attacks in Eastern Ghouta and Douma continues,' Sulzer said. The four individuals named in the arrest warrants "can be arrested and brought to France for questioning by the investigative judges," she said.

More than 1,000 people were killed and thousands were injured in the August 2013 attacks on Douma and Eastern Ghouta.

### Day by Day

PLATO said, "I came to life compelled, led a bewildering existence, and now depart despising it. All I truly know is that I know nothing.

This sentiment resonates with those who have encountered the complexities of life, experiencing both its beauty and its flaws. To this Al-Aggad adds, "Life is not without its virtues and vices; it encompasses both.

Indeed, the joy found in not causing harm to others is truly exquisite!

Yet tomorrow in another

**Zahed Matar** 

His Highness the Crown Prince receives the credentials of the Ethiopian envoy.

His Highness the Crown Prince receives the credentials of the European Union am-

**HH CP receives envoys credentials** 

#### **Prayer Timings**

Fajr ...... 04:49 Asr.. Sunrise .. 06:11 Maghrib .. 16:53 Zohr ...... 11:33 Isha ...... 18:13



Expected weather for the next night. 24 hours:

By Day: Mild, partly cloudy to cloudy and humid with light to moderate southwesterly wind to southeasterly wind, with speed of 15-45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times and a chance for fog forming at

By Night: Mild to rather cold, cloudy and humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times southeast-erly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08-45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times with a chance

Weather

for fog forming over some areas. Station **Max Exp** Kuwait City Kuwait Airport Abdalv Jahra Salmiyah Nuwaisib Wafra

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



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Minister of Information and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi at the concluding ceremony







Prime Minister Diwan photos

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah awards certificates to the winners.

### **HH Amir-sponsored Quran memorizing contest ends**

The closing ceremony of Kuwait's International Award for Memorizing the Holy Quran and its recitation was held Wednesday, in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of Information and Minister of Awgaf and Islamic

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Public Au-

thority for Manpower sources said the big-

gest number of expatriates living illegally in the country was arrested this year in August,

September, and October, at 1,175 and 996

and 836 respectively.

The four-member Joint Committee led

by the Public Authority for Manpower,

and comprising members from the Minis-

try of Interior, the Ministry of Commerce

and Industry and the Kuwait Municipality

is said to have arrested from the begin-

ning of this year until last October, 5,504

workers - violators of residence and la-

bor laws, and legal measures were taken

against them to deport them from the

LONDON, Nov 15, (Agencies): The

United Kingdom announced Wednes-

day new travel permit scheme, the Elec-

tronic Travel Authorization (ETA), to

replace its predecessor the Electronic

Visa Waiver (EVW), for Arab Gulf na-

EVW as it is a third of the price at GBP

10 (approx. USD 12.5) and allows for

multiple entries for two years, the UK's

The new scheme has been applicable

for Qatari nationals since October 25,

while nationals from Kuwait, Bahrain,

Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi

Arabia and Jordan wishing to visit Brit-

ain from February 22 to apply for their

to Kuwait, Miguel Moro Aguilar, said

the European Union's approval of the

online digital Schengen visa is a posi-

tive step to serve Kuwaiti citizens and

relieve pressure and requirements on them and on our embassies, reports Al-

Moro Aguilar added this step will

Meanwhile, the Spanish Ambassador

Home Office stated.

ETA as of February 1.

Qabas daily.

The ETA is an improvement from the

Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, senior state officials and several ambassadors to Kuwait.

Al-Mutairi delivered a speech in which he thanked His Highness the Amir and praised him for patronizing this competition and thanked His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister for the efforts made in such competition.

His Highness the Prime Minister honored the judging committee, and the Award's Committee, in addition to honoring and congratulating the winners, while conveying the greetings and congratulations of His Highness the Amir.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Sabah expressed gratitude and appreciation for the outstanding efforts put into organizing the competition. (KUNA)

# KFAS announces 2nd annual

and Belgium who handed their credentials

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah reduring a ceremony at Bayan Palace. Senior state officials attended the ceremony. (KUNA) ceived on Wednesday the Ambassadors of Ethiopia, Algeria, the EU, Thailand, Iran,

# KD 66m traffic fines in '23'

300,000 driving licenses withdrawn: Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi

According to PAM sources, these vio-

lating workers were 2,115 working in the

private sector who held Article 18 work

visa, and 1,429 domestic workers who held

Article 20, representing 26 percent of the

total violators, in addition to 28 who were

on family visa government sector work-

ers (Article 17), in addition to 1,910 whose

work permits had expired and were living

arrested indicated that they paid money to

business owners in exchange for recruit-

ing them, which ranged between 1,500 and

contribute to facilitating the process for

the applicant, as he will submit all the

necessary papers by submitting the ap-

He added: This step will also contrib-

ute to reducing costs and relieving the

burden on consular staff, as all papers

will be uploaded along with the online

application, and therefore it will be eas-

applicants when they travel to sev-

eral Schengen countries, and they are

not sure about their requirements. The

country to which they must send their

application, as the electronic platform

will be automatically provided with the

relevant country, and the sticker will be

replaced with an electronically signed

Schengen via the internet will no longer

need to go in person to the embassy or

visa center except in cases, including

submitting the application for the first

time, as this requires taking fingerprints,

and fingerprints expire after only 59

He explained that applicants for

It will also help resolve doubts of

ier to verify the documents.

The sources explained that some of those

illegally in the country.

2,000 dinars

plication online.

**UK announces new ETA scheme** 

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Director of the Traffic** Violations Investigation Department at the General Traffic Department Brigadier General Muhammad Saad Al-Otaibi revealed that fines for 1,748,368 traffic violations were not paid in the year 2023 by motorists who violated the traffic rules, reports Al-Anba daily.

'5,504 illegals deported since Jan'

KD 2,000 paid to get job: suspect

He explained that the value of these unpaid fines exceeded KD 44 million. In the event of non-payment of these fines, they will be referred to the Traffic Court.

The value of the traffic fines for the current year 2023 approached KD 66 million. The total value of the fines from the year 2020 until now has reached quarter of a billion Kuwaiti dinars

In an interview with Al-Anba daily, Brigadier General Al-Otaibi said, "It is certain that a number of these violations are due to expatriates who left

permanently".

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi said, the number of licenses withdrawn in four years amounted to about 300,000. About 50,390 driving licenses were withdrawn in 2020, about 88,925 in 2021, about 100,266 in 2022, and finally about 53,083 were withdrawn in 2023.

For your information, this number includes deceased people and those whose residency permits have expired or who have left the country permanently or due to some other exceptions.'

He expressed appreciation for the decision issued by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled to prevent any expatriate or Gulf citizen from traveling without paying his dues, including traffic fines, stressing that this decision will reduce the value of unpaid fines.

Brigadier General Al-Otaibi explained that after Sheikh Talal issued the decision, the total amount paid in September

amounted to KD 6.5 million. The traffic law was established to reduce accidents and reduce the number of victims of road fatalities. Therefore, it is necessary that the law must be adhered to. At the same time, the penalties in the applicable law do not serve as a deterrent, which prompted the

Ministry of Interior to present a draft law to increase penalties. The number of expatriates who were deported from the country on the

grounds of committing serious violations reached 122. This number is likely to increase by the end of this year.

Brigadier General Al-Otaibi affirmed the right of any violator to visit the Traffic Violations Investigation Department if he feels that an undeserved violation has been recorded against him and an investigation will be opened.

Below are the details of the interview held with the Director of the Traffic Violations Investigation Department Brigadier General Muhammad Saad Al-Otaibi:-

ing the past and the present, and what you have for the future? Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "The first traffic Law No. 67/1976 was approved in Kuwait. After that, some of its articles were amended during this period until the present day. For example,

1. Can you talk about the development of violations, compar-

the penalties were amended in the year 2001, and now a draft has been submitted and presented to the Interior and Defense Committee to toughen the penalties. It will be included on the agenda of the National Assembly in the current legislative term. There is a progression in the value of the money collected in the last four years. The total value during that period

amounted to about a quarter of a billion dinars, of which 66 million were collected in the past ten months of this year." 2. Is the aim of increasing the value of fines only to gener-

ate more revenues especially from the expatriates because they are the most numerous? Or is there another principle? Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "Increasing the penalties is not intended to collect more money or collect taxes. Rather, it is intended to reduce the number of deaths and traffic accidents, which result in many material, physical and psychological losses. This is what prompted us to reconsider the traffic penal code to reduce these bad statistics.

The law-abiding driver of the vehicle will not touch his pocket, but he will touch the pocket of the reckless person and also his freedom by issuing prison sentences.

3. Is it possible to provide us with an overview of the proposed law and its most prominent points?

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "I will talk about the common violations, which are speeding violations in the proposed law. The fine ranges between KD 70 and KD 150 depending on the speed of the violation. For crossing the red light, it is KD 150.

For the violation of reckless driving (drifting), it is a settlement order of KD 150, for using a phone while driving, it is KD 75, for not wearing a seatbelt, it is KD 30, and finally, parking in a no-parking spot, it is KD 15. 4. What is the beneficial aspect of reciprocity with other

countries?

# 'Science Month' celebrations

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) is proud to announce the commencement of its second annual Science Month celebration, set to run from November 15th to December 12th, 2023. This science festival aims to commemorate the establishment of KFAS, a unique institution set up by the private sector and headed by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait. Science Month is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the scientific landscape in Kuwait and engage the youth in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), towards a Kuwait sustainable with Knowledge.

Science festivals are of importance as they serve as dynamic platforms for the celebration of human curiosity, innovation, and exploration. These events foster a sense of wonder and excitement about the world of science, making it accessible and engaging for people of all ages. Scievnce festivals not only showcase the latest breakthroughs and discoveries but also encourage hands-on learning, critical thinking, and collaboration.

By bringing together scientists, researchers, educators, and the general public, they promote dialogue, inspire future scientists, and highlight the relevance of science in addressing global challenges. Ultimately, science festivals play a crucial role in advancing scientific literacy, igniting a passion for discovery, and paving the way for a brighter and more innovative future.

This year's Science Month will feature a diverse array of themes, each designed to explore and celebrate the scientific achievements and advancements in Kuwait. The key themes for this year's event include Earth and Astronomy, Nutrition, Oil and Energy, the 4th Industrial Revolution, and Material Science.

The event is made possible through the collaborative efforts of KFAS and its subsidiaries, including the Advancement of Science Published (ASPD), The Scientific Center Kuwait (TSCK), Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI), and the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Innovation (SAC-GC). KFAS Centers, along with numerous research and academic institutions, are hosting a wide range of activities, workshops, and seminars throughout Kuwait.

Among the prominent venues participating are Kuwait University (KU), the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), and the Ahmad Al-Jabir Exhibition hosted by Kuwait Oil Company. The Science Month in Kuwait, organized

by KFAS, is not only a showcase of scien-



KFAS Science Month poster copy.

tific achievements but also a platform for the private sector to participate and raise awareness about the various STEM career paths available to the youth of Kuwait. Major private sector participants include Zain, City Bus, KDD, Kuwait Mills, Agility, and General Electric. Additionally, several nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have joined in this initiative, such as the Kuwait Environmental Lens and the Kuwait Information Technology Society (KITS).

This year's Science Month also features an international event organized by KFAS in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the participation of representatives from the region, as well as experts from Kuwait. This meeting aims to build on the experts' opinions and discuss how to prepare for global risks in the future by exploring the best methodologies and practices for countries to enhance their adaptive capacities, based on cooperation and innovation.

The discussion will focus on health, environmental, and technological risks as the most prominent risks, both currently and in the foreseeable future, as well as contemplate their likelihood, scope, and consequences.

Science Month in Kuwait offers a unique opportunity for the community to engage with science, technology, and innovation. It serves as a testament to the dedication and collaboration of public and private institutions in Kuwait to promote and advance STEM fields. By coming together to celebrate the wonders of science, KFAS and its partners are inspiring future generations to embrace the world of knowledge and exploration.

For more information about Science Month and a detailed schedule of events, please visit the official KFAS website at QR Code.

Exam cheats ruling on Dec 5

# **Duo wanted by law held on road**

**By Munaif Naif** 

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The security personnel have arrested a citizen of an unidentified Gulf state and a citizen his companion, who had been sentenced in absentia to various prison terms.

A security source told Al-Seyassah that security men, while on inspection tour of Al-Balajat Street, stopped the suspects while driving along the road – a young man and a woman.

The source added, while the officer was issuing a citation and checking the IDs of the two persons, he discovered the young man was wanted by law to serve a one month prison term, his vehicle was wanted by law, and the girl had been sentenced in absentia to one year imprisonment.

Ruling on Dec 5: The Criminal Court has set Dec 5, 2023, to issue a verdict in the main case of leaking high school exams, in which 12 people are accused, reports Al-Oabas daily. The court rejected the defense's requests

to release a school principal and another ministry employee who stand accused in the

Bonuses in bank: The National Military Service Authority has deposited the rewards and allowances of those recruited into the National Military Service (members of the 49th batch) into their bank accounts.

The Moral Guidance Department at the Ministry of Defense said in a statement that the National Military Service Authority deposited the rewards and allowances for the recruits of the aforementioned batch, both for employees and non-employees, each according to qualification and specialization.

### Hearing in wife murder case Dec 6 suddenly, and he knows nothing about her. By Jaber Al-Hamoud

**Arab expat gets 5 yrs in terror case** 

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Criminal Court has decided to postpone the case of a citizen who killed his wife in the Al-Qairawan area, dismembered her body into twenty pieces, and distributed her remains in garbage containers in different areas, to December 6 for pleading after hearing the testimony of the witnesses.

The accused had previously denied the charges against him, affirming that he did not commit the crime, and that his wife disappeared **Arab expat gets 5 yrs:** The Court of Appeal has handed down a 5-year prison sentence to an Egyptian expatriate, who will also face deportation upon completing the sentence. The expatriate was apprehended for his involvement in advocating for and encouraging support for ISIS. His activities included supervising groups on telegram, sharing propaganda materials such as songs and video clips, and inciting a juvenile in a mosque in Salmiya to join ISIS.

**Continued on Page 3** 

# diwaniya والنية

### A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

# 'Boycott teaches Arabs to be self-reliant, less dependent on others'

"IN no way can there be a bright side when it comes to the amount of Arab blood that is shed daily at the hands of the Zionists (and those who support them) in the Gaza Strip," columnist Dr. Sultan Majid Al Salem wrote for Al-.Jarida daily

"It is only natural for the Palestinian landowners to experience blessings throughout their entire country, from the river to the sea.

"However, it is essential to examine various situations that have, and continue to, reveal hidden aspects that may elude the aware-

"The recent surge in news related to the flood has reignited the spirit of the Arab and Islamic peoples, emphasizing the use of the boycott as a powerful tool against products with proven direct ties, usage, or sup-

port for the Zionist entity. "I previously shared my personal stance on the boycott issue through a series of consecutive tweets on the (X) platform, titled "Boycott from a political-social perspective on one hand and building self-capacity on the

other hand.' "This perspective gained popularity among the public, and I still uphold the opinion expressed in those

tweets. The content of my viewpoint emphasizes that the boycott is not only economically effective but also instrumental in building the capabilities and experiences of nations.

"Over time, it leads to the development of significant personal capabilities, gradually making Arab societies self-reliant and less dependent on others.

"This approach can be linked to the material losses faced by the Zionist entity, suggesting that without support from independent states, it would struggle to sustain itself.

"As I mentioned in my tweet series, the best beginnings occur when we rely on ourselves and empower our local food and beverage markets to the status they deserve. It is crucial to note that all these efforts should be undertaken without resorting to insults, betrayals, or a destructive tone that only undermines nations without contributing to their reconstruction.

"If we, as a capable, united force, could rely on ourselves, the spokesperson for the Zionist occupation army would not dare declare the capability of their air force to bomb any region in the Middle East on Nov 6. I perceive this not just as a clear signal but also a hidden threat, indicating that the enemy's audacity is a consequence of our weakness and failure to build ourselves from

"A Zionist misinformation campaign is led by the Zionist entity and its tools, hirelings and media agents in all countries, including some Arab countries,' columnist Dr. Muhammad Al-Maqati wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"Western support for the Zionist gangs occupying Palestine is not limited to sending air and sea bridges of lethal weapons and ammunition, through which the innocent bloodshed of the people of Gaza continues to flow through their indiscriminate or programmed bombing, the complete demolition of their homes above their heads, aiming to empty Gaza of its population not only forcibly, but also by the force of fire, destruction, and war machines, and whoever does not accept "forced displacement" is killed and eliminated by military operations and continuous bombardment using anti-armor missiles on individuals, and the amount of bombs dropped on them which until this moment has reached 40 thousand tons.

"This also represents three and a half times what was dropped on Hiroshima!! Let us just imagine the enormity of the Zionist gangs' crime, and silence of all the brutal Western leaders who are trying to describe all of this as "selfdefense.

"Yes, most Western regimes are complicit in the crime of genocide, in the programmed demolition in Gaza, and in the killing of children, women and innocent people, because their real goal, which was planned with the Zionist gangs, is to achieve the "Deal of the Century" by displacing the Palestinians from Gaza, or "wiping them out of existence."

"This is what is revealed by the massacres, genocide, the campaign of thirst and starvation, the prevention of medicines, the cutting of electricity, and the attacks on all facilities of life in it, in the largest series of war crimes and crimes against humanity!!

"All Western leaders who participate in this are complicit in these crimes, and they must be dealt with from this point of view and basis, and an international criminal accusation must be brought against them.

"Achieving the deal of the century requires, according to their plans: 1. The forced displacement of the Palestinians and their extermination if nec-

essary, which is what is happening today. 2. Demolishing Al-Aqsa Mosque and rebuilding it according to the Zionist

narrative regarding the alleged structure. 3. Evacuating all of Palestine of its indigenous population, and after Gaza, the turn will come for the West Bank and Jerusalem, and even for the Palestin-

ians of the interior. The matter is serious and the plan is dirty and malicious! 4. Seizing Gaza's distinguished wealth of gas, oil, and port, and even digging an upcoming canal.

5. Fulfilling the Jewish and Christian prophecies promoted by the Zionists and those with them from the West! This is accompanied by misinformation campaigns that attempt to show differences within the Zionist entity, its leaders, and its people! And even between the Zionist entity and the West!

"All of this is part of a series and scenario of media misinformation aimed at distracting us from supporting the Palestinian resistance and mobilizing efforts to motivate the Arab and Islamic nations to stand united in the face of this dirty and malicious plan!

"Do not listen, do not read, do not waste your time following what is broadcast by their newspapers and the West's newspapers, television and radio stations, with statements or leaks about the aggravation of differences between them, or their negotiations to release prisoners, or hints or statements under international pressure, or shortening the remaining periods for the end of their aggression, for that is a trap to mislead us.

And maybe they succeeded! But we must not fall into that trap and become a victim or fuel for the misinformation campaign! Which some Arab countries and leaders contribute to, inadvertently or intentionally, in a shameful and disgusting way! Therefore, we must focus our efforts and support, which are:

1. Trust, certainty, and faith in God's promise to support the believers in

liberating Jerusalem, and that his tour has begun. 2. By working for the steadfastness of the people of Gaza and their national resistance, and that they are not terrorists, and their right to liberate Palestine is a legitimate goal, both legally and according to international norms

Continue the pressure, crowds, and demonstrations to thwart their plan and put pressure on their leaders and the governments of our Arab and Islamic countries to stand up to this and thwart it, each with what is available

4. Exposing their media, plans, and media misinformation, and responding to it, to create conscious Arab and Islamic popular resistance, to thwart their malicious efforts and goals (for the deal of the century), which will not stop until their fascist and expansionist ambitions regarding the Nile to the Euphrates are achieved.

5. Supporting and strengthening the campaign of awareness and awakening of conscience, which is accelerating and expanding its scope among the Arab and even Western peoples, and some of their leaders.

6. Returning our curricula to their normal path in explaining the dangers and hostility of the entity's presence on the usurped land of Palestine, and about the Islamic and historical importance of Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque, while strengthening the Qur'anic dimension regarding the importance of jihad and the mujahedeen and serious education for generations in this regard."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

### **KD 66m traffic fines**

#### **Continued from Page 2**

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "Everyone hears about the establishment of interfaces that happened in the exit ports. This means expatriates must pay fines and other obligations to the state before traveling. This is the practice in many countries. It will benefit them by collecting these amounts before departure, as they are public funds."

5. Are there countries that changed part of their laws, especially traffic laws and those related to payment of fines, immediately after Kuwait changed its treatment in this regard? Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "Currently, there are

links and agreements between the GCC countries to collect violations and for other matters. 6. After eliminating paper violations, is the device and text messaging system secure?

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "Yes, currently there

is no paper recording of violations. There is now an automated system through software and a monitoring device, which is better than paper.

The violation is recorded within the system the moment it is registered. A message is then sent to the violating person through the "Sahel" app. He has the right to object to it at the Traffic Violations Investigation Department or pay it immediately through electronic payment sites.'

7. How does it work so that everyone knows its advantages and disadvantages? Is it safe from hacking

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "So far, it is working with high efficiency. We in the Traffic Violations Investigation Department send notes to develop the system to the crew working on the systems to improve the matter. We also take into account the crew's comments in the periodicals."

8. What about updating the previous system of violations by companies, governmental and diplomatic bodies? Until this time, we hear

that there are problems in collecting amounts.

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "Those in charge in Information Systems are always constantly working to update their programs to keep pace with developments, either in collecting fines or otherwise, but there are no problems in collecting. If they exist, they are quickly resolved by the crew in Information Systems.

9. The fines of how many violations have been collected and not collected from government agencies and embassies?

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "Previously, the violations were approximately 800,000, but now, praise be to Allah, they have decreased to approximately 260,000. Most authorities pay after updating the device.'

10. In the previous system, your department provided courses for company representatives to collect violations through the user in agreement with the information systems. Did it ben-

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "Yes, because there is no cash collection now, but rather through electronic payment sites or through the departments spread across the governorates on the KNET device. This reduces the pressure on companies and our corporate division."

11. In the previous and current periods, we have been seeing a lot of complaints from people who claim there is a mistake in the system that links the value of the violation to the person who did not commit the violation. What do you think?

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "This matter cannot exist. If it happened by mistake, there may be a reason such as the theft of the vehicle's number plates and their placement on a similar vehicle by a thief.

In this case, the owner must come to the department and submit a letter (abstract report) regarding the theft of plates. We then cancel these violations from him, and the following procedures are taken after that. Any person against whom a violation is recorded and who doubts its matter can visit the department to ensure the validity of the violation.

12. Although there is no amendment to the violation, if the affected person is forced to pay for the violation, is this not considered an injustice? In the past, was there an amend-

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "The amendment still exists. If the violation is proven to be incorrect, we will amend or reserve it.

13. Is there any comparison between the violations committed by individuals, companies and government bodies between the past

and the present? Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "Individuals pay irrespective of whether they have a traffic transaction or not. In the past, payment was only made at the Traffic Violations departments but now it is not accepted in cash. Collection is done via KNet or through other programs such as Sahel and the Ministry of Interior's website.

Dr. Al-Salem

In the past, companies used to pay through our Companies Division, but now payment is made through the Ministry of Interior's website using KNet. This made it easier for companies to complete their transactions without the need to visit the Companies Division, and this applies to government corporations and agencies.

14. What is the value of the accumulated violations from 2020 until now?

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "In 2020, the number of unpaid violations was 558,557, amounting to KD 15,766,925.

In 2021, the number of unpaid violations was 741,643, with a value of KD 19,749,750. In 2022, the number of unpaid violations was 1,276,622, with a value of KD 34,646,020.

In 2023, the number of unpaid violations was 1,748,368, with a value of KD 44,581,515. We collect these violations, but in the event of non-payment, they are referred to the traf-

statute of limitations. 15. What is the most common medium for collecting traffic fines?

fic court to prevent them from being subject to

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "Through electronic payment, either on the Ministry of Interior's website or the Sahel application, and then in the capital's violations section.

until now. How many were deported through the traffic department during this period? Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "About 2,066 went to prison in 2020, about 2,713 in 2021, about

16. How many have entered prison from 2020

3,351 in 2022, and about 2,461 in 2023. As for the numbers of deportees in the year

2020, it was about 35, about seven in 2021, about 78 in 2022, about 122 in 2023 so far. This number is expected to increase as the 17. How many citations were issued for

reckless driving, imprudence, and not carrying a license?

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "Direct and indirect citations issued for reckless driving in 2023 were about 19,988, and for driving without a license about 55,090. Many of them are juveniles. We appeal to parents to be careful not to give their cars to minors because there are long penalties for them."

