



soccer  
Pages 15 & 16

# ARAB TIMES

THE FIRST ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IN FREE KUWAIT  
Established in 1977 / www.arabtimesonline.com



basketball  
Pages 14 & 16

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023 / JUMADA AL AWWAL 2, 1445 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 18446

16 PAGES

150 FILS

## Unpaid traffic violations in Kuwait reach KD 44 million

— Details Page 2 —

# Parliament passes key housing bills

‘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 rental fees.