18. What is the latest collection of violations and their value?

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "At the end of each year, collections range between approximately KD 60 million and KD 70 million."

19. We receive questions about some committing violations using cars registered under others' names. What action is taken in this regard? Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "The vehicle driver is

responsible for the violations at the time they are committed. Once this is proven to us, we take measures to transfer these violations to the violator in accordance with the procedures.' 20. How do you view the decision of the

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior for banning the travel of expatriates and Gulf nationals without the payment of dues? Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "It is a correct decision. For your information, the amount collected in September amounted to KD 6.5

21. Many people do not know what points a violator accrues and what procedures are followed. How many people have points with-

Brig. Gen. Al-Otaibi - "Article 42 (bis) of the Traffic Law stipulates the subject of points, in which the violation is issued directly to the violator. As for indirect violations, there are no points for them.

This article was organized more clearly in the ministerial decision:

1. Withdrawal of the driving license for a period of three months if the total points reach 14 the first time. 2. Withdrawal of the driving license for a

period of six months if the total points reach 12 the second time. 3. Withdrawal of the driving license for a period of nine months if the total points reach

4. Withdrawal of the driving license for one year if the total points reach 8 for the fourth

5. Permanent withdrawal of the driving license if the total points reach 6 for the fifth

In this case, he will not be granted a new driving license until he passes the test stipulated in Article 16 of the Traffic Law. These points will be erased if his driving license is withdrawn in accordance with the decision. and if the driver does not commit any other violation within one year from the date of the

# **Guards, KFF renew protocol**

Fire chief lauds agencies pivotal role

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): On Tuesday, the National Guard and the Kuwait Fire Force took a significant step by signing an updated version of the cooperation protocol initially established in 2010. The purpose of this protocol revision is to fortify joint collaboration and strengthen ties across various cooperative domains, with a specific focus on practical coexistence. The renewed agreement also emphasizes conducting specialized field exercises to attain the highest levels of readiness.

According to a press statement from the National Guard, the protocol's signing aligns with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Chief of the National Guard, and Deputy Chief of the National Guard, Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The statement outlined that a dedicated team was formed to meticulously develop and update all facets of the protocol, emphasizing cooperation and joint integration within the framework of applicable laws and systems. The ultimate goal is to streamline procedures and leverage the capabilities of both entities in the service of the country's public interest under wise leadership.

As part of the revised protocol, both parties commit to mutual notification regarding training courses, seminars, and workshops of shared interest, whether held internally or externally. Each entity will organize requested courses, seminars, and workshops in accordance with established regulations and laws.

The protocol underscores the strengthening of relations between the National Guard and the General Fire Force, with a strategic focus on practical coexistence and the execution of specialized field exercises to achieve maximum levels of preparedness, professionalism, and military proficiency. Additionally, the activation of joint operations centers and the integration of command, control, and communication systems are highlighted.

In terms of support, the National Guard has committed to assisting the General Fire Force in areas such as force building, evaluating security systems, and providing training in planning and implementation across strategic, operational, and tactical levels. The signing ceremony was attended by high-ranking officials, including Lieutenant General Engineer Hashim Al-Rifai, Undersecretary of the National Guard, and Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad, Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force, along with senior commanders and officers from both entities.

### **Exercise Comprehensive 9**

Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad, Chief of the Kuwait Fire Force, presided over the inaugural coordination meeting for Exercise Comprehensive 9 on Tuesday. The meeting saw the participation of representatives from 34 government agencies. In his opening remarks, Lieutenant General Al-Mekrad expressed gratitude to the participating entities for their engagement in this annual event, emphasizing its pivotal role in enhancing the preparedness of human resources to effectively



Liquor under production

### **Bv Mansour Al-Sultan**

**Liquor factory raided** 

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

Detectives from the Khaitan police station raided an apartment in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, arrested by 3 expatriates, and seized 340 bottles of local booze ready for sale, 80 barrels of raw material, and equipment and tools for manufacturing alcohol.

The suspect and the seized materials have been referred to the competent authorities.



Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Mekrad and Lieutenant General Engineer Hashim Al-Rifai after signing the protocol.



KUNA photos

National Guard and Fire Department officials at the meeting

handle various crises and disasters.

The Fire Department, in a press statement, highlighted that this meeting serves as a continuation of preceding exercises that garnered sponsorship and attention from top leadership. The primary objective of Exercise Comprehensive 9 is to elevate cooperation and coordination among participating

Major General Jamal Nasser, Acting Deputy Chief of the General Fire Force for Combat and Human Resources Development, underscored the exercise's dual purpose in the statement. Besides fostering co-

operation, the exercise aims to facilitate the exchange of information, providing insights into each party's capabilities. This, in turn, contributes to the agility of responses and advances the approach to emergency and crisis management.

The meeting delved into a comprehensive overview of the exercise scenarios, aligned with the overarching scenario of the Joint Command for Crisis and Disaster Management. Participating entities were briefed on the intricacies of the upcoming exercise to ensure a well-informed and collaborative approach to crisis and disaster response.



# **Global Media Congress vital event** to share experience – KUNA chief

Media role hailed in promoting peace, prosperity

**By Salem Al-Methen** 

ABU DHABI, Nov 15, (KUNA): Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Director General Dr. Fatma Al-Salem said on Tuesday Kuwait's participation in the Global Media Congress in Abu Dhabi gives a significant opportunity to share media ideas and experience with GCC and world countries.

Al-Salem made the remark to KUNA on the sidelines of taking part in the congress, which kicked off in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, representing Minister of Information Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi.

She said that this participation is also of special significance due to discussions with world media experts and specialists,

She added that the event reflects the importance of media, particularly with global technological advancement, along with world countries' interest in the development of media and its tools.

The event covers sustainability, innovation and media technology, sports media, youth, education, media future and relevant regional and international challenges, KUNA's directorgeneral emphasized.

KUNA's participation in the



KUNA's Director-General Dr Fatma Al-Salem and Kuwaiti Ambassador in UAE in a group photo during the congress

Global Media Congress in Abu Dhabi focused on boosting media cooperation and cultural exchange between Kuwait and the rest of the world.

KUNA's wing offered a various range of visual and interactive activities, as well as showcasing reports and photo features recently done by the agency, while discussing joint journalism and exchange opinions on challenges and opportunities that the media industry faces today.

The agency's wing also reflected commitment towards constantly developing in the media field and boosting its role in transmitting the latest news to Kuwait and the world.

Meanwhile, Emirati Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence Sheikh Nehayan Al-Nehayan underscored the necessity of media industry in promoting

growth, prosperity, peace and

The minster communicated this via speech he relayed when inaugurating second edition of the Global Media Congress.

This year's edition is set to cover themes of sustainability, innovation and latest technologies, sports media, youth, education and the future of

Minister Al-Nehayan stated that ensuring success of efforts requires investing in the education and development of media personnel, coordinating efforts to combat deceptive information, and false news, while also guaranteeing use of various new

The minister commented on the wide international participation calling it a reflection of collective desires and aspirations of strengthening media outlets.

Media inspires appreciation of human achievement in a way that transcends nationality, race, religion or culture, he added.

Media establishments, stated the minister, stand to benefit from digital tech, to connect to people on a faster and wider scale, as well as monitor the shifting directions of reader interest to increase revenue and decrease expenses.

Emirati News Agency Chief and head of organizing committee, Mohammad Rayssi, stated in a speech that the congress brings together official and experts in the field, as it is a platform for the discussion of chal-

He spoke of the modern challenges facing media outlets saying that group work is necessary for the circulation of constructive content.



Al-Daihani with members of the Permanent Committee for Sports of the Arab States Broadcasting Union.

### **Kuwait wins ASBU sports panel presidency**

Hamad Al-Daihani, Kuwait's sports TV channel programs director, was named by acclamation chairman of the sports permanent committee of the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) during the committee's meeting in Tunisia Tues-

The committee selected chief of Saudi sports TV channel Ghanim Al-Qahtani first vice president and head of Libya sports TV channel Ezz-Eldin Mohammad second vice president, Al-Daihani told KUNA over the telephone following

He stressed making efforts along with the committee's colleagues to enhance sports media relations among the Arab government and non-government sports channels through sharing news and pragmas.
The meeting reviewed the best methods to enrich Arab sports channels by airing the most important sports pro-grams, which attract Arab fans, he not-

Al-Daihani referred that his win by acclamation shows Kuwait's status in the region, extolling Minister of Information and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affair Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi's support, which has a great impact on winning this position.

He thanked all representatives of all Arab sports TV channels for giving him this confidence to lead the committee for the second time in a row, affirming his endeavors to make further efforts to upgrade the committee's action and please

### 'Premier' revamped

### Burgan Bank launches 'Elite Banking'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: In an effort to elevate the banking experience it offers to its more affluent customer segment, Burgan Bank announced the launch of Elite Banking, a new banking segment for distinguished customers with an array of the finest services that unlock a world of luxury. The Bank also revamped its existing Premier Banking to better

serve another segment of customers. The new and revamped segments are being introduced in response to the market needs and the customers' varied aspirations, with the prime objective of upholding the highest levels of customer satisfaction across all market segments.



Available to high-income customers, Elite Banking comes with a suite of exclusive benefits including a dedicated Personal Banking Executive, priority teller service at all branches, as well as priority service through the call center. Furthermore, Elite customers receive the newly designed, sleek VISA Signature debit and credit cards, which reflects the elevated status of the service that comes with it. In

regards to credit cards, Burgan Bank is proud to announce that Elite Banking customers can get a VISA Signature credit card free for life. They can also apply for the Family Banking feature that offers a completely new banking experience for customers' spouses. Adding to the suite of exclusive



Al-Khatrash

benefits, the new segment also comes packed with numerous other services that promise an added layer of luxury to their everyday lives. These benefits include Burgan Bank concierge services, valet parking, airport lounge access, and many more.

Celebrating the new launch, Mr. Naser Al-Qaisi, General Manager - Retail Banking at Burgan Bank, said: "We are delighted to be able to serve our customers and community no matter how different their lifestyles and aspirations may be. As a Bank that is 'Driven by You', it is ingrained in our operational DNA to constantly research the market, gain a better understanding of people's needs and accordingly address any market gaps that appear. With our latest and most celebrated achievement of the year, the launch of Elite Banking, we did exactly so, thereby offering our high-income custom-



Elite

banking and financial needs, all presented with an unmatched level of luxury in bank-

On her part, Mrs. Lolwa Al-Khatrash, Executive Manager - Products and Segments at Burgan Bank, said: "The banking experience that any customer receives can enable them to move swiftly and with ease toward their goals and aspirations. Therefore, because the banking experience is so central to our customers' lives and capacity for success, we always present them with holistic experiences that offer them a bundle of tailored products, services, and benefits that answer to their everyday needs and lifestyles. That is why our new Elite Banking segment opens up a sea of opportunities and benefits that don't merely touch upon banking and finance, but extend to make other day-to-day experiences more pleasant and convenient.'

Besides the launch of Elite Banking, Burgan Bank's Premier Banking has been completely revamped, offering its customers a range of tailored benefits which also include the VISA Platinum card, along with an array of benefits that the cards exclusively offer to the Premier customer. Premier customers are also eligible to enjoy Burgan Bank's concierge services among other exclusive benefits and services.

It serves to note that Burgan Bank continues to take active steps toward developing new products and services that are finely attuned to the market's growing needs and aspirations, making customers' pursuits easier and more enjoyable. The Bank has previously introduced a number of unique accounts including Al-Rateb salary account and Kanz draw account.

'Fazaa for Palestine' initiative

# **Kuwait's 20th Gaza humanitarian** aid plane takes off to Egypt: KSR

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15, (KUNA): The 20th relief plane took off Wednesday from the Kuwaiti air bridge carrying aid from the "Fazaa for Palestine" initiative, heading to Al-Arish Airport to help Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, carrying 10 tons of necessary and urgent relief aid.

The Deputy Director General of the Kuwait Society for Relief (KSR) and the Supervisor of Fazaa Omar Al-Thuwaini confirmed to KUNA the flight will take off with about 5 tons of food, 3 tons of blankets and two tons of wheelchairs.

Al-Thuwaini commended the efforts made by Kuwaiti official authorities, associations and charitable bodies.

He underlined that KSR, along with its partners and supporters, seeks to continue operating relief trips loaded with aid and donations, working in coordination with the official authorities there, represented by the Egyptian Red Crescent and its Palestinian counterpart, as well as the Palestinian charitable societies accredited within the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs system.

In this context, several Palestinian charities in Gaza announced that they would continue distributing aid from Fazaa to those affected by the aggression, as the first batch of Kuwaiti aid arrived last Thursday, loaded with medicine,

through the Rafah crossing.

Since the first days of the attacks on Gaza, KSR and 22 other Kuwaiti charities launched an initiative to collect donations in response to the humanitarian conditions

suffered by Palestinians in Gaza. The initiative received interaction and support from Kuwaiti governmental and civil institutions. most notably the Zakat House, General Secretariat of Endowments and Public Authority for Minors Affairs. Meanwhile, Kuwait is ranked third

aid to the Gaza Strip since the start of the Israeli aggression on the strip on October 7, according to statistics released by the Egyptian Red Crescent Society recently. The Egyptian Red Crescent stated that the

among countries which sent humanitarian

total humanitarian aid which arrived at the Egyptian city of Al-Arish before entering the Gaza Strip had overreached 9.262 tons. Egypt is at the top of the list of countries that provided aid with a tonnage of 6,900 tons. Libya came second with 546.9 tons, while Kuwait came third with 412 tons. Oa-

tar came fourth with 286 tons, according to the Egyptian society.

The statistics also showed that the total volume of aid provided by Arab countries

to the people of Gaza amounted to 8,495 tons compared with 767 tons provided by non-Arab countries. Kuwait has established a continuous air

bridge since the beginning of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip to transport urgent humanitarian aid to Al-Arish Airport via 17 flights.

The Kuwaiti aid to Gaza included food, clothes, tents, blankets, solar panels, drilling equipment, bulldozers, trucks, medical supplies, and 19 equipped ambulances.



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### **Cases seen rising at alarming rate**

## Freedom of expression at risk, show statistics

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The increase in issues related to social media platforms and websites is sounding alarm bells, especially with the corresponding concerns of these issues related to compromising public freedoms, or restricting freedom of expression guaranteed by the Constitution.

Official statistics, issued by the Information Technology and Statistics Sector in the Ministry of Justice, revealed that 4,718 complaints and cases were registered at the Public Prosecution from the beginning of January until the beginning of October 2023, reports Al-Qabas daily.

An informed source told the daily that 80% of these cases, which the prosecution investigated, were crimes against social networking sites, such as the "X" platform (formerly Twitter), Instagram, WhatsApp, and others.

The source added that this means that approximately 3,500 cases out of the total cases received by the Media and Publication Prosecution are crimes related to social media, revealing at the same time that some do not complain against one or two people, but rather there is a new phenomenon, where complaints are filed against 100 people and above.

The source went on to say, there are those demanding compensation amounting to a million dinars and more, and one of the complaining persons recently demanded an investigation into 300 male and female tweeters, because they commented on content he published, but he did not like their comments.

The source warned that this matter represents a threat to freedoms and their concept, pointing out that according to statistical figures, 12 male and female tweeters are summoned every day, which means that every hour of the working day, a person is summoned because of social networking sites.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq

A photo from Wednesday's National Assembly session.

### Parliament passes

#### **Continued from Page 1**

square meters; indicating the current law stipulates fees for plots measuring more than 5,000 square meters. He said the fees will be gradual, meaning the fee increases depending on the size of plots.

Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun thanked the committee for its efforts, stressing this legislative achievement is the fruit of legislative-executive cooperation.

Meanwhile, the Assembly approved the following incoming letters:

1. Letter of HH the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, thanking the MPs for greeting him on the third anniversary of his ascension to the throne;

2. Letter of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah, thanking the MPs for greeting him on the third anniversary of his appointment;

3. Request of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari to expedite discussion of the bill on Kuwait joining the treaty on establishing the Asian Bank for Infrastructure Investment:

4. Request of the Interior and Defense Affairs Committee chairman to refer the bill on electing members of the National Assembly and defining constituencies to the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee;

5. Request of MP Hamad Al-Elyan for the Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee to study the local and overseas scholarships, and the Ministry of Higher Education's accreditation of universities, and then recommend solutions;

6. Request of the Budgets and Final Accounts Committee chairman to enable the State Audit Bureau (SAB) to play its monitoring role over Kuwait Industrial Bank;

7. Request of the Remote and New Residential Areas Development Committee chairman for his committee to study and follow up infrastructure issues in these areas:

8. Request of the Values Enhancement and Combating Negative Phenomena Committee chairman for his committee to study the negative phenomena like the weakening family bond, drugs, bribery, cheating, cross gender and 'wasta' (influence);

9. Request of MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf for the Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee to study the efficiency of private colleges and institutes, and ways to increase the number of slots for students;

10. Request of MP Muhammad Al-Mahan for the Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee to study the suffering of students residing in remote areas in terms of attending school, and then recommend solutions;

11. Request of MPs Mubarak Al-Hajraf and Ahmed Lari for the Public Facilities Committee to study the roads, postal services development, monitoring electricity and water services, and developing the North Zone

and Kuwaiti islands;
12. Request of MPs Osama Al-Shaheen and Hamad Al-Matar for all parliamentary committees, Secretariat General of the Assembly and Inter-Parliamentary Group to follow up the implementation of recommendations regarding the Palestinian issue and Israeli attacks on Gaza:

raeli attacks on Gaza;
13. Request of the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee chairman for his committee to hold a meeting with the concerned political groups and societies in order to discuss the bills about amending the National Assembly Law and constituencies at the Assembly Theater on Nov 21, 2023.

14. Request of MP Hamad Al-Matar for the Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee to study the fake academic certificates issue;

15. Request of MP Hamad Al-Matar for the Assembly to pass the report of SAB on Kuwait National Focal Point from the Budgets and Final Accounts Committee to the Environment, Food and Water Security Affairs Committee;

and Water Security Affairs Committee; 16. Request of the Parliamentary Priorities Committee to discuss the bills on increasing pension and real estate agencies before the reply to the Amiri speech;

17. Request of the Interior and Defense Affairs Committee to forward the bills on cybersecurity, hackers and utilizing the skills of Kuwaiti programmers to the Digital Empowerment and Artificial Intelligence Committee;

18. Request of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee chairman to refer the bill on adding people with medium and severe disabilities to the categories exempted from the time condition for receiving pension to the Disabled Affairs Committee;

19. Request of MP Hamad Al-Matar for the Health, Social and Labor Affairs Committee to coordinate with the Ministry of Health and other concerned institutions regarding the establishment of a center for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addiction;

20. Request of the Youth and Sports Affairs Committee to extend the deadline for the submission of its report on developing and providing safe courses on cycling sports for two months;

21. Request of the Public Funds Protection Committee chairman for his committee to investigate the Malaysian Sovereign fund issue;

22. Request of MP Abdullah Al-Anbai for the Health, Social and Labor Affairs Committee to conduct a study on Kuwait Health City;

23. Request of the Human Resources Committee chairman for his committee to discuss the increasing number of nomination letters submitted by public institutions and submit its report within three months;

24. Request of MP Abdulaziz Al-Saqaabi for the Budgets and Final Accounts Committee to discuss the legal bases and regulations for granting exorbitant allowances and bonus to some

25. Request of the Values Enhancement and Combating Negative Phenomena Committee for the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee to hand over a number of bills;

senior officials;

26. Request of several MPs for the Housing Affairs Committee to discuss sustainable solutions for the housing issue, and rationale behind the high wages of construction workers and prices of construction materials;

27. Request of the Environment, Food and Water Security Affairs Committee to assign the committee to conduct a study on the current environmental conditions in the country and projects of Kuwait Focal Point;

28. Request of MP Hamad Al-Matar for the Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee to conduct a study on the deteriorating education, reasons behind the rising rate of cheating in exams and recommend solutions;

29. Request of the Youth and Sports Affairs Committee to assign it to contact the International Olympics Committee regarding the latter's claims in its recent statement;

30. Request of MP Hamad Al-Matar for the Health, Social and Labor Affairs Committee to study the reasons behind the withdrawal of Gaustave

Roussy Cancer Hospital from Kuwait; 31. Request of MP Hamad Al-Matar for the Environment, Food and Water Security Affairs Committee to discuss the expenses related to the participation

of Kuwait at the EXPO 2020 in Dubai; 32. Request of MP Shuaib Shaaban for the Health, Social and Labor Affairs Committee to discuss the reasons for non-payment of the frontliners incentive to the Ministry of Health employees, considering the tremendous efforts they exerted during the CO-VID-19 crisis;

33. Request of MP Hamad Al-Matar for the Environment, Food and Water Security Affairs Committee to study the causes of damages to trees, plants and green zones in residential areas and others.

### **How have**

### Continued from Page 1

the director of Kuwait University submit to an MP and implement his decision, or a minister is grilled because he did not receive an MP who was seeking to clear a transaction, or a minister evaded accountability because he was not up to the responsibility, or the

Prime Minister violated the Constitution by refraining from standing on the grilling platform as if he is telling everyone "It is up to me", this indicates a lack of understanding of the meaning of the official's great responsibility! There are many decisions that were

issued under parliamentary pressure, but experience revealed that they were harmful to the national interest. Some other decisions that benefited Kuwaitis, including but not limited to loans, housing, education, and health were fought.

Therefore, all issues are suspended because the government programs are either cut-and-paste versions or distorted copies of previous ones, or constructive sentences, as if they were in an expression contest, and not an executive authority with great responsibilities, the most important of which is advancing the country, implementing the Constitution and the law faithfully, and not making deals on the backs of the people like the way it happens here.

Today everyone is facing a difficult test. Either the compass will be redirected in the right direction and the government will enjoy its decision without detracting while the parliament stops encroaching on its powers, or everyone will fail. This is what the Kuwaitis do not want.

### **Kuwait braces**

### **Continued from Page 1**

Al-Qarawi further noted that windy conditions are anticipated, leading to dust, elevated sea waves, and reduced horizontal visibility. He mentioned that the rainfall is expected to gradually subside by dawn on Friday, with the possibility of a return on Sunday. Emphasizing the importance of staying informed, he stressed the necessity of monitoring the weather forecast through the official website and the Kuwait Met application in case of any emergencies.

### **Tensions rise**

### Continued from Page 1

The Israeli military said it was carrying out a "precise and targeted operation against Hamas in a specified area in the hospital," adding that it was separate from where patients and medical staff are located.

It was not possible to independently assess the situation inside.

assess the situation inside.

The military said the soldiers were accompanied by medical teams and bringing in incubators. It shared footage of them unloading equipment - as well as a couple dozen boxes labeled "medical supplies" and "baby food" in English - inside the hospital compound

It added that forces are searching for hostages. The plight of the captives, who include men, women and children, has galvanized Israeli support for the war, and families and supporters of the hostages are holding a protest march from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The raid drew condemnation from Jordan and the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority, which called it a violation of international law. U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths said he was "appalled" by the raid, saying the protection of civilians "must override all other concerns."

At one point, tens of thousands of Palestinians seeking safety from Israeli bombardment were sheltering at the hospital, but most left in recent days as the fighting drew closer. A few thousand remain behind, along with patients, including premature babies, whose fate has drawn particular concern.

The Health Ministry said 40 patients, including three babies, have died since Shifa's emergency generator ran out of fuel Saturday. Another 36 babies are at risk of dying because there is no power for incubators, ac-

cording to the ministry.

Hours before Israel's raid, the United States said its own intelligence indicated militants have used Shifa and other hospitals - and tunnels beneath them - to support military operations and hold hostages.

# KM panel 'refutes' claims over permit to 2 camp sites in Jahra

Spring Camps Committee accepts e-requests

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Kuwait Municipality's Spring Camps Committee, marking the commencement of the camping season, has refuted claims circulating about permission for camp owners to establish camps in Al-Oyoun and Saad Al-Abdullah sites in Al-Jahra Governorate, reports Al-Rai daily.

Muhammad Al-Mutairi, the official spokesperson for the Kuwait Municipality and Director

of the Public Relations Department, announced that preparations for the upcoming camping season, starting today, have been completed. The committee is now accepting reservation requests and issuing camp licenses electronically.

In a press statement, Al-Mutairi revealed that the committee, in collaboration with relevant government agencies and connective so

ment agencies and cooperative societies, identified two designated sites: one on Kabd Road and the other in Subbiya at the end of the Jaber Al-Ahmad Bridge. Additionally, a lottery determined 14 locations for cooperative markets.

### **Emphasized**

Al-Mutairi emphasized that citizens can submit reservation and licensing requests for spring camps starting after midnight on Wednesday via QR code. Temporary licenses will be issued for approved camping areas, contingent on compliance with General Fire Department and Ministry requirements. Campers are urged to adhere to guidelines, including environmental conservation, wildlife protection, and avoiding any harm to the aesthetic value of the surroundings.

He stressed the importance of selecting the camp location within the specified 1,000 square meters for individuals and 2,000 to 5,000 square meters for companies and agencies. Each license is issued to a fully qualified person aged at least 21, limited to one license per individual, with an obligation to notify the municipality of any site changes or camp removal. Violations may result in camp removal at the licensee's expense, with a three-year camping license suspension.

To facilitate the application process, the municipality encourages citizens to visit their website (https://www.baladia.gov.kw/sites/ar/Pages/main.aspx), click on the site reservation box, input the desired camp's coordinates, provide the camp owner's personal data, agree to terms, pay a non-refundable 50-dinar fee via KNET, submit a refundable 100-dinar deposit after obtaining a camp cleanliness certificate, and receive a temporary camp license for the spring season.

Abdali Farmers' Farm opens in Al-Rai; Wafra exhibition Friday

### By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: With the cooperation of the Kuwait Livestock Company, and in the presence of the Coordinator between farmers, agricultural associations and unions Faisal Al-Zoubi, the Treasurer of the Kuwait Farmers' Union Abdullah Al-Dahoum, and the Director-General of the union Ayed Al-Rashidi, the Abdali Farmers' Farm opened on November 13 in Al-Rai.

On this occasion, the President of the Kuwait Farmers' Union Jaber Al-Azmi said, "We are putting all our capabilities to serve the Kuwaiti product, which has proven its quality. We will launch the Wafra exhibition next Friday, God willing.

The Kuwaiti product has proven its superiority over other imported products. Our presence today with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) in this place is aimed solely to provide support to the Kuwaiti farmers.

We thank the Kuwait Livestock Company for setting up this large, air-conditioned hall to display Kuwaiti products for the farmers of the Abdali farming area every Monday and Tuesday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm."

Al-Azmi announced that the Wafra exhibition will be launched on Friday, and the following Friday, there will be the opening of the Abdali exhibition.

He reiterated that the Kuwaiti product has proven great efficiency and great progress in quantity and quality.

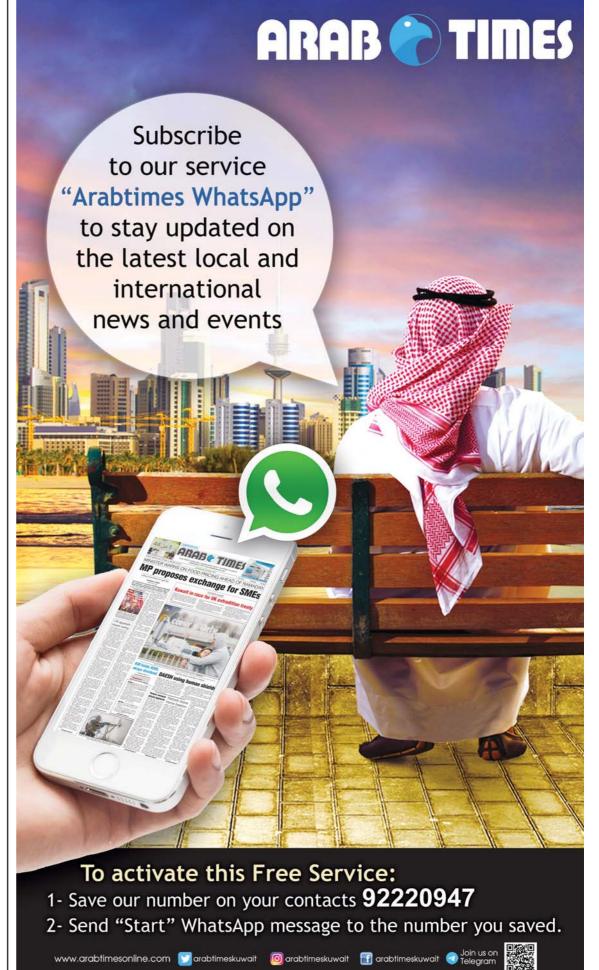
## «Mujezat Al-Shifa»: Providing water helps prolong the life of bees

The Nutrition Consultant at Mujezat Al-Shifa Company said: Professor Francisco J. And his colleague Balvino-Olvera at the National Laboratory for Ecological



Analysis and Synthesis, in Mexico, conducted a preliminary experiment that showed that honeybees kept in a hive and provided with different types of deionized water, 1% NaCl in deionizer, or tap water had a longer average lifespan than those who did not have it. While researching the history of water savings in previous hive studies, they noted that the average lifespan of honeybees in hives has been declining in the United States since the 1970s, from an average of 34.3 days to 17.7 days.

She added: Scientists have concluded the importance of water to maintain the bees' body hydration and regulate the concentrations of fluids and mineral salts within the body so that they do not die from dehydration.



### **World News Roundup**

### **Europe**

### **Putin OKs restrictions**

### UK premier a weak leader: Braverman

LONDON, Nov 15, (AP): Former British Home Secretary Suella Braverman lashed out at Prime Minister Rishi Sunak after he fired her, calling his approach "uncertain, weak" and a betrayal of his

In a resignation letter she published on Tuesday, Braverman said Sunak had "manifestly and repeatedly failed to deliver" on key pledges and alleged that he "never had any intention" of keeping them.

Sunak sacked Braverman on Monday after she

made a series of intemperate statements that deviated from the government line. In recent weeks she called homelessness a "lifestyle choice" and accused police of being too lenient with pro-Palestinian protests, which she called "hate marches.



On Saturday, far-right protesters scuffled with police and tried to confront a pro-Palestinian march by hundreds of thousands through the streets of London. Critics accused Braverman's language of helping to inflame tensions.

In her letter, she said Sunak had rejected her calls to ban pro-Palestinian demonstrations calling for a cease-fire in Gaza

"Britain is at a turning point in our history and faces a threat of radicalization and extremism in a way not seen for 20 years. I regret to say that your response has been uncertain, weak and lacking in the qualities of leadership that this country needs," she wrote.

As home secretary, Braverman championed the government's stalled plan to send asylum-seekers who arrive in Britain in boats on a one-way trip to Rwanda. A UK Supreme Court ruling on whether the policy is legal is due on Wednesday.

**EU** struggles to produce ammo to Ukraine: European Union Defence Ministers discussed on Tuesday EU support to Ukraine, after a brief video message from the Ukrainian Minister of Defence, Rustem Umierov during their formal meeting in

According to an EU statement released after the meeting, EU High Representative Josep Borrell underlined the need to urgently agree on further military support to Ukraine, to address its immediate needs in terms of air defence, training, ammunition and winter equipment, and thereby allow for its defence against

The ministerial discussion then focused on longerterm security commitments to Ukraine about the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine), which has already reached its objective of training 30,000 Ukrainian soldiers, and now aims at training 10,000 more.

EU Defence Ministers held an informal working breakfast with the Secretary General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, and discussed the resilience of critical infrastructure and the ability of EU and NATO to respond to these new threats, against the backdrop of several recent security incidents in the Baltic Sea.

European Union nations acknowledged Tuesday that they may be on the way to failing Ukraine on their promise of providing the ammunition the country dearly needs to stave off Russia's invasion and to win back occupied territory.

With much fanfare early this year, EU leaders promised to provide 1 million rounds of ammunition to Ukraine's front line by spring 2024, an amount goal that would have amounted to a serious ramp-up of

Putin OKs restrictions on media coverage: Russian President Vladimir Putin has approved changes to the law that governs presidential elections putting new restrictions on media coverage, local news agencies reported on Tuesday.

The changes come ahead of the election to be held in March in which Putin, who has ruled Russia for the last 24 years, is expected to seek a new six-year term. Putin, 71, has not declared whether he will run, say-

ing he will announce that only after the parliament formally sets the election date. Under the amendments that he approved, only journalists contractually employed by registered media outlets will be allowed to cover election commission

meetings, potentially barring freelancers and independent journalists. Meanwhile, a total of 534 aircraft and 254 helicopters have been destroyed since the beginning of Russian military operations in Ukraine in February 2022,

according to the Russian Ministry of Defense. Russian military forces have also intercepted 8,904 drones, and destroyed 441 air defense systems, 13,392 tanks and other armored combat vehicles, the ministry said in a press release.

Finland considers closing border crossings: The government in Finland is considering whether to close some crossing points on the country's long border with Russia to prevent people from trying to enter without proper documentation, the Nordic nation's interior minister and prime minister said Tuesday.

Interior Minister Mari Rantanen said the number of migrants at Finland's southeastern border crossings has risen substantially since August due to what the government suspects is a change in Russia's border policy and enforcement.

Finnish and Russian border authorities have for years cooperated in stopping people without the necessary visas or passports before they can attempt to enter either of the two countries. But Russia has started allowing undocumented travelers to access the border zone and enter crossing stations where they can request asylum in Finland, Rantanen said.

**Iceland evacuates town:** Residents of a fishing town in southwestern Iceland left their homes Saturday after increasing concern about a potential volcanic eruption caused civil defense authorities to declare a state of emergency in the region.

Police decided to evacuate Grindavik after recent seismic activity in the area moved south toward the town and monitoring indicated that a corridor of magma, or semi-molten rock, now extends under the community, Iceland's Meteorological Office said. The town of 3,400 is on the Reykjanes Peninsula, about 50 kilometers (31 miles) southwest of the capital, Reykjavik.

"At this stage, it is not possible to determine exactly whether and where magma might reach the surface, the Meteorological Office said.



US Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., joined at right by Majority Whip Tom Emmer, R-Minn., takes questions as he meets with reporters ahead of a crucial vote on a continuing resolution to keep the government funded at its current levels, a measure not heartily supported by the hard right wing of his party, at the Capitol in Washington, on Nov 14. (AP)



Both directions of Interstate 70 are closed in Licking County, Ohio, near the State Route 310 interchange after a fatal accident on Nov 14. A charter bus carrying students from a high school was rear-ended by a semitruck on the Ohio highway (AP).





### **America**

Ohio interstate crash kills 6: A charter bus filled with high school students was rear-ended by a semitruck on an Ohio highway Tuesday morning, leaving six people dead and 18 injured, officials said.

Five vehicles were involved in the crash, including a Pioneer Trails charter bus carrying students and chaperones from the Tuscarawas Valley Local School District in eastern Ohio, said Licking County Emergency Management Agency Director Sean

Three passengers on the bus, which was carrying a driver and 54 students and chaperones, were pronounced dead at the scene, the Ohio State Highway Patrol said Tuesday night. They were identified as John W. Mosely, 18, of Mineral City; Jeffery D. Worrell, 18, of Bolivar; and Katelyn N. Owens, 15, of Mineral City. (AP) 

Pelosi attacker apologizes: The man accused of attacking former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband with a hammer apologized Tuesday, echoing rightwing conspiracy theories to explain to jurors that he went to the Pelosis' home as part of a bigger plot to end what he viewed as government corruption.

David DePape spoke for more than an hour in which he tearfully recounted about how his political leanings went from leftist to right wing after reading a comment on a YouTube video about former President Donald Trump. He said he bludgeoned Paul Pelosi after realizing his larger plan might be unraveling. Testimony wrapped up later Tuesday,

with closing arguments expected Wednesday. DePape has pleaded not guilty to attempted kidnapping of a federal official and assault on the immediate family member of a federal official with intent to retaliate against the official for performance of their duties. (AP)

**Shooting suspect pleads not guilty:** A man accused of a mass shooting at a Colorado supermarket in 2021 pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity Tuesday as a judge ruled the case can move to a trial following testimony giving new details of how he killed most of the 10 victims in just over a minute using a gun with a high-capacity

### **Politics**

### **GOP Speaker Johnson relies on Dems for help**

### House votes to avert government shutdown

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP): The House voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to prevent a government shutdown after new Republican Speaker Mike Johnson was forced to reach across the aisle to Democrats when hard-right conservatives revolted against his plan.

Johnson's proposal to temporarily fund the government into the new year passed on a bipartisan 336-95 tally, but 93 Republicans voted against it. It was the first time the new speaker had to force vital legislation through the House, and he showed a willingness to leave his right-flank Republicans behind - the same political move that cost the last House speaker, Kevin Mc-Carthy, his job just weeks ago.

For now, Johnson of Louisiana appeared on track for a better outcome. His approach, which the Senate is expected to approve by week's end, effectively pushes a final showdown over government funding to the new year.

"Making sure that government stays in operation is a matter of conscience for all of us. We owe that to the American people," Johnson said earlier Tuesday at a news conference at the Capitol.

### Budget

The new Republican leader faced the same political problem that led to McCarthy's ouster - angry, frustrated, hard-right GOP lawmakers rejected his approach, demanded budget cuts and voted against the plan. Rather than the applause and handshakes that usually follow passage of a bill, several hardline conservatives animatedly confronted the speaker as they exited the chamber.

Without enough support from his Republican majority, Johnson had little choice but to rely on Democrats to ensure passage to keep the federal government running.

Johnson's proposal puts forward a unique - critics say bizarre - two-part process that temporarily funds some federal agencies to Jan 19 and others to Feb 2. It's a continuing resolution, or CR, that comes without any of the deep cuts conservatives have demanded all year. It also fails to include President Joe Biden's request for nearly \$106 billion for Ukraine, Israel, border

Attorneys for Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa

### Former president Trump can stay on 'primary ballot', says Michigan judge

DETROIT, Nov 15, (AP): A Michigan judge ruled Tuesday that former President Donald Trump will remain on the state's primary ballot, dealing a blow to the effort to stop Trump's candidacy with a Civil Warera Constitutional clause.

It marks the second time in a week that a state court declined to remove Trump from a primary ballot under the insurrection provision of the 14th Amendment.

In Michigan, Court of Claims Judge James Redford rejected arguments that Trump's role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol meant the court had to declare him ineligible for the presidency. Redford wrote that, because Trump followed state law in qualifying for the primary ballot, he cannot remove the former president.

Additionally, he said it should be up to Congress to decide whether Trump is disqualified under the section of the US Constitution that bars from office a person who "engaged in insurrection.

Redford said deciding whether an event constituted "a rebellion or insurrection and whether or not someone participated in it" are questions best left to Congress and not "one single judicial officer." A judge, he wrote, "cannot in any manner or form possibly embody the represented qualities of every citizen of the nation - as does the House of Representatives and the Senate.'

Free Speech For People, a liberal group that has brought 14th Amendment cases in a number of states, said it will immediately appeal the ruling to the Michigan Court of Appeals, but also asked the state supreme court to step in and take the case on an expedited basis.

### Also:

YORK: Donald Trump blamed his accountants. So did the two sons he entrusted to run his company. Now, as they mount their defense in the civil fraud trial threatening the former president's real estate empire, his lawyers are too.

Trump's lawyers spent Tuesday digging into outside accounting firm Mazars USA LLP's role in preparing financial statements at the heart of New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit, upping the blame with expert testimony from a former federal financial regulator.

security and other supplemental funds.

"We're not surrendering," Johnson assured after a closed-door meeting of House Republicans Tuesday morning, vowing he would not support another stopgap. "But you have to choose fights you can win.'

Johnson, who announced his endorsement Tuesday of Donald Trump as the Republican nominee for president, hit the airwaves to sell his approach and met privately Monday night with the conservative Freedom

Johnson says the innovative approach would position House Republicans to "go into the fight" for deeper spending cuts in the new year, but many Republicans are skeptical there will be any better outcome in January.

Rep Chip Roy, a Texas Republican who is part of the House Freedom Caucus, did not hold back on his opinion of the stopgap bill: "It's crap." He said he would give "a little bit of

room" to Johnson, who is three weeks into the job of speaker. But Roy threatened to seize control of the House floor if conservative demands for cuts are not met in the months ahead.

The opposition from hardline conservatives left Johnson with few other options than to skip what's typically a party-only procedural vote, and rely on another process that requires a twothirds tally with Democrats for passage.

ness prevented him from understanding

entered the plea before District Court Judge right from wrong on March 22, 2021, the Ingrid Bakke in Boulder. The plea means day of the attack. Alissa's attorneys are claiming mental ill-

The hearing marked the first time pros-



President and CEO of the Royal Canadian Mint Marie Lemay, left, and designer Steven Rosati unveil a coin at an event celebrating the first strike of a loonie with the effigy of King Charles III on it at the Royal Canadian Mint in Winnipeg, Manitoba on Nov 14. (AP)

ecutors have spoken publicly about what happened at the crowded store in the college town of Boulder in the more than two years since the shooting, with the case stalled for much of the time after the suspect was deemed mentally incompetent. (AP)

Woman dead in stabbing: One of four women stabbed in what officials said was a random attack on a Louisiana college campus died Tuesday, the school an-

nounced. Annie Richardson had been in critical condition after Monday's attack and she died of her injuries Tuesday evening, according to a statement from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston.

"My prayers are with Annie's husband Peter, the entire Richardson family, and all who called Annie a friend," university President Les Guice said. "Our Tech family will feel the pain of this incident for some time, but we are fortunate to have such a caring community to rely upon as we grieve

Two other women were hospitalized and a fourth woman who is a retired teacher was cut but declined treatment in what officials say was a random knife attack outside a recreation center on the northern Louisiana campus. Richardson was stabbed as she left an exercise class. (AP)

### **Africa**

### 44 villagers killed

### Madagascar's prez seeking re-election

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar, Nov 15, (AP): Madagascar's **Andry Rajoelina** is pushing ahead with a presidential election that could give him a second term, even as opposition protests roil the island nation and the majority of candidates have announced

Rajoelina, a 49-year-old former DJ, initially faced 12 competitors for Thursday's election. But a collective of 10 candidates on Monday said they would not take part, claiming the electoral process is full of flaws. They encouraged people to stay away from polling booths.

Those boycotting are a collective of former political rivals including former leaders Marc Ravaloma-



capital almost every day since late September but security forces have violently put them down, leading to serious injuries and dozens of arrests. The protests on the the In-

dian Ocean island intensified in recent weeks as the opposition, some churches and civil society pushed for a postponement. The election was postponed by a week from Nov. 9 by the country's highest court

nana and Hery Rajaonarimampianina. They have organized peaceful marches across the

security forces fired tear gas. Many in Madagascar and in the international community had hoped this election would break with the past of disputed votes, coups and political instability that have characterized the country since gaining independence from France in 1960.

after one candidate was injured during protests when

#### **Argues**

But the opposition argues that Rajoelina should be disqualified from the election because he obtained French citizenship in 2014. Rajoelina said he took up dual citizenship to secure his children's education in

dual citizenship to secure his children's education in former colonizer France.

According to rivals' interpretation of the law, Rajoelina should have been stripped of his Malagasy nationality since he was an adult when he applied for a second nationality. However, the country's highest court ruled in his favor last month.

Opposition leaders also allege that the national electoral commission lacks independence. They also demand the establishment of a special court to deal with electoral disputes, alleging that the High Constitutional Court is packed with Rajoelina allies.

The president will face Siteny Randrianasoloniaiko,

The president will face Siteny Randrianasoloniaiko, a 51-year-old deputy for Tuléar city under Rajoelina's IRD party in the island's far south. He has distanced himself from the president. He says he agrees with the concerns of the other candidates boycotting the election but has chosen to participate rather than complain on the cidelines. on the sidelines.

"I always agree with the demands of the collective of 11, they are fair. But I don't believe in empty chair politics," said Randrianasoloniaiko, a wealthy businessman

### Situation

Also on the ballot will be Sendrison Daniela Raderanirina, 62, who has lived mainly in France to pursue a career in information technology. He says he is running "to respond to the urgency of the situation in

Raderanirina is seen as lacking the financial muscle of the other two candidates participating on Thursday. Eleven million people in Madagascar are registered

Defying a poor economic and human rights record, Rajoelina says he is confident, declaring that "no one can take victory away from me.

Most of Madagascar's 30 million people still live in poverty in a country whose economy is anchored in agriculture and tourism but is largely dependent on foreign aid. There has been a drop in the number of children

attending school, and water and electricity shortages plague the capital, according to the World Bank. Leading local nongovernmental organization Alliance Voary Gasy says concern is rife over massive de-

forestation, threatening what the United Nations calls Madagascar's "unique biodiversity."

According to a five-year study by local NGO Ivorary, only 13% of Rajoelina's promises from the 2018 election have been fulfilled.

### Also:

KINSHASA, Congo: Extremist-linked rebels have killed at least 44 villagers in separate attacks in Congo's volatile east, local authorities and civil society leaders said Tuesday.

The Allied Democratic Forces rebels with ties to the Islamic State group attacked Kishanga village in North Kivu province on Sunday night and killed 33 people including a member of the Congolese army, said a delegate of the provincial governor, Samson

"The rebels executed them in the Virunga National Park," Simara said.

The rebels killed 11 other villagers in the province of Ituri on Tuesday, according to Samuel Ngunjolo, a civil society leader.

"We are worried and ... are asking the security services to urgently deploy security," Ngunjolo said. Six of the rebels were killed by the army, accord-

ing to Capt. Anthony Mulushayi, spokesman for the Congolese army in North Kivu. Some hostages were freed, Mulushayi said. Eastern Congo has been ravaged by conflict for de-

cades as more than 120 armed groups fight for control of valuable mineral resources and some try to protect their communities. Mass killings by rebels are frequent. The violence has sent nearly seven million people fleeing their homes.

BAMAKO, Mali: Mali's military has seized control of the northern town of Kidal, marking the first time the army has held the Tuareg rebel stronghold in nearly a decade, state broadcaster ORTM reported Tuesday.

Mohamed Maouloud Ramadan, a rebel spokesman based in neighboring Mauritania, confirmed the presence of the Malian military in Kidal.

"This is a message from the president of the transition to the Malian people," journalist Ibrahim Traore said in his introduction to the ORTM news bulletin. "Today, our armed and security forces have seized Kidal. Our mission is not over.'

Soldiers from Mali's army, accompanied by mercenaries from Russian military contractor Wagner, have been battling Tuareg fighters for several days in an effort to take control of the town following the departure of United Nations peacekeepers two weeks ago.



This undated photo provided by the North Korean government shows the testing of new solid-fuel engines designed for intermediate-range ballistic missiles in North Korea. Korean Central News Agency said the country's military scientists tested the first-stage and second-stage missile engines on Nov. 11 and Nov 14. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image as provided by source reads: 'KCNA' which is the abbreviation for Korean Central News Agency. (AP)



A supporter of Javier Milei, Libertv Advances coalition presidential candidate, holds a toy lion before a rally in Rosario, Argentina on Nov 14. Milei will face rival, ruling party candidate, Economy Minister Sergio Massa in a runoff election on Nov 19. (AP)



### Lat/Am

Milei rallying for presidency: Batman and the Joker, a man decked out in a fullbody lion costume, and another whose head and arms have been replaced by chainsaws. This isn't Carnival or Comic-Con, but rather the outlandish campaign rally for Argentine presidential candidate Javier Milei.

In just a few short years, the right-wing populist Milei went from being a television talking head who garnered high ratings with his unrestrained outbursts against a "political caste" he blamed for Argentina's perennial economic woes to a frontrunner for the presidency. He even dabbled in cosplay, dressing up as "General AnCap," short for anarcho-capitalist, at a 2019 event.

Just as his candidacy started as a madefor-television spectacle, his followers picked up the baton and have often turned rallies into opportunities to show their devotion to their candidate using props that go viral on social media.

Shortly after he first appeared on television, the self-described libertarian grew a cult-like following among those drawn to his no-nonsense style. His appeal seems to lie in his ability to channel anger that Argentines feel against the ruling class amid red-hot triple-digit inflation and rising poverty.

Once seen as a sideshow in Argentine politics, Milei managed to parlay his success as a talking head into a seat in the Chamber of Deputies, Argentina's lower house of Congress, in 2021. He then launched what looked like a long-shot presidential bid, but rocked Argentina's political establishment when he received the most votes in the country's August primaries, a national contest seen as a massive poll of voter preferences. (AP)

Smuggling ring dismantled: Police in El Salvador on Tuesday arrested 10 people accused of operating a migrant smuggling ring that charged migrants up to \$15,000 for the promise of safe travel to the U.S.

Two of the alleged smugglers, or "coyotes," arrested were active members of the Salvadoran national police, the Attorney General's Office said. Another was an ex-

The raid was coordinated between police in the capital, San Salvador, and two other cities, Santa Ana in the west and San Miguel in the east of the country, respectively. Police also seized four vehicles and more than a dozen cellphones.

According to an investigation opened in July 2022, the smugglers trafficked migrants through blind spots on the Guatemalan border, then through Mexico and the US, charging between \$12,000 and \$15,000

### Asia

### Military leaders express repeated concerns

### US aims for improved army ties with China

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP): US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping were expected to agree Wednesday to restore some military-tomilitary communications between their armed forces when they meet on the side-lines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

The plan is to revive the regular talks under what's known as the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement, which until 2020 had been used to improve safety in the air and sea, said a US official, who requested anonymity to preview the leaders' expected announcement.

US military leaders have expressed repeated concerns about the lack of communications with China, particularly as the number of unsafe or unprofessional incidents between the two nations' ships and aircraft has spiked.

### Warns

According to the Pentagon's most recent report on China's military power, Beijing has "denied, canceled or ignored" military-to-military communications and meetings with the Pentagon for much of last year and this year. The report warns that the lack of such talks "raises the risk of an operational incident or miscalculation spiraling into crisis or conflict."

The US views military relations with China as critical to avoiding any missteps and maintaining a peaceful Indo-Pacific region.

More than 15 years ago, the Defense Department was making progress in a growing effort to improve relations with Beijing as both sides stepped up military activities in the Indo-Pacific.

The US was concerned about Beijing's dramatic and rapid military growth. And China was suspicious of America's expanding presence in the region. In an effort to improve transparency and communication, defense leaders from the two countries were meeting regularly. And in a 2008 speech in Singapore, then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates noted that relations with China had improved, and that a long-sought direct telephone link between the US and China had finally been established. He said he had used it to speak with the defense minister.

He and other defense chiefs, Joint Chiefs chairmen and regional highlevel US commanders routinely traveled to China over the next decade, and

### **NKorea tests 'solid-fuel engines' for** intermediate-range ballistic missiles

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 15, (Agencies): North Korea said Wednesday it successfully tested new solid-fuel engines designed for intermediate-range ballistic missiles as it works on enhancing its nuclear-capable arsenal with more powerful, harder-to-detect weap-

ons that can potentially target U.S. military bases in Guam and Japan.
North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the country's military scientists tested the first-stage and second-stage missile engines on Saturday and Tuesday. The report did not say when the new missile system was expected to be completed.

The tests extend a torrid run in North Korea's weapons development efforts, which some analysts say could be boosted by an alleged arms cooperation with Russia as they align in the face of separate, intensifying confrontations with the United States. Tuesday's test came as Russia's

natural resources minister, Alexander Kozlov, arrived in North Korea for talks over unspecified trade and technology exchanges, as the countries continued to build on a rare summit in September between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian Vladimir Putin.

Kim's trip to the Russian Far East, where he also visited major rocket and military sites, sparked concerns about a potential arms alignment between the countries, in which North Korea provides munitions for Russia's war in Ukraine in exchange for Russian technology transfers that would upgrade Kim's

Chinese defense leaders came to the Pentagon. "We don't want miscalculations and misunderstandings and misinterpretations. And the only way you do that is you talk to each other," noted then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in 2013.

The following year Hagel made a historic visit to Yuchi Naval Base and became the first foreign visitor to go aboard China's first aircraft carrier as it was docked at the base

Missiles with built-in solid propellants can be made ready to launch faster and are easier to move and conceal, which theoretically makes it harder for adversaries to detect and preempt the launch in advance. The recent tests were an "essen-

fueled for long periods of time.

military nuclear program.

The North's existing intermedi-

ate-range missiles, including the

Hwasong-12 that may be able to reach the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, are powered by liquid-fuel engines, which need to be fueled before launch and cannot stay fueled for long periods of time.

tial process for further enhancing the strategic offensive capabilities of (North Korea's) armed forces in the light of the grave and unstable security environment facing the country and the future military situation in the more vicious in their military collusion and nexus," KCNA said.

### Also:

TOKYO: South Korea and the US staged joint air drills involving two US B-52H strategic bombers over the Yellow Sea on Wednesday, Seoul's Defense Ministry said, cited by Yonhap News Agency. South Korean F-35A, F-15K, and

US F-35B and F-16 fighter jets escorted the nuclear-capable bombers during the drills, the ministry said, as the allies seek to bolster security cooperation against grow-

ing North Korean military threats. The exercise marked the key US military asset's return to the peninsula in less than a month after it made its first-ever landing at a South Korean air base on Oct 17.

The Defense Department's 2014 report on China's military power referred to "sustained positive momentum" in US ties with Beijing, and noted there was a growing number of agreements, conferences, calls and military exercises. It said the two militaries established new channels for dialogue and signed two agreements to improve transparency and reduce the risks of unintended miscalculations by ships and aircraft in the Pacific.

The attorney general's office said they began investigating after at least 33 migrants reported they had paid for transport, but were not taken to the US.

El Salvador is turning to novel strategies to deter migration, as the US steps up pressure to control the flow of people to its southern border. Since the end of October,

for example, citizens of 57 mostly African countries arriving in the country have been charged a \$1,130 " airport improvement"

11 ex-police officers sentenced: A court in Mexico sentenced 11 former police



Ruling party supporters of President Andry Rajoelina, attend an election rally in Antananarivo on Nov 12. Madagascar's Andry Rajoelina is pushing ahead with a presidential election Nov 16, that could give him a third term, even as opposition protests roil the country and the majority of candidates have announced a boycott. (AP)

officers to 50 years in prison each for the 2021 slayings of 17 migrants and two Mexican citizens, authorities said Tuesday.

The ex-officers were convicted earlier this year of homicide and abuse of authority. A 12th officer was convicted only of abuse of authority and sentenced to 19 years in prison, said Assistant Public Safety Secretary Luis Rodríguez Bucio.

The officers were members of an elite police group in the northern state of Tamaulipas, across the border from Texas.

They had initially argued they were responding to shots fired and believed they were chasing the vehicles of one of the country's drug cartels, which frequently participate in migrant smuggling. Police had burned the victims' bodies in

were found piled in a charred pickup truck in Camargo, across the Rio Grande from Texas, in an area that has been bloodied for years by turf battles between the remnants of the Gulf cartel and the old Zetas cartel. Most of the dead migrants were from rural, Indigenous farming communities in

an attempt to cover up the crime. The bodies

Guatemala. Relatives said they lost contact with 13 of the migrants as they traveled toward the United States. The truck holding the bodies had 113 bullet impacts, but authorities were confused

by the fact that almost no spent shell casings were found at the scene. It later came out that the state police officers involved in the killings knew their shell casing might give them away, so they apparently picked them

### oil price up

The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by USD 1.84 to USD 86.40 per barrel on Tuesday as opposed to USD 84.56 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on

Wednesday.
At the global level, the price of the Brent crude went down by five cents to USD 82.47 per barrel, while the West Texas Intermediate stabilized at USD 78.26 pb. (KUNA)

**SAUDI** 

JAPAN

**PHILLIPINES** 

**PAKISTAN** 

### stc participates in 2nd MoneyTech Summit

Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, participated in Aljarida Summit's 2nd 'MoneyTech 2023' summit. stc's participation in one of the panel discussions falls in line with the Company's role as a digital pioneer in the local and regional telecom and digital solutions landscape.

The MoneyTech 2023 summit was held at the Grand Hyatt hotel,

where participating organizations got a chance to discuss key topics that are impacting the fintech community in Kuwait. As part of the discussions, Meshary Al-Hamad, CEO of e-Portal Holding Company (e-Portal), a wholly owned subsidiary of stc, participated in the panel discussion titled, "The features of tomorrow's bank". Alongside his colleagues, Al-Hamad spoke about the role of telecoms in supporting the digital features of banks and the evolving cutting-edge fintech requirements through various innovative solutions. e-Portal offers an expansive line of ICT solutions that can be integrated to various business models in support of the rap-

idly accelerating digital era. Al-Hamad emphasized the various disruptions that have increased the adoption rates of users and customers alike, touching on the impact of the pandemic in triggering the transformation journeys of numerous institutions across various sectors.



stc's executive management team

#### **Market** Movements

15-11-2023

Tadawul +165.79 Nikkei +823.77 EGX 30 +244.74 +60.25

Change Closing pts 11,022.89 33.519.70 24,138.80 6,171.13 56,765.28

Change Closing pts 3,960.77

# Business

### **US Treasury's Russia sanctions inquiry adds to oil price volatility**

# Oil prices rebound on optimistic demand growth & supply deficits

#### By Kamco Invest

Oil reverses course on demand growth expectations..

rude oil prices showed a steep recovery this week after reaching the lowest level since July-2023 following reports that highlighted demand recovery in the near term coupled with continued supply deficits. The gains came after monthly reports from both OPEC and the IEA showed that demand concerns over the last few weeks were overblown that led to the price decline. Calls for continued output cuts by the OPEC+ group as Saudi Arabia and Russia confirmed that they would continue with the voluntary cuts of 1.3 mb/d until year end as well as Iraq's calls for additional cuts supported prices. Doubts on US production growth as well as travel demand reaching pre-covid levels in the US and an enquiry by the US Treasury department into breaching of sanctions on Russia also pushed up prices. On the other hand, weak consumer sentiments in the US partially offset the

Meanwhile, the declines until mid-last week that pushed prices below the USD 80/b level for the first time since July-2023 was mainly led by demand concerns in the US and China, higher inventories in the US as well as a strong greenback that traded at the highest level in 11 months against a basket of currencies at the start of the month. Easing concerns related to the war on Gaza and its impact on supplies from the region also led to the decline.

On the demand side, the IEA upgraded its demand growth forecast for this year to 2.4 mb/d vs. 2.3 mb/d in its earlier forecast led by increasing demand in Q4-2023 on the back of surprising demand strength in China. However, recent data showed faltering demand in China as refiners nominated less supplies for December from Saudi Arabia due to quota shortages as well as declining refining margins. Expectations of milder winter temperatures are also expected to weigh on demand from China. However, travel demand in the US during thanksgiving is expected to support consumption during the quarter. This came a day after OPEC also nudged up its oil demand forecast for the year while retaining its forecast for next year. In Europe, oil demand in Germany is expected to decline this year, as per the IEA, mainly led by fall in demand for industrial fuels. In terms of refined products, the demand for jet fuel is expected to see a rebound in the near

term, according to Bloomberg. On the supply side, oil production in the US remained elevated at 13.2 mb/d during October-2023, according to data from the Department of Energy. The increase in production came despite a fall in oil rig count, indicating better drilling efficiency by oil explorers in the US. In addition, oil production in Brazil reached record levels during September-2023 with record expectations for the full year output. Oil production by the OPEC group showed marginal monthly gain during October-2023 with average monthly production reaching 27.9 mb/d. Data from OPEC secondary sources showed higher output mainly in Angola and Iran were partially offset by declines in Saudi Arabia, Libya and Kuwait.

### **Oil Prices**

Crude oil prices reached the lowest level in more than three months during mid-last week after concerns over demand disruptions from the war in Gaza faded while crude oil output growth continued in the US. Brent crude oil futures prices went below the USD 80/b mark on 8-November-2023 to reach USD 79.54/b but showed consistent growth in the subsequent trading sessions, resulting in the longest running positive streak in future prices in two months. Nevertheless, prices were down for the third consecutive week last week and slid around 14.5% since the near-term peak at the end of September-2023.

Most recent support to prices came from the latest economic data released in China that highlighted a largely positive trend in terms of retail sales, industrial output, and fixed asset investment. A slowdown in US inflation during October-2023 also supported the view that interest rate have peaked. This was followed by a fall in USD against a basket of currencies to a two and a half month low level after the latest comments from the US Fed suggested a rate cut in the next spring also supported crude oil

Prices of almost all crude grades reported declines during October-2023. Average brent crude prices dropped by 3.0% to reach USD 91.12/b. The decline in average OPEC reference basket price and Kuwait export grade price was also 3.0% to reach USD 91.78/b and USD 92.85/b, respectively. Meanwhile, the consensus estimate for Brent crude underwent a significant upgrade from last month's forecast. Prices are now expected to reach USD 90.0/b at the end of Q4-2023 as compared to USD 86.5/b expected last month for the quarter. Expectations for the next two quarters were also upgraded, as per the consensus estimates from Bloomberg. On the other hand, the US EIA marginally lowered its forecast for oil in its latest outlook report. The agency expects Brent spot to average at USD 83.99 per barrel vs. its previous forecast of USD 84.09 per barrel. For 2024, the EIA expects the crude grade to average at USD 93.24 per barrel as compared to its previous forecast of USD 94.91 per barrel.



### **World Oil Demand**

World oil demand growth forecast for 2023 was upgraded slightly in OPEC's latest month report. Demand is expected now to grow by 2.5 mb/d vs. 2.4 mb/d forecasted last month, to reach 102.1 mb/d. The upward revision reflected higher demand forecasted for China during Q3-2023 and Q4-2023 that more than offset downward revisions to demand estimates for the non-OECD region during Q3-2023. There were revisions to demand data for the OECD region during the first three quarters of the year, but these revisions offset at the regional level. In terms of product categories, demand for jet fuel is expected to strengthen in the coming weeks after seeing weak trends over the last few weeks, according to Bloomberg. The demand growth is expected to be supported by jet fuel demand in Asia that is expected to rise partially offset by a slide in demand from Eastern and Western Europe and North America. Estimates for oil demand growth in 2024 were left unchanged from the previous month at 2.2 mb/d with demand expected to average at 104.3

Oil demand in the US is expected to remain elevated led by private household consumption. According to OPEC, manufacturing activity in the US has remained upbeat while the start of winter is expected to boost demand for heating fuels. Oil demand in Europe is expected to be affected by demand drop in Germany due to sharp decline in demand for diesel and naphtha, according to the IEA. This decline is expected to be the biggest this year in the OECD countries. Data showed that import of diesel into Europe dropped by 10% m-o-m in October-2023 led by a fall in supplies from the Middle East

#### **World Oil Supply**

Global liquids production increased during October-2023 after remaining flat during the previous two months. According to preliminary data, global oil supply averaged at 101.6 mb/d following a m-o-m increase of 0.27 mb/d. According to OPEC, the growth was led by higher production by both OPEC and non-OPEC producers. Non-OPEC suppliers added 0.2 mb/d during the month with production averaging at 73.7 mb/d led by higher production in Norway and OECD Americas partially offset by drop in production in Russia and Brazil. OPEC output was also up during the month by 80 tb/d to reach 27.9 mb/d.

Non-OPEC liquids supply growth estimates for 2023 witnessed a marginal upward revision of 0.1 mb/d in OPEC's latest monthly report. Average supply is now expected to reach 67.59 mb/d in 2023. Upward revisions were made to supply estimates for Q2-2023, Q3-2023 and Q4-2023 and reflected higher output from Russia, US and Brazil, partially offset by lowered forecasts for Canada and Norway. Supply growth forecast for 2024 also witnessed a marginal upward revision to reach average supplies of 68.97 mb/d.

Oil production in the US remained elevated at 13.2 mb/d during October-2023 and expectation for the full year, as per EIA, is at 12.9 mb/d. A report from Bloomberg showed that output from the Permian basin is expected to expand in November and December. The revised numbers from the EIA showed production in the shale patch reaching a record in December-2023 at 5.98 mb/d while the seven biggest shale regions are expected to produce 9.65 mb/d.

### **OPEC Oil Production & Spare Capacity**

Oil production by the OPEC witnessed growth for the third consecutive month during October-2023. Aggregate production reached 28.1 mb/d during the month registering a growth of 50 tb/d, as per Bloomberg data, mainly led by higher production by African producers and Venezuela that was partially offset by lower production mainly in Iraq, Iran, Kuwait and Libya. Production data from OPEC secondary sources showed a slightly higher monthly production growth of 80 tb/d with aggregate production reaching 27.9 mb/d during the month. The growth, as per OPEC, was led by a steep increase in production mainly in Angola (+51 tb/d) and Iran (+46 tb/d) that was partially offset by decline in production in Saudi Arabia (-26 tb/d), Libya (-26 tb/d), Kuwait (-24 tb/d) and Venezuela (-7 tb/d). Production changes in the rest of the OPEC members were mostly marginal but positive as per OPEC monthly report.

During the month, Saudi Arabia and Russia affirmed that they will continue with the 1.3 mb/d of voluntary cuts until the remainder of the year. This was reflected in the monthly crude oil output in the Kingdom with production remaining almost flat m-o-m in Saudi Arabia, as per Bloomberg data, at 9.0 mb/d, one of the lowest level in years. Meanwhile, with the IEA predicting a surplus of supplies at the start of 2024, many analysts expect Saudi Arabia to extend the existing voluntary into next year.

Oil production in Iraq was recorded at 4.3 mb/d during October-2023 as the country deals with the pipeline closure that connects with Turkey. The latest update shows a renewed push from Iraq to restart the oil pipeline that is halted for the last seven months and the oil minister said they are in talks with the Kurdistan Regional government to resolve the issue while Turkey has shown readiness to resume operations. The pipeline has a capacity of 0.5 mb/d and would allow Iraq to ship supplies north into the Mediterranean once again.

Oil production in Nigeria reached the highest level in two years at 1.5 mb/d, as per Bloomberg, after seeing a m-o-m increase of 60 tb/d during October-2023. The country recently restored 275 tb/d in production at its JV with Total Energies after negotiating with workers. A source quoted by Reuters said the country plans to increase production to 1.8 mb/d by the end of the year.

# **Kuwait's official reserve assets** up by 3.5bln dinars over 5 years

### Kuwait increased IMF reserves by 131.7mln dinars in Sept

### By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Over a span of** 5 years, Kuwait's official reserve assets experienced a growth of approximately 3.5 billion dinars, marking a substantial 32.1% increase to reach 14.624 billion dinars by the end of September last year, compared to 11.068 billion dinars in September 2018. This upswing in Kuwait's reserves was propelled by an augmented balance of foreign currencies and deposits abroad, surging by about 2.6 billion dinars or 25% to attain 12.9 billion dinars in September 2023, as opposed to 10.3 billion dinars in September 2018.

Additionally, there was an uptick in special drawing rights at the International Monetary Fund by about 742.9 million dinars, reflecting a 128% increase and reaching 1.3 billion dinars in September 2023, compared to 580.2 million dinars in September 2018. Reserves at the IMF also increased by approximately 131.7 million dinars, reaching 244.9 million dinars in September 2023, as opposed to 113.2 million dinars in September 2018. The gold balance for Kuwait remained stable at 31.7 million dinars, while Kuwait added 47.4 million dinars to its reserve balance of securities abroad, which was previously zero in September 2018.

### **Reserve Assets:**

The value of Kuwait's official reserve assets saw a 3.98% year-on-year increase by the end of September 2023, amounting to 560 million dinars (\$1.815 billion). The official reserve assets of Kuwait in September 2023 were recorded at 14.624 billion dinars (\$47.398 billion), compared to 14.064 billion dinars (\$45.583 billion) in September 2022. In comparison to August 2023 when it was 14.739 billion dinars, the value of Kuwait's official reserve assets experienced a decrease of about 0.78%. Since the beginning of 2023, Kuwait's official reserves have decreased by about 1.05%, compared to the end of 2022 when it was around 14.779 billion dinars.

It's essential to note that these reserves do not include

the external assets of the General Investment Authority, estimated at \$803 billion, ranking as the fifth-largest assets owned by a sovereign fund in the world.

On the flip side, total deposits in local banks witnessed a 0.9% increase during the first nine months of 2023, amounting to about 432.5 million dinars, rising from 46.91 billion dinars at the end of December 2022 to 47.342 billion dinars at the end of September 2023.

**Private Deposits:** According to the Central Bank data for September 2023, total deposits are categorized into private sector deposits, government deposits, and deposits of public institutions. Private sector deposits increased by 1.4% over the nine months, reaching 517.8 million dinars, from 36.949 billion dinars in December to 37.467 billion dinars in September. Government deposits in local banks surged by 25.2% over the nine months, totaling 842.5 million dinars, rising from 3.34 billion dinars in December to 4.183 billion dinars in September 2023. Deposits of public institutions declined by 14%, amounting to 927.8 million dinars, falling from 6.62 billion dinars in December to 5.692 billion dinars in September 2023.

### Airport surpasses 64mln passenger mark in Q3

## Resilient Dubai Airport poised to exceed pre-pandemic traffic

DUBAI, Nov 15, (AP): Passenger numbers at Dubai International Airport this year will eclipse the passenger figures for 2019, showing the strong rebound in travel after the coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns that grounded aircraft worldwide, a top official said Wednesday.

The airport, the world's busiest for international travel and home of the long-haul carrier Emirates, has had 64.5 million passengers pass through its cavernous concourses through the third quarter of this year. That puts it on track to reach 86.8 million passengers for the full year, which would exceed its 2019 figure of 86.3 million passengers. It had 66 million passen-

The airport's busiest year was 2018, when it had 89.1 million passengers.

"So for the end of the year, current predictions, 86.8 million, a little bit shy of the pre-pandemic numbers,' Paul Griffiths, Dubai Airports CEO, told The Associated Press in an interview at the Dubai Air Show. "But actually, hopefully, by the end of the year, we may be able to raise that forecast.'

He added: "I think now because we've got the full network with 250 destinations, 95 airlines and 105 countries, that's why we've been able to recover so strongly.'

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport remains the busiest passenger airport overall.

Through the third quarter, Dubai's main airport handled 308,000 total takeoffs and landings. India, long a key route for Emirates' East-West travel strategy, led all countries in destinations, followed by Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, the U.S. and Russia. Emirates and other airlines in the United Arab Emirates, an autocratic federation of seven sheikhdoms, have continued to fly to Moscow even during Russia's war on

Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip also has slowed traffic to and from Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv for Dubai, which established direct flights after the UAE diplomatically recognized the country in 2020. Numbers also remain lower with flights from China, which used to be a major source market for Emirates and Dubai's tourism industry.

# Epic Games accuses Google of anti-competitive practices in app store

# Sundar Pichai back in court to defend Google for 2nd time

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 15, (AP): Google CEO Sundar Pichai on Tuesday was summoned to federal court for the second time in two weeks to testify in an antitrust trial threatening to topple a pillar of an internet empire that he helped build.

In his latest court appearance in San Francisco, Pichai spent more than two hours defending the business practices of the Google Play Store, which distributes apps for the company's Android software that powers most of the world's smartphones.

At times, the soft-spoken Pichai looked nonplussed and frustrated by the confrontational questioning he faced. Other times he came across as a professor explaining complex subjects to the trial's 10-person jury located just a few feet from a podium Pichai was allowed to use because he has difficulty sitting for pro-

Epic Games, the maker of the popular video game Fortnite, is trying to convince the jury that a Google Play payment processing system that collects a 15% to 30% commission from in-app purchases is illegally hurting consumers and software developers. Google collects those commissions, according to Epic, by using its market muscle to thwart competing Android app stores - a strategy that drives up prices and discourages innovation. It echoes a previous case that Epic brought against Apple, the iPhone maker that is alternately being depicted as Google foe and ally in this trial.

Pichai's latest testimony came 15 days after he traveled to Washington, D.C., to take the stand in a separate antitrust trial revolving around the Justice Department's allegations that Google has stifled competition and innovation by abusing the power of the dominant search engine that launched the company in 1998.

Although the two trials are unfolding on opposite ends of the country and are delving into different parts of a company that investors value at \$1.7 trillion, they are touching upon at least two common issues -Google's immense power and its unusual relationship with Apple, an even bigger tech powerhouse.

A key part of Google's defense against that allegations that its Play Store is running an illegal monopoly on Android apps hinges on the assertion that the company faces major competition from Apple's iPhone, mobile operating system and app store.



Dubai Airports CEO Paul Griffiths poses for a photograph after an interview with The Associated Press at the Dubai Air Show in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Nov. 15, 2023. Passenger numbers at Dubai International Airport this year will eclipse the pre-pandemic passenger figures in 2019, showing the strong rebound in travel after the coronavirus pandemic and lockdowns that grounded aircraft worldwide, Griffiths said Wednesday. (AP)

#### German union calls on train drivers to strike

A labor union representing German train drivers said Tuesday that it's calling its members out on a 20-hour strike later this week as a bitter round of pay negotiations with the country's main rail operator gets under way.

The GDL union called on drivers, guards and others with Germany's state-owned railway operator Deutsche Bahn to walk off the job from 10 p.m. Wednesday to 6 p.m. Thursday. Limited "warn-

ing strikes" are a common tactic in

German pay negotiations.

Deutsche Bahn has in the past run much-reduced services during GDL strikes.

GDL is seeking a raise of 555 euros (\$593) per month for employees plus a payment of up to 3,000 euros (\$3,257) to counter inflation. It also is calling for working hours to be reduced from 38 to 35 hours per week without a pay reduction.

Negotiations started last week and are scheduled to resume on Thursday. Deutsche Bahn said it has made an offer that amounts to an 11% raise. Deutsche Bahn personnel chief Martin Seiler said in a statement that the GDL leadership "is now showing its true face - it

was never interested in solutions."
GDL accused Deutsche Bahn
of having made clear that it
wasn't prepared to discuss its core demands. (AP)

### **Russian court fines Google**

Moscow court on Tuesday fined Google for failing to store per-sonal data on its Russian users, the latest in a series of fines on the U.S. tech giant amid tensions between the Kremlin and the West over the fighting in

A magistrate at Moscow's Tagansky district court fined Google 15 million rubles (about \$164,200) after the company repeatedly refused to store per

sonal data on Russian citizens inside the country. Google was previously fined over the same charges in August 2021 and June 2022. The company declined to comment.

Google also was ordered to pay a 3 million ruble (about \$32,800) fine in August for fail-ing to delete allegedly false in-formation about the conflict in

Russia can do little to collect

the fine, however, as Google's Russia business was effectively shut down last year after Moscow sent troops into Ukraine. The company has said it filed for bankruptcy in Russia after its bank account was seized by the authorities, leaving it unable to

pay staff and suppliers. Russian courts also have fined Apple and the Wikimedia Foundation, which hosts Wikipedia.

### **Weaknesses in troubled real estate sector persist**

# China's economy shows sparks of life in October

# **UK govt meets its 'pledge'** to halve inflation this year



Christmas lights are displayed on Regent Street in London on Nov. 24, 2022. The British economy flatlined in the third quarter of the year, official figures showed Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, ahead of a budget statement from the government later this month. (AP)

### Rate falls to 2-year low of 4.6%

LONDON, Nov 15, (AP): Inflation in the U.K. dropped sharply in October to its lowest level in two years, largely because last year's steep rise in domestic energy bills following Russia's invasion of Ukraine dropped out of the annual comparison, official figures showed Wednesday.

The Office for National Statistics said consumer prices in the year to October were 4.6% higher than the year before, much lower than the 6.7% recorded in

the previous month. The decline means Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's pledge to halve inflation this year has been met. Sunak made the pledge soon after becoming prime minister when inflation was more than 10%.

"I did that because it is, without a doubt, the best way to ease the cost of living and give families financial security," he said. "Today, we have delivered on that pledge."

Meeting the pledge - one of five set out by Sunak on taking office - will provide some comfort to his Conservative government, which is trailing the main opposition Labour Party in opinion polls ahead of a general election that has to take place by January 2025.

Labour's economic spokesperson Rachel Reeves said the government should not be "popping champagne corks" while people are still struggling with the cost of

"After 13 years of economic failure under the Conservatives, working people are worse off with higher mortgage bills, prices still rising in the shops and inflation twice as high as the Bank of England's target," she said. Though the government has a role in containing inflation by, for example, keeping a lid on public sector pay awards, the main reason why inflation has fallen is due to actions by the Bank of England, which is tasked with meeting a target inflation rate of 2%.

Earlier this month, the bank kept its main interest rate unchanged at the 15-year high of 5.25% and indicated hat borrowing costs will likely remain at these sort of elevated levels for a while.

The Bank of England, like other central banks, raised interest rates aggressively from near zero as it sought to counter price rises first stoked by supply chain issues during the coronavirus pandemic and then Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which pushed up food and energy

Higher interest rates - which cool the economy by making it more expensive to borrow, thereby bearing down on spending - have contributed to bringing down inflation

Economists said the decline means that the bank's ratesetting Monetary Policy Committee is very unlikely to be increasing interest rates again in the near future. They also think that if inflation continues to fall towards 2%, then one or more of the nine-member panel may start mulling reductions in borrowing rates soon.

"This fall in inflation seals the deal on a December interest rate hold and may drive a three-way voting split among rate setters with a member voting for a rate cut as concerns over a flatlining economy grow," said Suren Thiru, economics director at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

BEIJING, Nov 15, (AP): China's economy showed more signs of reviving in October as retail sales and manufacturing picked up though the property sector remained sluggish, the government said Wednesday

Factory output rose 4.6% from a year earlier in October, while retail sales jumped 7.6%, helped by robust spending during the weeklong National Day holidays.

But real estate investment sank 9.3%, and officials acknowledged that the industry was still in the "midst of adjustment," after a crackdown on excessive borrowing by developers two years ago, coupled with the pandemic, plunged the industry into crisis.

Disruptions to manufacturing, transport, travel and virtually every other aspect of life during the pandemic ended nearly a year ago when China's leaders abandoned their "zero-COVID" policies aimed at preventing infec-

So improved economic data from October also reflect lower rates of growth a year earlier. Overall, China's recovery from the pandemic has been fitful, though recently activity has revived, leading many economists to upgrade their estimates for growth this year to above the government's target of about 5%.

China's economy slowed in the summer as global demand for its exports faltered and the property sector deteriorated further. The economy expanded at a 4.9% annual pace in July-September, beating analysts' forecasts of about 4.5%, official data show. But that was much slower than the 6.3% annual growth rate of the previous quarter.

The recent evidence that the world's No. 2 economy is again gaining steam comes just as President Xi Jinping is due to meet later Wednesday with U.S. President Joe Biden on the sidelines of a Pacific Rim summit in Cali-

Briefing reporters in Beijing, Liu Aihua, a spokesman for the National Bureau of Statistics, repeatedly emphasized China's transition to new models of growth, part of a decades-long shift from rapid industrialization and heavy investments in factories, ports and other infrastructure to a more sustainable pace of growth led by consum-

The economy was continuing to improve under "effective" policies, though its recovery was experiencing "wave-like development and tortuous progress," he said. "At present, the external pressure is still great, the constraints of insufficient domestic demand are still prominent, enterprises have many difficulties in production and



Shoppers walk through a retail district in Beijing, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. China's economy showed more signs of reviving in October as retail sales and manufacturing picked up though the property sector remained sluggish, the government said Wednesday. (AP)

operation, and hidden risks in some fields require much attention," Liu said.

The report showed consumer spending is playing an increasingly important role in driving growth, with consumption contributing 83.2% to economic growth in January-October, up 6% from the same period a year earlier. Given the wide gap between the incomes of city dwellers and people living in rural areas, there is ample room for growth, Liu said.

The auto industry stands out. Sales of passenger cars rose 10.2% in October over a year earlier as makers ramped up promotions and customers opted for electric and hybrid vehicles. Exports of passenger cars jumped nearly 50% to 391,000 units in October and have risen 66% this year, to just over 3 million units, the China Passenger Car Association reported last week.

But he acknowledged that Chinese families have limited leeway to spend and that employment remains an is-

Overall unemployment remained at 5% in October. The government stopped announcing the rate of unemployment for young workers months ago, once it topped

Liu said the statistics bureau and other relevant departments were researching the issue and working to improve collection of statistics and that updates on the situation would be released "at an appropriate time."

Many countries protest move

### **Govt shelves plans to reduce flights from Schiphol Airport**

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Nov 15, (AP): The Dutch government said Tuesday it has abandoned, for now, plans to rein in flights at Amsterdam's busy Schiphol Airport following protests from countries including the move could breach European law

and aviation agreements. The government last year announced plans to reduce the number of flights from 500,000 to 460,000 at Schiphol, one of Europe's busiest

aviation hubs. In a letter to lawmakers Minister for Infrastructure and Water Mark Harbers said the first phase of the plan, for 2024, was being shelved "until further notice" and at least pending a decision by the country's Supreme Court.

A lower court in May blocked plans to reduce the number of flights but an appeals court in Amsterdam later overturned that decision.

A Supreme Court ruling is expected in the second quarter of 2024.

Schiphol said in a statement it was "disappointed by the recent developments, as local residents are getting the short end of the stick.'

The planned cuts were intended to reduce noise pollution for residents near the airport on Amsterdam's southern outskirts.

Schiphol said the decision would lead to "more uncertainty, for the aviation sector itself. It is time that hindrance for local residents is noticeably reduced.'

In his letter to lawmakers, Harbers wrote that U.S. authorities had called the reduction in flights "unjust, discriminatory and anti-competitive for airlines.

Aviation group Airlines for America welcomed the decision and expressed gratitude to the U.S. government for "issuing a very strong order outlining the violations of the U.S.-EU Air Transport Agreement." It said that the order and government-to-government discussions held this week with the Dutch and the European Union "were instrumental to persuading the Dutch government to this successful out-

The group said it "remains committed to addressing both the needs

of passengers and shippers while continuing to focus on reaching aviation's global climate goals, including reducing noise pollution.

Dutch airline KLM called the deci-

sion to shelve the plan "an important step to prevent retailation tinue flying to the US."

KLM said in a statement it has agreed to a number of announced measures, including a "cleaner, quieter and more economical plan, to accelerate the reduction of noise pollution," adding it shares the government's environmental concerns and is "fully committed to reducing its environmental footprint.

Environmental groups in the Netherlands, including Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, called the decision "shocking."

"There is so much at stake here. As a result, local residents are left in the lurch and the climate is further heated," the groups wrote.

"This is a major setback, but the number of flights will have to be reduced to make the Netherlands livable and to tackle the climate crisis," they added.

### Spending, investment decline

# Japan's economy sinks into contraction

TOKYO, Nov 15, (AP): Japan's economy contracted at a 2.1% annual pace in July-September as consumption and investment weakened, the government said Wednesday.

Weak wage growth in the world's third-largest economy also sapped its vitality, the Cabinet Office said. In quarterly terms, the economy contracted by 0.5%.

The numbers were unexpectedly weak. Private consumption shrank an annualized 0.2%. Corporate investment decreased 2.5%. With investment and demand weakening in other major economies, "we expect GDP growth to slow from 1.7% this year to 0.5% in 2024," said Marcel Thieliant of Capital Economics.

The economy grew at a revised annual pace of 4.5% in April-June and 3.7% in the January-March, the latest figures showed. The earlier estimate for the April-June quarter was of a 6% annual expansion.

The last quarter's performance was far worse than what had been expected, according to the financial services company ING, which had forecast an annual contraction of 0.5%.

"Most of the miss in the consensus forecast came from weaker-thanexpected domestic demand items, such as consumer spending, business investment and inventory accumulation," Robert Carnell, ING's head of research for the Asia-Pacific area, said in a report.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida recently announced a stimulus package of more than 17 trillion yen (\$113 billion) that includes tax breaks and benefits for low-income households that have struggled as prices for many necessities have surged due to global inflation and the weak ven.

Economic activity in previous quarters was helped by recoveries in inbound tourism and exports. Social restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have been lifted, allowing for more travel and fewer disruptions to trade and sup-

Exports managed to eke out 0.5% growth in the latest quarter, in contrast to a 3.2% rise in the second quarter. Auto exports recovered after stalling partly due to shortages of computer chips and other parts.

Public demand, which includes government spending, rose at an annual pace of 0.6% in the latest quar-

Given the numbers, Japan's central bank isn't likely to consider any move toward higher interest rates.

The Bank of Japan has taken a super-easy monetary policy for years, with zero or below-zero interest rates aimed at energizing an economy long beset by deflation, which reflects the stagnation that has plagued Japan with its aging and shrinking popula-

### Bid to help secure the company

# German govt grants Siemens Energy a 'loan guarantee'

BERLIN, Nov 15, (AP): The German government said Tuesday it is granting a 7.5 billion-euro (\$8 billion) loan guarantee to energy technology company Siemens Energy as part of a 15 billioneuro package to help the firm, an important player in the transition to renewable energy sources.

Siemens Energy sought help from the government as it struggles with problems at its Gamesa wind energy subsidiary, including quality issues with previously installed wind turbines.

The company said on Oct. 26 that "the strong growth in order intake, particularly in the former gas and power business areas, leads to a rising need of guarantees for long-term projects." It said it was in talks with partners, including the government, to ensure access to guarantees "to facilitate the anticipated strong growth." The government held talks with Sie-

mens Energy, industrial conglomerate Siemens AG - which spun off Siemens Energy in 2020 and retains a minority stake in the company - and with private banks.

The Economy Ministry said Tuesday that the government's precondition for helping was "that all stakeholders participate appropriately in safeguarding the company.

It said the outcome was a package of 15 billion euros in guarantee lines, of which private banks would provide 12 billion euros and with Siemens Energy securing the rest in negotiations with "further stakeholders."

# EU turns to rest of the world in hopes that hard-to-fill-jobs will finally find a match

BRUSSELS, Nov 15, (AP): Contrary to the vision of a "Fortress Europe" to keep illegal migrants out, the European Union on Wednesday proposed to lower the drawbridge for targeted labor migration where the 27 nations can no longer find a local talent pool to fill es-

With the proposal, the EU is seeking to walk a tightrope between populists and extremists, who condemn almost any kind of migration into the bloc, and businesses, from local to multinationals, who increasingly cannot find locals to fill jobs in the EU's quickly aging job market.

From construction to health care and the high-tech experts needed for the EU green transition, the local talent pool in the bloc of 450 million people has increasingly proved insufficient.

And instead of forcing talent from across the globe to seek entry into the lucrative EU labor market via the illegal and dangerous migration route where the EU is increasingly restrictive, Wednesday's plans call for a safe and legal way.

"This package is also a strong, if not strongest, disincentive to irregular migration," said EU Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas.

Member nations already have a EUwide platform where job seekers can more easily find vacancies in any of the 27 countries, but with the new plan, the system would go worldwide. The EUwide platform now has almost 3 million vacancies, a vivid illustration of how third-country nationals could profit.

On top of the platforms, the plan calls for measures to cut red tape when it comes to professional qualifications so that job seekers should not be held back for months and years because of diverging paperwork. The plans will now be assessed by

the 27 member states and the EU's parliament before they can be turned into reality. In the meantime, the issue gets

mixed up in the overall European de-

bate on migration, where labor con-

cerns often get short shrift in a shrill debate that often spills over into raw racism. The theme will also be key in next Wednesday's parliamentary elections in the Netherlands.

Economically too, the urgency is there, and EU businesses realize they are facing competitors across the globe.

"Europe is engaged in a global race for talent, the same way that we are fighting a global race for raw materials or energy," Schinas said, mentioning the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia as prime rivals.

Such is the need that even the EU's economic juggernaut, Germany, is looking for some extraordinary measures. Two weeks ago, the government approved legislation that would allow asylum-seekers to start working earlier even if their situation has not fully been settled.

The German package still requires parliamentary approval and is the latest in a series of steps taken recently by the government as it tries to defuse migration as a major political problem.

# HEALTHCARE

# Business



State errors compound as US gov't faces backlash

# 30 mln Americans at risk of losing Medicaid coverage



A Medicaid office employee works on reports at Montefiore Medical Center, Nov. 21, 2014, in New York. Error-ridden state reviews have purged millions of the poorest Americans from the Medicaid program, and poverty experts across the country worry the Biden administration is not doing enough to stop them. (AP)

I can't say how many calls I've gotten from people who just got out of the emergency room and found out they don't

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have coverage

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP): Up to 30 million of the poorest Americans could be purged from the Medicaid program, many the result of error-ridden state reviews that poverty experts say the Biden administration is not doing enough to stop.

The projections from the health consulting firm Avalere come as states undertake a sweeping re-evaluation of the 94 million people enrolled in Medicaid, government's health insurance for the neediest Americans. A host of problems have surfaced across the country, including hours-long phone wait times in Florida, confusing government forms in Arkansas, and children wrongly dropped from coverage in Texas.

"Those people were destined to fail," said Trevor Hawkins, an attorney for Legal Aid of Arkansas

ney for Legal Aid of Arkansas.

Hawkins helped hundreds of people navigate their Medicaid eligibility in Arkansas, as state officials worked to "swiftly disenroll" about 420,000 people in six months' time. He raised problems with Arkansas' process - like forms that wrongly told people they needed to reapply for Medicaid, instead of simply renew it - with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

Nothing changed, he said. "They ask questions but they don't tell us what is going on," Hawkins said of CMS. "Those should be major red flags. If there was a situation where CMS was to step in, it would have been Arkansas."

Nearly a dozen advocates around the country detailed widespread problems they've encountered while helping some of the estimated 10 million people who've already been dropped from Medicaid. Some fear systemic problems are being ignored. Congress ended a COVID-19

Congress ended a COVID-19 policy last year that barred states from kicking anyone off Medicaid during the pandemic, requiring them to undertake a review of every enrollee's eligibility over the next year. But the Democratic-led Congress also gave Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra the power to fine states or halt disenrollments if people were improperly being removed.

were improperly being removed.

HHS has shared little about problems it has uncovered.

Earlier this year, the agency briefly paused disenrollments in 14 states, but did not disclose which states were paused or for what reasons.

In August, HHS announced thousands of children had been wrongly removed in 29 states that were automatically removing entire households, instead of individuals, from coverage. CMS required the states to reinstate coverage for those who had been terminated under that process, said Daniel Tsai, the director of the CMS Center for Medicaid and Children's

Health Insurance Program Services. "We are using every lever that we have to hold states accountable," Tsai

Florida tried twice to remove Lily Mezquita, a 31-year-old working mom in Miami, Florida, from Medicaid during her pregnancy this year. She pleaded her case in 17 phone calls - some with wait times stretching as long as two hours - before she was finally reinstated in August from her hospital bed while in preterm labor. Mezquita would explain the state's law, which says she's guaranteed coverage through her pregnancy and 12 months after giving birth.

"No matter how much I tried to explain, no one was willing to listen," she said. "They're making errors, and they're very confident in their errors."

Because her coverage didn't immediately register in the state's system, Mezquita paid out-of-pocket for pills doctors prescribed to prevent pre-term labor from arising again, and she missed follow-up appointments to check on her baby girl.

If trends continue, as many as 30 million people could end up being dropped from Medicaid once states finish reviewing their Medicaid rolls, according to Avalere's projections. The numbers dwarf the Biden administration's initial projections that only 15 million people would lose coverage throughout the process.

"We have to say it's going poorly,"
Massey Whorley, a principal at
Avalere, said of the Medicaid redeterminations. "This has been characterized by much higher-than-expected

disenrollment.

Most have been removed for procedural reasons, like failing to send back their renewal form or mail in proper paperwork. That points to bigger problems with how the states are determining Medicaid eligibility: their notices aren't reaching people,

don't make sense or they're requiring unnecessary paperwork. Many of the people removed for those reasons may still qualify for Medicaid.

In Arkansas, which has finished its Medicaid redeterminations, public records shared with the AP show more than 70% of people were kicked off Medicaid because the state couldn't reach them, they didn't return their

paperwork.
"I can't say how many calls I've gotten from people who just got out of the emergency room and found out they don't have coverage," Hawkins

renewal form or provide requested

The state's Department of Human Services says it tried to reach people with additional calls, emails and texts. It believes the high number of procedural disenrollments were the result of people who no longer qualified for Medicaid not mailing back their renewal forms, spokesman Gavin Lesnick told AP in an email. Lesnick said CMS has never asked Arkansas to pause disenrollments.

Long phone wait times and notices that don't include reasons why people are being kicked off Medicaid have plagued the process in Florida, said Lynn Hearn, an attorney at the Florida Health Justice Project. Hearn helped Mezquita appeal her case to the state. Earlier this year, the nonprofit sued the state over its handling of the process.

"We've seen CMS reluctant to step in on the issues that we've raised," Hearn said. "We have seen errors in state processing that indicate more than anomalies - more like systemic issues."

The Florida Department of Children and Families has had an 87% response rate to its renewal forms and call wait times are under five minutes, spokeswoman Mallory McManus said in an email.

Medicaid enrollees in North Carolina, meanwhile, are also having trouble reaching their local office by phone or getting calls returned when they leave a message, said Cassidy Estes-Rogers, the director of family support and healthcare at the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy. State officials didn't immediately respond to questions about phone troubles.

Estes-Rogers said she meets regularly with local CMS officials about problems.

"They just don't come back to us with any information on how that was resolved, and we don't see any immediate effects from it," she said.

Similar problems have arisen in Texas, where website and app outages

Similar problems have arisen in Texas, where website and app outages have meant families don't even get the electronic notices stating their Medicaid coverage was up for renewal, said Graciela Camarena, the child health outreach program director for the Children's Defense Fund in Texas.

"They were visiting the doctor's office or the pediatricians' office - that's where they found out they were denied," Camarena said.

Camarena said CMS has met with her organization to go over some of the issues. Some Texas lawmakers have asked CMS to investigate issues in the state, where nearly 1 million have lost Medicaid.

CMS has not asked the state to stop the process, Texas Health and Human Services spokeswoman Jennifer Ruffcorn said in an email. The agency "is continuously working to improve" its app and website, she added.

Local groups have also been funneling up problems to national groups that CMS meets with weekly, Tsai said. In some cases, issues raised to the agency don't violate federal regulations.

"However," Tsai said, "You look at what's happening and you say, 'how is this a good, consumer friendly-process?""

CMS has tried to play nice with states on Medicaid, hoping they can help improve the enrollment process for many years to come said Jennifer Wagner, the director of Medicaid eligibility and enrollment for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. The organization has been working with local groups to notify CMS of problems

"There is a question, in some states, if it's time to shift toward enforcement," she said.

Biden administration boosts funding for research

# US aims to close research gaps in women's health

The bottom line is that we can't treat or prevent them from becoming sick if we have not infested in funding the necessary research

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WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP): The Biden administration on Monday announced a White House initiative to improve how the federal government approaches and funds research into the health of women, who make up more than half of the U.S. population but remain understudied and underrepresented in health research.

That underrepresentation can lead to big gaps in research and potentially serious consequences for the health of women across the country, Biden administration officials and others told reporters during a White House conference call to announce the new effort.

The White House Initiative on Women's Health Research will be led by first lady Jill Biden and the White House Gender Policy Council.

President Joe Biden said he's long been a believer in the "power of research" to help save lives and get high-quality health care to the people who need it. Surrounded by the first lady and other officials who will have a role in the government-wide effort, Biden signed paperwork Monday in the Oval Office to direct federal departments and agencies to begin their work.

"To achieve scientific breakthroughs and strengthen our ability to prevent, detect and treat diseases, we have to be bold," the president said in a written statement. He said the initiative will "drive innovation in women's health and close research gaps."

Jill Biden said during the confer-

Jill Biden said during the conference call that she met earlier this year with former California first lady and women's health advocate Maria Shriver, who "raised the need for an effort inside and outside government to close the research gaps in women's health that have persisted far too long."

"When I brought this issue to my

husband, Joe, a few months ago, he listened. And then he took action," the first lady said. "That is what he does."

Jill Biden has worked on women's health issues since the early 1990s, after several of her friends were diagnosed with breast cancer and she created a program in Delaware to teach high school girls about breast health care.

Shriver said she and other advocates of women's health have spent decades asking for equity in research but that the Democratic president and first lady "understand that we cannot answer the question of how to treat women medically if we do not have the answers that only come from research."

Shriver said women make up twothirds of those afflicted with Alzheimer's disease and multiple sclerosis, and represent more than three-fourths of those who are diagnosed with an auto-immune disease.

Women suffer from depression and anxiety at twice the levels of men, and women of color are two to three times more likely to die of pregnancy-related complications than white women, she said. Millions of other women grapple daily with the side effects of menopause.

"The bottom line is that we can't treat or prevent them from becoming sick if we have not infested in funding the necessary research," Shriver said on the call. "That changes today."

Jennifer Klein, director of the

Jennifer Klein, director of the White House Gender Policy Council, said the leaders of government departments and agencies important to women's health research will participate, including those from the Departments of Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs, Defense and the National Institutes of Health, among others.

Women's health issues were raised by most of the women on the Senate health committee during its recent confirmation hearing on Dr. Monica Bertagnolli's nomination to become permanent director of the National Institutes of Health, one of the world's leading biomedical research agencies. Bertagnolli gave a broad answer in which she said far too little is known about women's health through all stages of life.

Biden's memorandum directs members to report back within 45 days with "concrete recommendations" to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of women's health issues. It also asks them to set "priority areas of focus," such as research ranging from heart attacks in women to menopause, where additional investments could be "transformative."

The president also wants collaboration with the scientific, private sector and philanthropic communities.

Carolyn Mazure will chair the research effort. Mazure joined the first lady's office from the Yale School of Medicine, where she created its Women's Health Research Center.

editor's choice



"My Effin' Life" is an engrossing tale of a "classic underachiever" who became a Rock & Roll Hall of Fame vocalist, bassist, and keyboard player. It's a great read for anyone interested in the brilliant prog-rock trio or the music scene from the 1970s onward.

Lee's writing is a lot like his band's songs - deep, gloriously nerdy, sometimes wandering and wonderfully thoughtful. It's a 400-page narrative from a perfectionist who calls himself "Mr. Bossypants.

"It's a compulsion to exhaust every possibility to make the perfect record," he writes. "I don't want to have to live with errors. Impossible, I know, but what's the effin' point of not shooting for the moon?"

The book is enlivened by photos of scrawled lyric sheets, studio doodles and private emails as Lee traces the rise of a band who faced a pre-MTV landscape, a lack of coast-to-coast progressive radio network or sympathetic critics. One reviewer said he sounded like "a guinea pig with an amphetamine habit.'

Readers will go chronologically as Rush - including guitarist Alex Lifeson and drummer and lyricist Neil Peart - go from sleeping on luggage in the back of a rented station wagon to five-star hotels. Along the way there are dubious sartorial choices like kimonos and lots of cocaine.

The band - considered the patron saints of brainy, technical, ambitious rock - leans on all kinds of sources, from the sci-fi of Robert. A Heinlein and J.R.R. Tolkien, to Ayn Rand, Rod Serling and Jean-Paul

There are hard-won tips for musicians, like never believing any producer who says "Don't worry, lads. It'll all be fixed in the mix Lee also advises bands to demand final approval on everything, offer soundchecks and take your wallet onstage. One tip seems universal: "Do NOT drop psychedelics before an interview."

#### Rewarding

It's a treat to see Lee geek out on audio equipment - like "the JP-8 with its trendy arpeggiator fed by an 808 drum box" - and later wine. Sipping a glass of 1978 Musigny he writes may be the most rewarding experience he's had.

A private treasure is seeing the photo - snapped by a friend - that captured the moment Lee and his future wife Nancy first locked lips. "How many folks can boast a relationship of 50-plus years and still have a photo of their very first kiss?" he writes.

Lee throws shade at musician Billy Preston and producer Steve Lillywhite but also turns his critical eye on himself - his neuroses and poor husbanding - and his band, writing that with the album "Vapor Trails," they "disappeared up our own asses."

One thing to beware of is Lee's modesty, like the time he casually mentions that he became "besotted" by baseball. In actuality, he has a massive collection of baseball memorabilia, including balls signed by the Beatles and Shoeless Joe Jackson.

Lee - born Gershon Eliezer Weinrib - was a "shy, long-haired, brooding character" who grew up in Toronto, born to parents who survived the Holocaust. This is not something he tosses off - it causes echoes throughout his life.

Chapter 3 - Lee says you can skip it, but you mustn't - is a meticulously examination of the horrific paths his parents took into hell, a 40-page indictment of Nazi evil that starts in Poland and ends with his mom rescued at Bergen-Belsen and dad from Dachau. Lee's laserfocus on details is put to astounding use here.

He suspects his earliest vocal style may have been rooted in his childhood "listening to the stories of what my parents had endured in the camps, suffering all the bullying and alienation, so that when I did begin to sing it did come rushing out as a screaming banshee."

This is a memoir where tragedy seems always around the corner, especially later when bandmate Peart is tortured by loss. The memoir even ends with a scene in a Toronto cemetery where Lee introduces his grandson, Finnian, to the boy's great-great grandfather - in the ground.

It may be hard in parts but always worth it. It's an effin' good read.

### **Variety**



This image released by Lionsgate shows Tom Blyth, (left), and Rachel Zegler in a scene from 'The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes.' (AP)

### Film

'Songbirds & Snakes' departs from franchise norms

#### for Salman Rushdie was a prize A unique 'Hunger Games' sans Katniss kept secret until minutes before he rose from his seat to accept it. On Tuesday night, the author received the first-ever Lifetime

### **By Lindsey Bahr**

Everyone had resigned themselves to the fact that "The Hunger Games" ended in 2015. The four-film blockbuster franchise had made nearly \$3 billion at the global box office and helped Jennifer Lawrence skyrocket to superstardom. But Suzanne Collins' Katniss Everdeen saga was over. And, frankly, everyone, including Collins, director Francis Lawrence and producer Nina Jacobson, was eager to take a break and do something else.

For several years after "Mockingjay - Part 2," "Hunger Games"-related text conversations between Lawrence and Collins rarely went past sending one another screenshots of their films on Jeopardy categories. Then, in 2019, Jacobson and Lawrence got a call: Collins was putting the finishing touches on something new, a prequel set 64-years before Katniss volunteered as tribute. It would be focused on a young Coriolanus Snow, and there would be a big musical element.

"The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes" arrives in theaters nationwide Friday at another transitional moment in Hollywood, where Marvel movies are no longer sure things and, for the first time in a long time, the biggest movies of the year aren't already

And while the team was excited about the possibility of working together again, there were some nerves about whether or not there was an appetite for Hunger Games movies "without Katniss," Lawrence told The Associated Press in a recent interview. But this was all before they'd laid eyes on the book.

Both Lawrence and Jacobson were soon brought into Collins' agent's office, seated in a locked room and given the book to read. To their relief, suddenly the Katniss problem didn't seem so important anymore, and soon they were off to Lionsgate to get it off the ground.

"We were excited to be able to dive into something that didn't feel like a rehash," Jacobson said. "It didn't feel like we were trying to imitate the previous movies. For Lawrence, it "felt like a 'Hunger Games' story' but also something unique, "with new thematic founda-

"Instead of a girls' survival story, it was a young

man's descent into darkness," Lawrence said. "It's an origin story about a major character and also the series

As with the first film, Lawrence and Jacobson wanted to find fresh young talents to lead the franchise - not a TikTok star or someone already famous in another part of the world - and surround them with veteran actors. In this case, those established names would include Viola Davis, Peter Dinklage and Jason Schwartzman.

They found their young Snow, played in the original films by Donald Sutherland, via taped submission. The English actor Tom Blyth entered the running rather late and quickly became the frontrunner, beating out hundreds for the role.

"He just blew everybody out of the water," Lawrence said. "He has a charisma, he has the right physical attributes. He's Juilliard trained. He really knows his craft. He was going to be able to give us all the emotional values we need for the character's journey. And he felt like a star."

### Mentor

For Lucy Gray Baird, the District 12 tribute Snow is assigned to mentor for the 10th Hunger Games, Lawrence already had someone in mind. Like many film fans, he was transfixed by Rachel Zegler 's film debut as Maria in Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" and persuaded her to co-star. It wasn't a hard sell: "The Hunger Games" were already a big part of Zegler's life having grown up with the books and the movies, which she and her mom and sister made events out of.

"As somebody who loves to call herself a fan first before anything else, the greatest gift you can get is more to the story," Zegler said. "Rather than seeing it as a pressure cooker just waiting to explode, I see it as a really big blessing."

Blyth, in his first starring role in Hollywood, felt some pressure. But he found comfort in the material they were working with.

"We're lucky to be adapting a book that's really good," Blyth said. "Suzanne writes these big thinking pieces that are approachable for teenagers and younger people, which I think is a genuinely honorable feat -

climate change's impact "The

egie Medals for Excellence.

Great Displacement" are among

the finalists for the Andrew Carn-

The medals are presented by

someone who wants to try and bring bigger ideas to young people while also entertaining them.

Filming took place largely in Germany. The production looked to reconstruction-era Berlin for aesthetic and thematic inspiration for this post-war capitol that's rebuilding and on tenuous political ground. And Trish Summerville was also brought back to design the ornate costumes, which include some Easter eggs for fans hidden in Lucy's hand-painted corset.

"There's this spectacle to the whole world," Blyth said. "The whole thing is about spectacle. It's about being distracted by beautiful things while everything else is going on.'

But even while creating a new world, the filmmakers were disciplined about the budget. Instead of resting on laurels and precedent - "Mockingjay Part 2" had a \$160 million price tag - they kept theirs to a reported \$100

'We were very mindful that this was not a sequel but a prequel with a new cast," Jacobson said. "We wanted to make sure that we were making this movie at a price that that made sense.

It's easy to forget that not everyone in Hollywood thought that they had a blockbuster in their hands at the beginning. Back in 2009, when Jacobson and her production company ColorForce acquired the rights to adapt Collins' YA series, there was widespread skepticism about young adult material and about the appeal of female-fronted action movies that weren't primarily

"In the original series, we were able to take a lot of risks and really challenge a lot of industry assumptions," Jacobson said. "The most important thing in this go-around was to still take those risks and not be playing it safe - to still feel like we're making something that's a bit on the subversive side."

With its moral ambiguity and complicated characters, Jacobson thinks it might even be the kind of movie that audiences want to discuss and debate afterward. In the past year, she added, a lot of young people have discovered the franchise on streaming who will hopefully join established fans at the theater for "The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes." (AP)

month he had received the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, and now was getting a prize for disturbing the peace, leaving him wondering which side of "the fence" he was on. (AP)

**NEW YORK: Jesmyn Ward's** slave narrative "Let Us Descend' and Jake Bittle's exploration of



the American Library Association and given for fiction and nonfiction, with winners in each

category receiving \$5,000. On Tuesday, the library association announced that Ward's novel was a fiction nominee. along with **Amanda Peters** "The Berry Pickers" and the mixed media "Denison Avenue.

by author Christina Wong and illustrator Daniel Innes. In nonfiction, the finalists are Bittle's "The Great Displacement," Darrin Bell's memoir

"The Talk" and Roxana Robinson's investigation into the foster system, "We Were Once a Family: A Story of Love, Death, and Child Removal in America.

Jan. 20. The awards, made possible by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York, were established in 2012. (AP)

Finalists will be announced



**NEW YORK:** The latest honor

Disturbing the Peace Award.

presented by the Vaclav Havel

Center on Manhattan's Upper

East Side. Only a handful of the

more than 100 attendees had

advance notice about Rushdie,

whose whereabouts have largely

been withheld from the general

public since he was stabbed

repeatedly in August of 2022

during a literary festival in West-

"I apologize for being a mys-

tery guest," Rushdie said Tues-

day night after being introduced

by "Reading Lolita in Tehran" author **Azar Nafisi**. "I don't feel

The Havel center, founded

Library Foundation, is named for

sident who became the last presi-

dent of Czechoslovakia after the

fall of the Communist regime in

the late 1980s. The center has a

of Havel, who died in 2011 and

was known for championing hu-

man rights and free expression.

attended Tuesday's ceremony,

ist Lesley Stahl.

tickled him.

Numerous writers and diplomats

hosted by longtime CBS journal-

Alaa Abdel-Fattah, the im-

prisoned Egyptian activist, was

given the Disturbing the Peace

Award to a Courageous Writer at

Risk. His aunt, the acclaimed au-

thor and translator Adhaf Soueif.

"He's very grateful," she said.

accepted on his behalf and said

"He was particularly pleased

by the name of the award, 'Disturbing the Peace.' This really

Abdel-Fattah, who turns 42 later this week, became known

internationally during the 2011 pro

East that drove out Egypt's long-

He has since been imprisoned sev-

eral times under the presidency of

Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, making him

a symbol for many of the country's continued autocratic rule.

Rushdie, 76, noted that last

time President Hosni Mubarak.

democracy uprisings in the Middle

he was aware of the prize.

mission to advance the legacy

at all mysterious. But it made

in 2012 as the Vaclav Havel

the Czech playwright and dis-

life a little simpler."

## People & Places

# Music

### 'A noisy rock 'n' roll'

### F1's roar echoes in the music industry

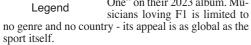
LOS ANGELES, Nov 15, (AP): Beyond the engineering, the athleticism, the speed, the luxury - fans love the sound of Formula One

The fierce rhythms of a V6 turbocharged hybrid engine; the sticky staccato of a rushed downshift; sexy, loud zooms. There's a real musical appreciation for the elite motorsport. Engines are described using RPMs, the same way vinyl records are.

It is no wonder that F1 has long been an enthusiasm of musicians and music fans for decades - the Beatles ' George Harrison wrote "Faster" about the series, what he called "a noisy rock 'n' roll"; the same spirit that inspired a Mario Andretti namecheck in A Tribe Called Quest's "Award Tour." But in the last few years, an accelerating interest in F1, particularly

among young Americans, has made its influence on the music world - and vice versa - impossible to ignore

There's Bad Bunny 's "Monaco" and Carín León's "Por La Familia," both of which feature Red Bull driver Sergio "Checo" Perez in their videos. The up-and-coming indie twang band Wednesday released a track called "Formula One" on their 2023 album, Mu-



A prime example is this week's inaugural Las Vegas Grand Prix, which will see F1 drivers zipping down the strip, bathed in the electric glow of its opulent casinos. Music will mix with the motorsport at countless events beginning Wednesday, including an opening ceremony with will.i.am, J Balvin, Tiësto, John Legend, Keith Urban, Kylie Minogue, Thirty Seconds to Mars and more.

Concerts have become an expected addition to the F1 experience, and the trend has made its way stateside over the last decade.

Since 2012, Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas, had been home to the sole U.S. F1 race - until the inclusion of Miami last year and Vegas in 2023. Glynn Wedgewood, COTA's senior vice president of music and entertainment, says the track first introduced live music performances with Elton John in 2015. Since then, Taylor Swift, Imagine Dragons and Pink have performed. By 2019, COTA was boasting three days of performances. 2023's lineup alone included The Killers, Queen with Adam Lambert and Tiësto.

That lineup - which leans more rock-oriented for the COTA audience, compared to the Latin lineups of Miami, is "a testament to what we've seen over the past several years," Wedgewood says. "It's a young rock audience

Wedgewood references the effects of Netflix's "Drive to Survive", the popular docuseries that successfully altered the demographics traditionally associated with the world's most luxurious motorsport (older, wealthy, male) and opened it up to a younger generation - particularly Americans. In 2018, 265,000 people attended the COTA race. In 2023, that number jumped to 432,000. That translates to television viewership as well. According to ESPN, F1 viewership in 2022 jumped significantly among teenagers, women and the key 18-34-year-old demographic.

The connection between music and Formula One, for Wedgewood, is innate.

"The majority of people listen to music in their car," he says. "It's almost subconsciously ingrained in our DNA - that racing goes hand-in-hand with music.'

This year, will.i.am became Formula One's first Global Artist in Residence, which he pitched to Formula One Group CEO Stefano Domenicali as a series of musical collaborations celebrating the sport as well as an opportunity to bring the concert aspect of F1 to a global audience - not just the ticket holders lucky enough to see it live. The role led the Black Eyed Peas' member to release his first solo single in over a decade: "The Formula," featuring Lil Wayne. That was followed by "Let's Go," another F1-inspired track, which features J Balvin.

will.i.am has been a huge F1 fan since the Peas performed at the first Singapore Grand Prix held at the Marina Bay Circuit in 2008. Since then, he's noticed a disconnect between the live music and entertainment experiences at F1 races and what's broadcast on TV as well as missed opportunity for artists.

"Why aren't people releasing music around the time they're playing their F1 event?" he asks, comparing it to the Super Bowl - for which artists frequently release new music in advance of their (televised) halftime performances. "Artists in Residency can really

help bridge that gap. Tiësto, a lifelong F1 fan, released the album "Drive" in April, featuring an F1 racing helmet on the cover.

"It's not just the car and racing, it's about the environment around it, the excitement around it," he says of a race weekend. "There's an organic connection

He believes the evolving experience of going to a Grand Prix mirrors growing interest in the sport, particularly in the U.S. and with young people.

"They want to see the race, you know, but they want to party. They want to have a drink. It is the perfect moment to create a festival," he says.

Formula One drivers, too, have been getting into music. Ferrari F1 driver Charles LeClerc signed with music management company Verdigris earlier this year and has been releasing instrumental compositions; Lewis Hamilton, the seven-time world champion, is no stranger to music making, having been featured on Christina Aguilera's 2018 track "Pipe" under the pseudonym XNDA. Chloe Stroll, the sister of Aston Martin driver Lance Stroll, has built a nascent singer-songwriter career celebrated by the sport's fans.

"What made me like the sport was music. I went to the sport playing music," says will.i.am. "I've always loved cars, but why do I like F1 and not (IndyCar)? What is it about F1 that makes me like the sport? That is their tiptoe into this cultural hug," he says, referencing F1's embrace of fashion, music, and art.

"They see the value of different disciplines coming in, celebrating their sport," he added.

The modern marriage of F1 and music hasn't been without bumps. Despite the influx of new fans, watching races live remains an elite experience. The Vegas race is the most expensive event on this year's calendar - and it hasn't yet sold out. Last year's performance-laden pre-race show in Miami was met with distaste from the F1 drivers themselves who criticized the pomp and circumstance of the driver introductions - namely that they stood too long in the Florida sun in their uniforms during prep time.

In Vegas, the opening ceremony is being held on Wednesday. Driver introductions will take place on Saturday in advance of the race.



US hip hop music group The Black Eyed Peas members, Fergie, (from left), will.i.am and apl.de.ap, perform at the F1 Rocks concert on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009, in Singapore. As the sport grows in popularity, race weekends are transforming into mini music festivals with A-list talent performing after the day's event. (AP)



Emerald Fennell arrives at the premiere of 'Saltburn' on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at The Theatre at Ace Hotel in Los Angeles. (AP)

### **Variety**

**LONDON:** The BBC said Tuesday two more people have come forward to complain about Russell Brand since the broadcaster launched a review into the actor and comedian's behavior.

The BBC was giving an update to its investigation after British media outlets in September published claims by four women that they were sexually assaulted by Brand between 2006 and 2013, at the height of his fame.

Brand, 48, has denied the allegations. The comedian worked as a BBC radio presenter from 2006 to 2008. The broadcaster said it recorded a total of five complaints against Brand, including two people who raised complaints and concerns during the time Brand worked there and

again after he left the corporation. Another person made a separate complaint after Brand's departure, and two further people have come forward since the BBC launched its investigation in

September. The broadcaster's statement from Peter Johnston, its director of editorial complaints, did not specify the nature of the latest allegations. But its news website reported that they are "understood to relate to his workplace conduct, and are not of a serious sexual nature.

The claims against Brand, published in September by The Times and Sunday Times newspapers and in a Channel 4 documentary, include allegations that Brand sexually assaulted one woman during a relationship with him when she was 16. Another woman says Brand raped her in Los Angeles in 2012. The accusers have not been named.

Referring to allegations from one of the women that Brand used BBC cars to drive her from school to his home when she was 16, the broadcaster said it no longer had its records of car bookings from the time. It said investigations are ongoing. (AP)

WELLINGTON, New Zealand: Comedian John Oliver has succeeded in his campaign to have what he describes as a weird, puking bird with a colorful mullet win New

He managed to elbow out the iconic national bird, the kiwi. Conservation group Forest and Bird on

Zealand's Bird of the Century contest.

Wednesday announced that Oliver's favored water bird, the p□teketeke, had won after Oliver went all-out in a humorous campaign for the bird on his HBO show "Last Week Tonight." The North Island brown kiwi came in second.

Vote checkers in New Zealand were so overwhelmed by Oliver's foreign interference they had to postpone naming the winning bird for two days

Usually billed Bird of the Year, the annual event is held to raise awareness about the plight of the nation's native birds, some of which have been driven to extinction. This year, the contest was named Bird of the Century to mark the group's centennial. Oliver discovered a loophole in the rules,

which allowed anybody with a valid email address to cast a vote. Oliver had a billboard erected for "The

Videos

### War videos both illuminating and troubling

# Journalists harness tech for truth

NEW YORK, Nov 15, (AP): A camera livestreaming the skyline of Gaza City captures streaks of light. Dash-cam video from a car in Israel spots a killer coming into view. A satellite identifies tank tracks in the dirt, and a mall security camera catches the moment a bomb in Gaza detonates.

While journalists' access to the war in Gaza is limited, a flood of video from all sorts of sources documents what is - and isn't - going on.

At news organizations, sifting through material found online to determine what is real, and to unearth the sometimes unexpected clues that can be used to tie stories together, are increasingly important - and often emotionally overwhelming - jobs.

"It has become a key part of doing journalism in the modern age," said Katie Polglase, a London-based investigative producer for CNN.

CBS News last week announced the launch of "CBS News Confirmed," the formation of a team to use data and technology to study online evidence. Earlier this year, the similar "BBC Verify" unit was formed to bring more open source reporting methods to the worldwide news outlet.

### Caution

The buildup of this capability was seen most prominently when The New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, CNN and The Associated Press did in-depth analyses of video evidence - including those streaks in the sky - to try and determine the disputed cause of a deadly Oct. 17 explosion at Gaza's al-Ahli Arab Hospital.

There was no unanimity - and some caution about drawing conclusions absent an ability to examine evidence on

the ground. In an earlier era, viewers generally saw the aftermath of a news event unless television cameras happened to be on the scene. Now, with millions of people carrying phones that have video cameras, the aftermath isn't good enough. The buzzword is

"The reality is that audiences expect to participate in a shared viewing experience, to learn what is going on along with anchors and reporters," said Wendy McMahon, president of CBS News and Stations.

That means combing through an endless supply of video posted on sources like X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, Instagram, Telegram and Facebook. Much is harrowing: images of mangled bodies, bloodied children carried out of rubble, people distraught at the loss of loved ones. The effect of seeing such images is known by those who must watch them frequently as 'vicarious trauma."

Combatants know well the power of such images, which explains why some Hamas members wore cameras to document their Oct. 7 killing spree in Israel. Meanwhile, Israel compiled and has been showing grisly images of that day to journalists.

"The degree to which social media

### YouTube creators will soon have to disclose AI use or risk suspension

NEW YORK, Nov 15, (AP): You-Tube is rolling out new rules for Al content, including a requirement that creators reveal whether they've used generative artificial intelligence to make realistic looking videos.

In a blog post Tuesday outlining a number of Al-related policy updates, YouTube said creators that don't disclose whether they've used Al tools to make "altered or synthetic" videos face penalties including having their content removed or suspension from the platform's revenue sharing program.

"Generative AI has the potential unlock creativity on and transform the experience for viewers and creators on our platform," Jennifer Flannery O'Connor and Emily Moxley, vice presidents for product management, wrote in the blog post. "But just as impor-tant, these opportunities must be balanced with our responsibility to protect the YouTube community.

The restrictions expand on rules that YouTube's parent company, Google, unveiled in September requiring that political ads on You-Tube and other Google platforms using artificial intelligence come with a prominent warning label.

Under the latest changes, which

has been used is very sophisticated," said Rhona Tarrant, senior editor at the investigative site Storyful. "There's so much information. There's so much

News organizations are constantly weighing their job to convey reality against the concern that violent images are too traumatizing for consumers to see. Too much can desensitize viewers. Yet sometimes the repetition - the ongoing grind of war - is a story in it-

### **Attack**

Through images that have appeared online in recent weeks, people "learned" about Bella Hadid, a model of Palestinian descent, denouncing Hamas' attack in Israel; a row of supposed bodies of dead Palestinians covered in white shrouds where one mysteriously moved; and a Palestinian "actor" seriously wounded in a hospital bed one day and walking unharmed the next.

None of it happened. All of the images were fake.

Video of Hadid accepting an award for activism in Lyme Disease was manipulated to make it seem like different words were coming from her mouth. The "moving body" video came from a 2013 protest rally in Egypt. The supposed "actor" was two separate people, and the image of one in a hospital bed preceded the start of the war.

That's where the sleuthing skills of journalists studying video comes into play. Much of what is online now

ated video that, for example, realistically depict an event that never happened or show someone saying or doing something they didn't actually do. "This is especially important in cases where the content discusses sensitive topics, such as elections, ongoing conflicts and public health

will take effect by next year, YouTu-

bers will get new options to indicate

whether they're posting Al-gener-

crises, or public officials," O'Connor and Moxley said. Viewers will be alerted to altered

videos with labels, including prominent ones on the YouTube video player for sensitive topic The platform is also deploying Al

to root out content that breaks its rules, and the company said the technology has helped detect "novel forms of abuse" more quickly.

YouTube's privacy complaint process will be updated to allow requests for the removal of an Algenerated video that simulates an identifiable person, including their face or voice.

YouTube music partners such as record labels or distributors will be able to request the takedown of Al-generated music content "that mimics an artist's unique singing or rapping voice."

comes from past conflicts, including in Gaza itself, being passed off as new; search engines exist to help determine the truth. Sometimes images from video games are passed off as real, but experts can usually spot them. "This war in many respects has con-

firmed our working assumption, that

news organizations would see an influx of deep fakes and misinformation at a scale that was never seen before," McMahon said. Although the advance of artificial

intelligence is a great fear, some experts says its use so far in this war has been limited in comparison to, say, old video being passed off as new. "People believe that AI is more powerful than it is at the moment,' said James Law, editor-in-chief at

While debunking falsehoods is a big part of what journalists are doing, the use of video and other publicly available material - the definition of opensource reporting - has also come into its own in recent weeks.

Storyful, which formed in 2009 to help news organizations make sense of all that is out there, is particularly adept at this new form of detective work. Its investigators use many tools, including mapping software, flight-tracking, security cameras, news agency videos.

Often people are shooting footage, and something else that happens to be there - like leftover fragments from a bomb - can be clues for another story entirely, Polglase said.

Lord of the Wings" in New Zealand's capital, Wellington. He also put up billboards in Paris, Tokyo, London, and Mumbai, **India.** He had a plane with a banner fly over Ipanema Beach in Brazil. And he wore an oversized bird costume on Jimmy Fallon's "The Tonight Show."

"After all, this is what democracy is all about," Oliver said on his show. "America interfering in foreign elections. Forest and Bird didn't immediately release the final vote tally Wednesday but





said the group received more than 350,000 verified votes, more than six times the previous record of 56,700 votes in 2021.

They said Oliver's "high-powered" campaign temporarily crashed their voting verification system. "It's been pretty crazy, in the best possible way," Chief Executive Nicola Toki told The Associated Press

before the winner was announced. New Zealand is unusual in that birds developed as the dominant animals before humans arrived. (AP)

### **Experimental treatment's benefit lasts for nearly a year**

# Novel therapy's single dose cuts heart disease risk factor by 94%

CLEVELAND, Nov 15: Findings from a phase 1 trial reported by a physician from global health system Cleveland Clinic show that a single dose of an experimental therapy produced greater than 94% reductions in blood levels of lipoprotein(a), a key driver of heart disease risk, with the results lasting for nearly a year.

Results from the "Efficacy and Safety of Lepodisiran: An Extended Duration Short-Interfering RNA Targeting Lipoprotein(a) Study" were presented during a late-breaking science session at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions



Lipoprotein(a), often shortened to just Lp(a), is made in the liver and has similarities to LDL,

Dr. Nissen

also known as low-density lipoprotein or "bad cholesterol." Unlike other types of cholesterol particles, Lp(a) levels are 80-90% genetically

determined. The structure of the Lp(a)

particle causes the accumulation of

plaque in arteries which greatly in-

creases the risk of heart attacks and

strokes Although effective therapies exist to reduce the risk of heart disease by lowering LDL cholesterol and other lipids, currently there are no approved drug treatments to lower Lp(a). Since Lp(a) levels are determined by a person's genes, lifestyle changes (diet or exercise) have no effect.

#### **Tolerated**

In the trial, participants who received an injection of lepodisiran had lipoprotein(a) levels reduced by the top dose as much as 96% within two weeks and maintained levels more than 94% below baseline for 48 weeks. The drug is a small interfering RNA (siRNA) therapeutic that blocks the messenger RNA needed to manufacture a key component of lipoprotein(a) in the liver.

The findings add lepodisiran to the growing list of therapies that could be promising treatments for atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases in people with high levels of Lp(a), which is estimated to affect 1.4 billion people

"These results showed that this therapy was well tolerated and produced very long-duration reductions in Lp(a), an important risk factor that leads to heart attack, stroke and aortic stenosis," said lead author Steven Nissen, M.D., Chief Academic Officer of the Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute at Cleveland Clinic.

In the trial, researchers enrolled 48 patients in the US and Singapore with a mean age of 47. Investigators studied six different dosages and a placebo, which were all administered as injections. Participants were monitored for up to 48 weeks after admin-

istration. Maximum Lp(a) plasma concentrations were reduced by 49% from baseline levels for the 4 mg dose and up to 96% for the 608 mg dose vs. a 5% decrease for the placebo. No safety issues were observed, and the only tolerability issue was mild injection site reactions.

"Despite the strong evidence of the importance of elevated Lp(a) as a risk factor for heart disease, effective treatment has been elusive," said Dr. Nissen. "This approach to treatment gives hope to the 20% of the world's population who have elevated Lp(a)

A phase 2 trial studying lepodisiran is currently underway.

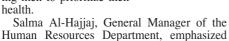
Our employees are our most valuable asset: Salma Al-Hajjaj

# Gulf Bank initiates prostate cancer screening for male employees in Movember campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: In line with its ongoing dedication to prioritize the overall wellbeing of its employees, Gulf Bank debuted its first Movember campaign, building on the success of last October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This new initiative, focused on men's health and safety, allowed male employees to undergo initial screenings for prostate cancer

over a two-day period.
Participants were offered substantial discounts for ultrasound or MRI scans, if

This campaign coincided with Movember, a global initiative held annually in November, aimed at raising awareness about the significance of regular screenings to prevent prostate cancer and encouraging men to prioritize their



Gulf Bank's commitment to sustaining a healthy work environment. She stated, "As part of Gulf Bank's sustainability strategy, we remain dedicated to enhancing the well-being of our employees, with a primary focus on preserving their health." Al-Hajjaj highlighted that the Movember campaign, catering to male employees, followed a series of health, awareness, and sports events designed for female employeesthroughout the month of October. She emphasized, "Our employees are our most valuable asset, and we continuously strive to nurture and support them."

Al-Hajjaj further mentioned, "These endeavors form integral components of the bank's annual initiatives, demonstrating our pledge to addressing diverse societal issues. This includes prioritizing the welfare of our employees, irrespective of gender, and extending support to individuals with special needs.

She concluded by stressing on Gulf Bank's steadfast dedication to sustainability, exemplified by its pursuit of gender equality, with consistent employment benefits for all, and its rigorous adherence to sustainability standards;



A photo from the Gulf Bank's first Movember

not only within the bank, but also extending beyond it. These efforts serve to fortify the bank's influential position in Kuwait's leader-

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.

### **Conference to explore innovations in cardiac catheterization**

# Leading cardiologists to discuss future treatments at GIS

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The fifth edition of the Gulf Intervention Society (GIS) will be launched tomorrow, Thursday. The society was founded after the first-ever annual conference of the GCC countries. At this conference, several cardiologists, including a senior interventional cardiologist, will discuss future treatments and the latest scientific and research findings in this field. The aim is to improve collaboration between regional and international bodies and adopt best practices in the field of intervention. The conference will take place from Nov 16 to 18, 2023, at the Intercontinental Festival City Hotel in Dubai.

The President of the Gulf Intervention Society and Cardiologist King Abdulaziz Cardiac Center National Guard Hospital, Riyadh, Dr. Fawaz Almutairi said: "It's my pleasure to launch the fifth edition conference of the GIS, where it will discuss a number of important topics that have recently been highlighted in the fields of cardiac treatments globally. At this event, live cases will be presented to discuss how to address the challenges of birth defects, in addition to the most prominent challenges of clinical trials that were presented at international and regional conferences and are presented by a large group of cardiologists and interventionists in all the countries of the world." The Board members of the Gulf Interven-

tion Society (GIS), which is also a part of the Gulf Heart Association consist of regional cardiac catheterization and intervention led by President Dr. Fawaz Almutairi, Consultant Interventional cardiology, Cardiologist at the National Guard Hospital in Riyadh, Vice President Dr. Abdullah Shehab Professor of Cardiology, UAE, General Secretary Mousa Akbar Consultant Interventional Cardiologist and Head of Cardiology Unit at Al Sabah Hospital in Kuwait and Treasurer Khalid Bin Thani, Cardiovascular Medicine and Interventional Cardiology, Salmaniya Medical Complex, Bahrain, in addition of twenty cardiovascular specialists from GCC area (Bahrain, Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia). The Council also welcomes national and regional participation by cardiovascular specialists to work together and bear our responsibility towards patients, the medical fellowship, and the healthcare sector in general.

Prof. Fawaz added: "In line with the GIS's steadfast commitment to staying at the forefront of medical advancements, the conference will delve into the transformative power of digital technologies in healthcare development, with a particular focus on cardiac catheterization. Experts will explore the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into this critical procedure, showcasing its potential to revolutionize disease detection, diagnostic accuracy, and interventional procedures. Participants will gain insights into the application of AI in CT imaging, its role in enhancing valve diagnosis, and the potential of automation, robotics, and remote control in interventional cardiology. Hands-on training sessions will provide attendees with practical experience in applying AI to coronary, interventional, and CT vascular imaging, as well as the utilization of augmented reality and virtual reality for organ function assessment using robots.

### Commitment

This concluding session marks the culmination of the AI program that commenced in June 2023. Participants will be presented with a Certificate of Attendance jointly approved by the Gulf Interventional Society (GIS) and the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), recognizing their dedication and commitment to this enriching edu-

The scientific committee of the GIS also includes a number of prominent doctors from the Arab world who contributed to developing distinguished content that discusses the latest technologies in the fields of cardiac catheterization, including Dr. Ahmed Al Shatti (Kuwait), Dr. EisaAldhaheri (UAE), Dr. Fawaz bardooli (Bahrain), Muthanna Alquraishi (Iraq), Dr. Omar Altamimi (Qatar), Dr. Rash Bawardy and Dr SondosSamargandy (KSA).

#### Research

Vice President Dr. Abdullah Shehab Professor of Cardiology quoted "This year's conference stands out with the groundbreaking addition of dedicated discussion sessions exploring the pivotal role of artificial intelligence (AI) in identifying key challenges and showcasing the innovative experiences shared by the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI). We will delve into diverse treatment approaches, fostering knowledge and awareness in several critical cases. A particular focus will be on the case of a pregnant woman facing severe mitral stenosis, addressing the complexities of atrial septal defect (ASD) and the challenges associated with ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) in pregnant patients".

The GIS aims to lead the cardiovascular surgery community by providing guidance, and education, and sharing the latest research. Thus, GIS's responsibility is to promote the highest possible levels of education, research tools and community interactions, in addition to sharing social responsibility towards patients by healthcare professionals. General Secretary Mousa Akbar, Consult-

ant interventional Cardiologist and Head of the Cardiology Unit Al Sabah Hospital, Kuwait said "Over the past few years, the GIS conference has always constituted a platform of credibility regionally and globally. We are always keen to enhance our social responsibility and continue to spread awareness in the healthcare sector, as these series of events constituted a turning point for advancing this sector through the exchange of knowledge and experiences between doctors from around the world. Over the past years, we have witnessed a significant increase in the participation rate in our conferences from Arab and international countries, and the participation of many institutions and associations, especially the Indonesian Heart Association, Pakistan Cardiac Society, Japanese Circulation Society... and many more. Therefore, we are pleased to invite you to attend the fifth edition of the GIS conference.

This year, the event will also witness more than 23 complex cases that will be discussed live, and 30 cases recorded over the 3 scientific days, in addition to 4 operations that will be broadcast live from: the National Heart Center in Royal Hospital, Muscat, Oman, Al Qassimi Hospital, Sharjah, UAE, King Abdulaziz Cardiac Center, National Guard Hospital, Riyadh, KSA, and Chest Diseases Hospital, Kuwait.

Treasurer Khalid Bin Thani added" The GIS 2023 conference, held under the patronage of the Dubai Health Authorities (DHA) and Emirates Health Services (EHS), welcomes the support of esteemed organizations including the Emirates Cardiac Society (ECS), Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), and Saudi Arabia Cardiac Intervention Society (SA-CIS). The GIS Society and conference are managed by ICOM, a leading medical conference organizer in Africa & the Middle East".

Dr. Khalid added," The GIS 2022 hosted more than 900 attendees from healthcare providers and specialists, in addition to the participation of more than 450 virtually and this year we are targeting more Physical attendance from all the region and since the inauguration of such an Iconic event in 2018, the GIS Conference has seen an increase in attendance and participation by over 70% annually".



A file photo of GIS board awarding Prof Antonio Colombo from Italy







# Sinner snaps Djokovic's 19-match streak in thrilling ATP Finals clash

Tsitsipas withdraws

TURIN, Italy, Nov 15, (AP): Jannik Sinner recorded his first win over top-ranked Novak Djokovic, delighting a raucous home crowd at the ATP Finals.

Sinner triumphed 7-5, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (2) in a match spanning more than three hours on Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning.

It was the

22-year-old

Sinner's first

win in their

head meetings.

It also ended

Djokovic's

four

head-to-



19-match winning streak that stretched back to his five-set loss to Carlos Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final.

"It means a lot to me," Sinner said. "When you win against the World No. 1, who has won 24 Grand Slams, it's obviously in the top," of career results.

Sinner sealed the result with a smash at the net to send the Turin arena into a frenzy.

"There doesn't exist a better place to beat the World No. 1. After Wimbledon I said I felt a bit closer but I didn't even win a set,' Sinner said on his on-court interview, which was interrupted by the crowd serenading him with "Olé, Olé, Olé Olé, Sin-ner, Sin-ner."

"Here I managed to play the most important points in the best way. There was a bit of tension when I lost the second set, it was very hard, but together with you (the crowd) we won together."

The umpire had to tell the fans to be quiet several times during the match as they fervently cheered the Italian player on and also booed Djokovic several times.

The 36-year-old Djokovic, who normally enjoys huge support in Italy, lapped up the boos and even encouraged the fans to up their hostility toward him.

"I think the main difference is that in the important points, he was going for it, he was more courageous," Djokovic said. "He deserved to win because in important moments I wasn't aggressive



Italy's Jannik Sinner reacts during the singles tennis match against Serbia's Novak Djokovic, of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin, Italy, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023. (AP)

enough, I wasn't decisive enough. "You have to just congratulate him. He just played a fantastic match. That's what I told him at the net. I think in the most important moments, he played his best game and he absolutely deserved to win."

Sinner, who beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 in Sunday's opener, is now on the verge of reaching Saturday's semifinals. He next plays Holger Rune, who has one win after Tsitsipas retired early in their green group match and withdrew from the tournament.

Djokovic, who is bidding to break a tie with Federer and capture a record seventh title at the tour finals, will play first alternate Hubert Hurkacz.

group stage in his only other appearance at the ATP Finals, as an

was on the cards when Sinner won nine straight points to finish the first set - rallying from 40-0 down to break Djokovic's serve and then holding to love.

with serve and saw 35 aces.

Sinner is finishing up a year in which he has claimed four titles, including his first Masters 1000 trophy, and moved to a career-high No. 4 - the first Italian that high since Adriano Panatta nearly a half-century ago.

Tsitsipas withdrew with a back iniury after playing only three games of his second match in Turin.

Tsitsipas, the 2019 champion, was trailing 2-1 in the opening set when he had a lengthy conversation with his trainer before slowly getting to his feet, shaking his head and walking over to shake Rune's hand.

That was after only 17 minutes of play and led to boos from the crowd in Turin, which instead had to settle for an exhibition match between alternates Taylor Fritz



Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas returns the ball to Denmark's Holger Rune during their singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin, Italy, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023. (AP)

Sinner didn't make it out of the

alternate in 2021. But the crowd sensed a huge win

Sinner also broke again in the third to lead 4-2 but Djokovic immediately managed to get his only service break in a match that mainly went

### **TENNIS**

and Hurkacz.

"My apologies to all the fans and

Eastern Michigan beats Akron in 2OT

# **Stuart lifts Toledo over Bowling Green**

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio, Nov 15, (AP): Jacquez Stuart took a short pass from Dequan Finn and turned it into a 59-yard score with 1:45 remaining to lift Toledo to its 10th straight victory, 32-31 over Bowling

Green on Tuesday night.
Trailing 28-10 at the half, the Rockets (10-1, 7-0 Mid-American Conference) outscored Bowling Green 22-3 in the second half to beat its I-75 rival for the 12th time in the last 14 meet-

Finn and Junior Vandeross III combined on a 22-yard touchdown in the third quarter. Toledo got within 28-25 early in the fourth after Peny Boone's 1-yard score followed by a two-point conversion pass.

### **FOOTBALL**

Jordan Oladokun intercepted a Finn pass at the Toledo 39 and set up Alan Anaya for a 40-yard field goal with 7 1/2 minutes left. But the Rockets

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scored the game-winner when Finn tossed a pass on fourth-and 2 to Stuart in the flat and he raced down the right sideline with Luke Pawlak adding the extra point.

**EMU 30, Akron 27, 2OT** In Ypsilanti, Michigan, Samson Evans accounted for three touchdowns to help Eastern Michigan beat Akron 30-27 in double-overtime.

Evans opened the first overtime running up the middle for an 11-yard touchdown. Akron an-

Change Name

I, ARIF. SICANDAR

(OLD NAME) S/o. ARIF KHADERVALI, D.No. 2/125, OBILI, PENAGALUR (M), ANNAMAYYA (DT) A.P. HEREBY CHANGED MY NAME AS SHAIK SIKINDER (NEW NAME) S/o. SHAIK KHADER VALLI

swered with Tahj Bullock's 2-yard touchdown toss to Jake Newell followed by an Owen Wiley 36-yard field goal to begin the second OT.

Austin Smith then sealed it for the Eagles with a 3-yard touchdown pass to Jere Getzinger. Evans finished with

71 yards rushing with a pair of 2-yard scoring runs in the second quarter for Eastern Michigan (5-6, 3-4 Mid-American Conference). Smith was 20-of-32 passing for 214 yards. Jesus Gomez kicked a 32-yard field goal with 10 seconds left in regulation to force overtime tied at 17-all.

Lorenzo Lingard and Bullock each had a shortyardage TD run in the second quarter for Akron (2-9, 1-6). Wiley's 23yard field goal gave the Zips a 17-14 lead with 8:00 to play. Jeff Undercuffler Jr. was 19-of-26 passing for 223 yards for the Zips.

### Kansas overcomes 14-point deficit to secure victory against Kentucky

**Duke holds off Michigan State** 

CHICAGO, Nov 15, (AP): Hunter Dickinson had 27 points and 21 rebounds, and No. 1 Kansas outlasted No. 17 Kentucky 89-84 in the Champions Classic on Tuesday night.

Dajuan Harris Jr. added 23 points for the Jayhawks, who trailed by as many as 14 in the second half. KJ Adams Jr. scored 16 points, and Kevin McCullar Jr. finished with 12 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

Kansas (3-0) closed the game with an 11-1 run. Harris opened the decisive stretch with a 3-pointer and two foul shots. Dickinson then put the Jayhawks in front for good with two free throws.

Kentucky (2-1) had a couple chances to tie the game in the final 1:02, but it came up empty each time.

Reeves scored 24 points for Kentucky, but he went 3 for 17 from 3-point range. Âdou Thiero finished with 16 points and 13 boards. Freshman Rob Dillingham scored 16 of his



18 points in the first half.

Duke 74, Michigan State 65 In Chicago, Caleb Foster scored 18 points, Kyle Filipowski added 15

Champions Classic. The Blue Devils (2-1) withstood several pushes by the Spartans (1-2) after grabbing an 11-point halftime lead at the United Center.

and Duke beat Michigan State in the

Foster scored all but two of his points in the second half. He was 7 of 8 from the field and 4 of 5 from beyond the arc.

Mark Mitchell and Tyrese Proctor each scored 13 points as the Blue Devils bounced back from a home loss to then-No. 12 Arizona last week.

Tyson Walker led Michigan State with 22 points and Malik Hall scored 18. The Spartans shot 6 of 19 on 3-pointers after going 2 for 31 during their first two games, including a season-opening loss to James Madison.

Marquette 71, Illinois 64 In Champaign, Illinois, Tyler Kolek shook off an ankle injury to score 24 points and Marquette beat

The reigning Big East player of the year, Kolek added six rebounds and four assists. Kam Jones scored 15 for the Golden Eagles (3-0), and Oso Ighodaro had 13 points and eight rebounds.

Kolek turned his ankle in Friday night's 95-65 win over Rider.

Terrence Shannon Jr. had 21 points for Illinois (2-1). It was his 13th consecutive game in double figures, a streak that dates to Jan. 31. Marcus Domask added 18 points and Luke Goode had 13.

### UConn 87, MVSU 53

In Hartford, Connecticut, Cam Spencer scored 19 of his 25 points in the first half and UConn beat Mississippi Valley State.

Donovan Clingan added 17 points for the Huskies (3-0), who have won 20 straight nonconference games, all by double digits. Alex Karaban scored 14 points while spending most of the game in foul trouble.

Rayquan Brown had 18 points to lead MVSU (0-3).

Tennessee 82, Wofford 61

In Knoxville, Tennessee, Dalton Knecht scored 18 points to lead Tennessee past Wofford.

The Northern Colorado transfer scored all but four of his points in the second half, helping the Volunteers (3-0) pull away after leading by just five at halftime. Jordan Gainey scored 16 points and Santiago Vescovi added 11 for Tennessee.

Corey Tripp scored 19 points for Wofford (2-1). Chase Cormier added 15 and Jackson Sivills had 10.

### Creighton 92, Iowa 84

In Omaha, Nebraska, Trey Alexander narrowly missed a tripledouble with 23 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, and Creighton beat

Creighton (3-0) made 15 of its first 17 shots to start the second half as the Bluejays turned a tie into a 17-point lead with nine minutes left.

Baylor Scheierman scored 17 points for the Bluejays. Francisco Farabello added 14, Ryan Kalkbrenner had 13 and Fredrick King 12.

### **BASKETBALL**

Iowa (2-1) got 24 points from Ben Krikke, 16 from Tony Perkins, 13 from Patrick McCaffery and 11 from Payton Sandfort.

Fla. Atlantic 100, E. Michigan 57 In Boca Raton, Florida, Vladislav Goldin scored 19 points, Brandon Weatherspoon added 16 while not missing a shot, and Florida Atlantic eased past Eastern Michigan.

Giancarlo Rosado and Brenen Lorient each scored 13 points for the Owls (2-0), who were playing for the first time with last season's Final Four banner swaying over the court. FAU extended the nation's secondlongest home winning streak to 19 games, and shot 63% on the way to finishing with six players in double

Tyson Acuff scored 20 points and Legend Geeter added 13 for Eastern Michigan (1-2), which gave up a 12-0 run in each half. The Eagles fell to 0-26 against Top 10 teams.



UConn guard Solomon Ball dunks the ball as Mississippi Valley State forward Kameron Mayhan defends in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, in Hartford, Conn. (AP)

### **Texas women ease past UT Arlington 110-64**

# Williams shines as LSU rolls past Kent State

BATON ROUGE, La., Nov 15, (AP): Freshman guard Mikaylah Williams scored 42 points and No. 7 LSU rolled to a 109-79 rout over Kent State on Tuesday.

the crowd that came to support me

today and watch the match. I'm

really gutted that I wasn't able to

finish the match," Tsitsipas said. "My doctors and the countless vis-

its that I had in the last few days

suggested that I play, they gave me

court ... I hate retiring from matches,

I'm not that kind of person that likes

leaving mid-match and it kills me not

to be able to finish this tournament,

the one that I've prepped for for so

long, made sure that I'm completely

fit to perform at my best and show

Tsitsipas had cut short a prac-

tice session on Friday because of

an apparent physical issue but the

Greek player said he was "abso-

Tsitsipas also withdrew from the

"It definitely hurts me a lot be-

cause this is the tournament that

means the most to me, including

Rune lost his opener to Djokovic

the Grand Slams," he said.

7-6 (4), 6-7 (1), 6-3.

tournament in 2021 after losing his

my capacities as a player."

lutely fine.

opening match.

"Unfortunately I felt terrible on the

the green light to go and try.

It was the most points ever scored by an LSU freshman and the most by a Tigers player since Cornelia Gayden scored 43 vs. TCU in 1996. Junior transfer Aneesah Morrow

added 17 points, eight rebounds and nine steals for LSU (3-1), which scored 70 points in the second half and flipped the game with a third-quarter run keyed by Morrow's four steals and the Tigers' strong shooting. LSU All-America forward An-

gel Reese had 11 points and five rebounds, playing less than 15 minutes as Tigers' depth paced the way to a comfortable win. Katie Shumate led Kent State (1-1) with 22 points. Jenna Batsch added 16 points.

### Texas 110, UT Arlington 64

In Austin, Texas, Taylor Jones scored 21 points, Rori Harmon had 20 points, seven assists and four steals and No. 11 Texas beat UT Arlington 110-64.

### **BASKETBALL**

Texas shot 56% from the field, outrebounded UT Arlington 57-27 and led by double figures for the final 18 minutes. The Longhorns also turned 21 turnovers by UT Arlington into 28 points.



Mikaylah Williams (12) shoots a 3-point basket against Mississippi Valley State guard Jaylia Reed (2) during the first half of an NCAA college basket-ball game, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, in Baton Rouge, La. (AP)

Shay Holle added 17 points and Madison Booker scored 14 for Texas (3-0). Shaylee Gonzales and Khadija Faye each had 10 points.

### Baylor 84, Utah 77

In Waco, Texas, Sarah Andrews scored 18 points, Aijha Blackwell had 13 points with eight rebounds and 21st-ranked Baylor beat future conference foe and fourth-ranked Utah 84-77.

The Bears (2-0) never trailed, building an early 10-point lead and then responding with a 12-3 run over the final 4 minutes of the third quarter after Utah's Gianna Kneepkens made a jumper to make it 51-all. That was the second and last time the game was tied. The other was 2-2 in the opening minute.

Alissa Pill, the Pac-12's top player last season, had 22 points on 9-of-11 shooting to lead Utah (2-1), even after playing less than 2 minutes in the first half after two early fouls. Kneepkens had 18 points and Isabel Palmer 11. Jenna Johnson had 10 rebounds.

### Washington St 61, Montana 49

In Missoula, Montana, Bella Murekatete scored 14 of her 22 points in the third quarter, Charlisse Leger-Walker added 19 points and No. 24 Washington State beat Montana 61-49. Washington State (4-0) won at Montana (0-2) for the first time since 1979, snapping a 13-game losing streak.

Murekatete was 6 of 8 from the field in the game-changing third quarter compared to Montana's five made field goals. The Cougars outscored the Lady Griz 21-10 in the frame for a 51-35 lead.

Murekatete also grabbed 11 rebounds for a double-double and Eleonora Villa added 10 points for Washington State (4-0).

### **Al-Abyad in fine form**

# Al-Qadsia seek redemption against Al-Kuwait

### By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The highly anticipated final clash for the Volleyball Super Cup in the 2023-2024 sports season is set to unfold today, pitting Al-Kuwait against Al-Qadsia. The showdown is scheduled for 7:00 pm at the Al-Ittihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex. Preceding this thrilling encounter is a match at 5:00 pm to determine the third and fourth

#### **VOLLEYBALL**

places, featuring Al-Arabi and Kazma. In the semi-finals, "Al-Abyad' emerged victorious over Al-Arabi with a decisive 3-0, while Al-Qadsia secured their spot in the final by defeating Kazma with an identical scoreline.

Federation's Competitions Committee has introduced a new tournament system for this edition, involving four teams – the league and cup champions and their runners-up from the previous season.

Kuwait boast six championship titles, Kazma hold two, and Al-Qadsia



Players vie for the ball.

have clinched the trophy once before. Today's match holds special significance for Al-Qadsia as they seek redemption after succumbing to their opponents in the Al-Ittihad Cham-pionship, where Al-Abyad emerged triumphant against Burgan in the final match. Al-Qadsia, known for facing challenges against Kuwait, features a stellar lineup including Rashid An-

bar, Fahd Al-Kout, Abdul-Wahab Al-Jeeran, Nasser Abdul-Samad, and Nasser Dashti, complemented by their international players Brazilian Djalma Moreira and Venezuelan Wilner Rivas, under the guidance of Argentine coach Julian Alvarez.

On the other side, Al-Abyad enter the final in peak form after securing the first championship of the season. Un-

### **Minister of Youth sponsors Asian Club Championship**

KUWAI CITY, Nov 15: Under the auspices of the Minister of Trade and Industry and the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Mohammed Al-Aiban, the 26th Club Championship, hosted by Al-Qadsia Sports Club, is scheduled to take place

### HANDBALL

from November 17 to 27 at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Sports Hall Complex in the Sabah Al-Salem area.

The tournament welcomed the participating teams, with Shabab Sidon, UAE, Qatar,

der the leadership of their new Turkish coach, Taner Atik, the team rely on star players Abdullah Jassim, Abdul-



Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Mohammed Al-Aiban.

Iraq, and Saudi Arabia being the

first to arrive while the remainthe Emirates. rahman Al-Otaibi, Abdulaziz Najm, Bin and Iranian standout Saber Kaze-

mi. The stage is set for a thrilling cul-Abdullah Bouftin, along with the contributions of Chinese athlete Liu Bei mination to this season's Super Cup.

ing teams are expected to arrive

The Asian Handball Cham-

pionship features 12 clubs,

divided into two groups. The

first group includes defend-

ing champions Al-Najma from

Bahrain, Al-Kuwait from Kuwait, Al-Gharafa from Qatar,

Al-Khaleej from Saudi Ara-

bia, Al-Salah from Palestine, and the Indian Golden Eagle.

The second group comprises

Al-Qadsia, Sai from India,

Al-Arabi from Qatar, the Ira-

qi Army, Shabab Sidon from

Lebanon, and Al-Sharjah from



HD International and Kuwait padel officials pose for a photo after the press confererence.

### **'Partnership serves the best interests of the sport'**

### HD International becomes exclusive sponsor for paddle in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Paddle In Kuwait is proud to announce its exclusive sponsorship agreement with HD International Company, which designates HD International as the sole supplier of all training and match attire for players across various categories. The sponsorship also encompasses the provision of technical and administrative equipment. Renowned for earning the trust of major global teams and top-ranked players in tennis and padel, HD International's stellar reputation aligns perfectly with Paddle Kuwait's objectives, making this partnership a

strategic choice. The signing ceremony, attended by the Director of Head International, Panicus Paniotou, took place in Kuwait. Also present were Sayed Khaja, the General Manager of Head International in Kuwait, and Fahd Al-Marshoud, the General Manager of Top Tire.

Ahmed Yousri, the General Manager of Paddle In Kuwait, highlighted the esteemed reputation and professional work of Paddle Inn as the driving force behind HD's decision

### **PADEL**

to establish a presence in Kuwait and forge a partnership. Paddle Inn, established in 2019, has expanded to nine branches in the Gulf and has plans for further growth in Kuwait, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.

This collaboration is an integral part of Padel Inn Sports Academy's commitment to advancing the sport of padel in Kuwait and the broader region. Yousri emphasized that the partnership serves the best interests of the sport of padel in Kuwait.

Mudhaf Al-Mudhaf, Director of Business Development at Padel, stressed the significance of identifying the best brand for Padel clothing. Given that Padel encompasses key members of the Kuwaiti national team, including Abdulaziz Al-Mayouf, Abdul-Rahman Al-Awadi, Muhammad Abdal, and Ahmed Rabie, who secured the runner-up position in the first Arab championship held in Dubai last October, this partnership holds particular importance. Additionally, three players from the Kuwaiti women's national team and three players from the junior team are included in this collaboration, further underlining its impact on the broader padel community.

In line with its corporate social responsibility strategy

### Markaz sponsors 11th RunKuwait charity race to support children's rehab

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" concluded its sponsorship of the 11th edition of the RunKuwait charity race organized by the Fawzia Sultan Healthcare Network (FSHN) on November 11th. The race that took place starting from Murouj aims to support the rehabilitation of children with special needs. Markaz's sponsorship of this event comes in line with its comprehensive corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategy and its keenness to support initiatives that contribute to the development of all community segments. In addition to the sponsorship, Markaz was also present at the race through its team members

who participated in the run. The RunKuwait initiative has been proactively raising awareness and generating funds over the years to support the Children Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center (CERC), administered by FSHN, to provide essential medical assistance to children with special needs.

Commenting on Markaz's support of the initative, Sondos Saad, Vice President of Media & Communications at Markaz said: "We are honored to sponsor the 11th edition of the charity race, RunKuwait, that serves such a vital cause. Through our support of this initiative, we aim to contribute to this noble cause as it falls in line with one of our key CSR pillars, Building Human Capacity. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to RunKuwait for their outstanding work in supporting children with special needs and their remarkable efforts in highlight-

ing this important cause.' Markaz consistently encourages its employees to participate in the CSR events that the company supports to drive positive change and promote significant social and economic objectives. The company's CSR strategy is founded on three key pillars - building

# A surging interest in equestrian events at Messila Club: Al-Alawi



Technical leader at Messila Equestrian Club Adnan Al-Ali.

human capacity, aligning the business environment with the principles of sustainable development, and promoting good governance in the business envi-

RunKuwait welcomed 1,450 participants from across the country, regardless of age or fitness level, making it a highlight of Kuwait's sporting event calendar that also supports an important cause. This year's edition helped raise about KD47,000 through registration fees and sponsorships alone.



Official receives plaque of appreciation.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: In just under two weeks since assuming the role of technical leader at Messila Equestrian Club, Bahraini horseman coach Adnan Al-Alawi has witnessed a remarkable surge in interest. The club has successfully attracted a significant number of male and female knights, who have flocked to the club's track in the Subhan area over the past few days, turning the club into a bustling hive of activity.

Coach Adnan Al-Alawi expressed his satisfaction with the professional management provided by the club's

### **EQUESTRIAN**

president, Badr Tariq Al-Mailem. Al-Mailem has offered unwavering support to propel the club forward in both administrative and technical aspects. The high demand from knights to join the club has made the daily activities within the club's premises resemble the industrious activity of a beehive.

Al-Alawi highlighted the significant response from both male and female riders, emphasizing that the club has become a hub for discovery and development. Many riders, who initially tackled hurdles at a height of 70 cm, have now successfully advanced to jumping over obstacles at an impressive 120 cm

## City announce record figures

MANCHESTER, England, Nov 15, (AP): Manchester City reported record revenues of 712.8 million pounds (\$890 million) for last season in figures released on Wednesday.

In its annual report for the 2022-23 season, City also announced record profits of 80.4 million pounds (\$100 million) - an increase on the previous year's total of 41.7 million pounds (\$52 million).

The club, which is backed by the ruling family of Abu Dhabi, won a trophy treble last season, including the Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup.

# **Argentina, Uruguay** renew their rivalry

Brazil could field teen Endrick

SAO PAULO, Nov 15, (AP): Lionel Messi and Luiz Suárez, close friends and former teammates at Barcelona, will renew their on-the-field rivalry on Thursday in World Cup qualifying.

Messi, who appears to have recovered from a muscle injury in his leg, led Argentina to its third World Cup title last year and has his team in first place in the South American qualifying group for the 2026 tournament. The 36-year-old Suárez has just returned to Uruguay's national team as he nears

### **SOCCER**

the end of a high-scoring season in the Brazilian league.

The Argentines will take on twotime World Cup champions Uruguay at La Bombonera Stadium in Buenos

Also Thursday, Brazil will travel to face Colombia in Barranquilla as they try to recover from a home draw with Venezuela and a loss at Uruguay in their previous two qualifying matches. Brazil coach Fernando Diniz, who recently won the Copa Libertadores with Fluminense, could use teenager Endrick after calling him up for the first time.

Argentina lead the 10-team South American qualifying group with 12 points from four matches. Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela have seven points each and are separated by goal difference. Colombia have six points, while Ecuador, Paraguay and Chile have four each. Peru have one point and Bolivia have zero.

The next World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada will include 48 teams, meaning direct entry for the top six teams in South America.



Argentina's Lionel Messi plays the ball during a training session of the national soccer team prior to a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026, against Uruguay, at the Argentina Soccer Association facilities in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP)

The seventh-place team will contest an intercontinental playoff for a berth.

Messi will likely be playing his last two matches of the calendar year against Uruguay and then Brazil next week at the Maracana Stadium. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner finished his season with Inter Miami on Oct. 21.

Suárez, a teammate of Messi at Barcelona from 2014-20, will return to Uruguay's national team for the first time under coach Marcelo Bielsa. The veteran striker earned his place despite knee pain, which he doesn't hide during every match for Brazilian club Gremio.

Both Argentina and Uruguay are expected to qualify for the next World Cup, but Messi and Suarez are not guaranteed to be with their national teams in 2026.

Argentina left back Nicolás Tagliafico, however, is hoping Messi will stay in the mix if the team defend their Copa America title next year in the

21 players selected by coach

### **German Schumers takes helm of Kuwait national basketball team**

#### By Hassan Musa Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Basketball Association's Board of Directors has appointed German Peter Schumers to lead Kuwait national basketball team in the upcoming Arab Championship. The championship is scheduled to take place in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, spanning from December 26 to January 6.Schumers' selection follows a recommendation

### **BASKETBALL**

from the Training and National

Teams Committee, considering his extensive experience in the region and, notably, in the Kuwaiti league. This decision is bolstered by his five years of coaching experience in Kuwait.

Dr. Abdulaziz Dhari, the Director of Teams, announced the initial team list selected by Coach Schumers for the tournament preparation. The list comprises 21 players from various clubs: Abdullah Tawfiq, Abdulmohsen Murtada, Saleh Al-Yousef, Nawaf Al-Anzi (Al-Qadsia), Ahmed Al-Balushi, Abdulaziz Al-Hamidi, Youssef Bourahma (Kazima), Abdullatif Ghanem, and Adel Al-Saeed (Al-Qurain).



teams

include Alexander Al-Ghais, Hamad Muhammad Adnan, Adnan, Imran Anbar, Mustafa Al-Rifai, Turki Hammoud, Sahu Al-Shammari, Abdul-Rahman Al-Shammari, Youssef Al-Hamdan (Kuwait), Hassan Burmeh, Ali Al-Hadhoud and (Al-Arabi), Youssef Al-Failakawi (Yarmouk). Dhari stated that the national teams committee will release the preparation program for Kuwait in the coming



Former soccer star David Beckham and Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar talk at the field just before the coin toss at the start of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup first semifinal match between India and New Zealand, in Mumbai, India. (AP)

# Sports

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# Kuwait eye revenge against India

Pinto aims to write a new chapter

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15:** Kuwait begin 2026 World Cup and 2027 Asian Cup qualifying against India at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium at 7:30 pm.

Kuwait prepared for these qualifiers, including an external camp in Dubai where they played two matches. Despite a narrow loss to the Emirates and a victory over the Syrian team, the team entered an internal camp last week to further enhance the physical and mental condition of the players in pursuit of the desired results.

Under the guidance of Portuguese coach Rui Pinto since August 2022, Al-Azraq have maintained stability at both the coaching and player levels. Pinto's vision focuses on building a young and enduring team that can leave their mark in various tourna-

The upcoming match against India holds significance for Al-Azraq, given their recent encounters in a friendly tournament hosted by Bangalore last summer. The teams drew 1-1 in the group stage and later faced each other in the final, resulting in another draw before India claimed victory in a penalty shootout (5-4) to secure the championship title.

Ranked 136th in the world, Kuwait aim to kick off the qualifying journey with a victory, providing fans with the joys that have been absent in recent vears due to modest results. Although



Kuwait players enjoying the proceedings

the team didn't qualify for the 2019 and 2024 Asian Cup finals and missed the final round of World Cup qualifiers since 2006, fans remain confident in the team's ability to achieve their

Key players for Al-Azraq, including Khaled Ibrahim, Muhammad Dahham, Mubarak Al-Fanini, and others, are expected to showcase their skills. On the other hand, the 102nd-ranked Indian team, led by Croatian coach Igor Stimac, anticipate a challenging mission and hope to secure a positive result or, at the very least, a draw, as they await the outcomes of subsequent group competitions.

Pinto, acknowledged the challenge of today's match, highlighting the familiarity between the two teams from their encounters last summer in the South Asian Cup.

In a press conference, Pinto stated, "We recognize the elevated level of the Indian national team, and despite our mutual understanding, today's face-off will unfold differently," emphasizing, "In football, each match tells a unique story, and I aim to 'write' a new and joyous chapter."

### SOCCER

Pinto urged fans to rally behind Al-Azraq, emphasizing their indispensable role in achieving desired results. He disclosed his primary focus on elevating the performance of Al-Azraq and nurturing the talented Kuwaiti players, working towards building a team for the future.

Al-Azraq defender Fahd Al-Hajri stressed the significance of today's match, marking the commencement of the team's journey in the qualifiers. He assured that the players are well-prepared for the match.

Regarding the team's recent period of instability, Al-Hajri deemed it a common occurrence for any team worldwide undergoing changes in technical staff and player selections. He emphasized the responsibility of all selected players, asserting their commitment to providing the necessary contributions.

Štimac, expressed optimism about the conducive football-playing atmosphere, anticipating an enjoyable match. Štimac considered Qatar to have an advantage in securing first place in the group, with the competition intensifying between Blue and India for the second spot. He affirmed that the Indian team remains resolute. determined to give their all for a satisfactory performance.



Kuwait hold their final preparation for India clash.

Three ejected as T-wolves hold off Warriors

# Pacers snap 76ers eight-game winning streak

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 15, (AP): Tyrese Haliburton had 33 points and 15 assists, and Obi Toppin chipped in 27 points as the Indiana Pacers beat the 76ers 132-126 in an NBA In-Season Tournament game on Tuesday night and snapped Philadelphia's eight-game winning streak.

The Pacers took the upper hand in the tourney's East Group A standings, improving to 2-0 in pool play. The Sixers slipped to 1-1.

Myles Turner added 17 points for the Pacers, whose bench outscored Philadelphia's 33-6.

Joel Embiid scored 39 points and De'Anthony Melton added 30 points. Tyrese Maxey was held to 27 points on 9-of-23 shooting after scoring a careerthree early ejections on Tuesday night. With the game scoreless and not yet two minutes old, Golden State's Draymond Green was ejected after putting

high 50 points against the Pacers on

Timberwolves 104, Warriors 101

Towns scored 33 points, sending Min-

nesota to its seventh straight victory in

a win over Golden State that featured

In San Francisco, Karl-Anthony

Minnesota's Rudy Gobert in a headlock. Warriors guard Klay Thompson and Timberwolves forward Jaden McDaniels, who got into a shoving match that resulted in Thompson's jersey being ripped, were also tossed from the game. Heat 111, Hornets 105

In Charlotte, Jimmy Butler scored a season-high 32 points, Bam Adebayo had 21 points and 11 rebounds and Miami remained unbeaten in the in-season tournament with a win over short-handed Charlotte.

Duncan Robinson added 18 points for the Heat, who've won six straight overall.

Nuggets 111, Clippers 108 In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 32 points, 16 rebounds and nine assists and Denver beat Los Angeles as the

Clippers remained winless since acquiring James Harden last month. Jokic was perfect on 14 free throw attempts, including two with 13 seconds left that helped the Nuggets hold

Lakers 134, Grizzlies 107 In Los Angeles, D'Angelo Russell scored 24 points and Anthony Davis had 19 points, 11 rebounds and six

blocked shots in Los Angeles' third

off the Clippers' comeback try

straight victory. LeBron James had 16 points and nine rebounds while playing only 23 minutes for the Lakers, who improved to 5-0 at home and 2-0 in NBA In-Season Tournament play with their first comfortable vic-



Los Angeles Lakers forward Rui Hachimura (28) shoots against Memphis Grizzlies forward David Roddy (21) during the second half of an NBA basketball in-season tournament game in Los Angeles. (AP)

tory of the season. Russell hit six of the Lakers' 22 3-pointers, and Austin Reaves made four while scoring 16 points with 12 rebounds and seven assists

Pelicans 131, Mavericks 110 In New Orleans, Brandon Ingram and rookie Jordan Hawkins each scored 25 points, and New Orleans snapped a fivegame skid with a win over Dallas, which

committed 20 turnovers in the loss. Zion Williamson scored 19 point and Herb Jones also had 19 with five steals and two blocks as New Orleans improved to 1-1 in West Conference

Group B pool play. Hawks 126, Pistons 120 In Detroit, Dejounte Murray had 32 points and nine assists as Atlanta extended Detroit's losing streak to nine games.

ference Group A tourney opener, while the Pistons fell to 0-2.

Saddiq Bey had 18 points against his former team and Bogdan Bogdanovic added 17 points for the Hawks. Trae Young missed the game after his wife gave birth to their second child on

Nets 124, Magic 104
In New York, Spencer Dinwiddie had 29 points, eight assists and five rebounds, leading Brooklyn over Orlando.

### **BASKETBALL**

Mikal Bridges chipped in 21 points, five rebounds and four assists, while Cam Johnson scored 20 Brooklyn put six players in double figures. Day'Ron Sharpe finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds as the Nets won their second straight overall and improved to 2-1 in the tournament.

Thunder 123, Spurs 87 In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 28 points and a careerhigh seven steals, and Oklahoma City rolled past San Antonio.

The game featured two of the league's top rookies - San Antonio's 7-foot-3 Victor Wembanyama and Oklahoma City's 7-1 Chet Holmgren. Wembanyama finished with eight points on 4-for-15 shooting. He grabbed 14 rebounds and blocked two shots. Holmgren had nine points on 3-for-10 shooting with seven rebounds and three assists.

Jazz 115, Trail Blazers 99

In Salt Lake City, Jordan Clarkson scored 30 points and Lauri Markkanen added 21 points and nine rebounds as Utah dealt Portland its fourth straight loss.

John Collins had 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz. Kelly Olynyk finished with 12 points and a season-high 12 rebounds. Keyonte George added 15 points and Collin Sexton 13. George and Sexton each had seven assists.



Boston Celtics guard Payton Pritchard (11) steals the ball from New York Knicks forward Julius Randle (30) during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics in Boston. (AP)

# Saudi Arabia open against Pakistan

# Son called in for South Korea as Asia's leading teams enter qualifying for the 2026 World Cup

SEOUL, Nov 15, (AP): Son Heung-min will join South Korea for its opening game in World Cup qualifying, with head coach Jurgen Klinsmann aiming to start the second stage of Asian competition with a statement win.

The Koreans and Asia's five other 2022 World Cup participants start their qualification campaigns to appear at the 2026 tournament on Thursday.

None of the continental heavyweights are taking this stage lightly, with European-based stars such as Son, Kaoru Mitoma and Mehdi Taremi picked for their national teams to take on some of the continent's lower-ranked

South Korea kick off against Singapore in Seoul with Tottenham star Son and Wolves forward Hwang Heechan leading the attack. Both have been in excellent form in the Premier League.

Klinsmann is ready to play his strongest team, despite the fact Singapore are ranked No. 155, as he begins a bid for South Korea to qualify for an

11th successive World Cup. "You have to take them very seriously," Klinsmann, who was appointed in February, told a news conference in Seoul. "Your mind has to be in the right place. We have to be very sharp from the first moment.

That's an approach that the likes of Japan, Australia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Qatar are also taking.

The top two from each of the nine four-team groups will progress to the next stage of Asian qualifying, where they'll compete for one of the eight automatic spots at the World Cup - double the continental

quota available in 2022. Klinsmann dismissed the idea that this makes the road to the 2026 World Cup in the U.S., Mexico and Canada

any easier. "All the teams that fight for a spot in the World Cup will fight even harder now," the former U.S. coach said.

"It will still be very difficult." Japan have appeared at every World Cup since 1998 and, now ranked No. 18, are Asia's form team with six wins from their last six games, a run that includes a 4-1

win in Germany and a 4-2 win over Turkey. Head coach Hajime Moriyasu wants to use that momentum to get off to a perfect start in Osaka against Myanmar, ranked 140 places below at 158th, and then

against Syria five days later on neutral turf in Jeddah. We want to take six points from these two games," Moriyasu, voted Asia's men's coach of the year, said. "We want to win and we want to give a performance that will allow us to build for the future.'

Australia also reached the knockout stage at the 2022 World Cup, pushing eventual champions Argentina all the way in the second round. In the last two months, the Socceroos drew 2-2 with Mexico, lost 1-0 to England in London and beat New Zealand 2-0.

"We've had the opportunity to test ourselves against some of world football's best in the last six months, and our performances have shown just how effective we can be,

learning a lot along the way," coach Graham Arnold said. Arnold will lead the Socceroos for a record 59th time as coach against Bangladesh in Melbourne. "It'll be a fan-

tastic honor," he said, "but three points is all I care about." Qatar are still recovering from losing all three games as World Cup host in 2022, and take on Afghanistan in its first game. Carlos Queiroz, who led Portugal, Iran and

### SOCCER

South Africa successfully through World Cup qualification, was appointed in February.

Queiroz's replacement in Tehran is Amir Ghalenoei,

whose second spell with Iran starts against Hong Kong in what is perhaps the toughest test that any of the so-called big six face this week.

Roberto Mancini faces his first competitive game with Saudi Arabia since being appointed in August. The Green Falcons have won just one out of 11 games since their shocking 2-1 win over eventual champions Argentina 2-1 in November at the World Cup.

Taking on Pakistan at home should give the Saudi team the opportunity for a much-needed victory though as they prepare for tougher tests ahead.

Pakistan are playing at this level for the first time, having come through the first round of qualifying with a win over Cambodia last month.

In other group openers, the Palestinian team will play Lebanon in Sharjah, having to prepare remotely because of the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, and United Arab Emirates will be playing at home on the same night against Nepal. China are traveling to Thailand in Group C.

ARAB C TIME

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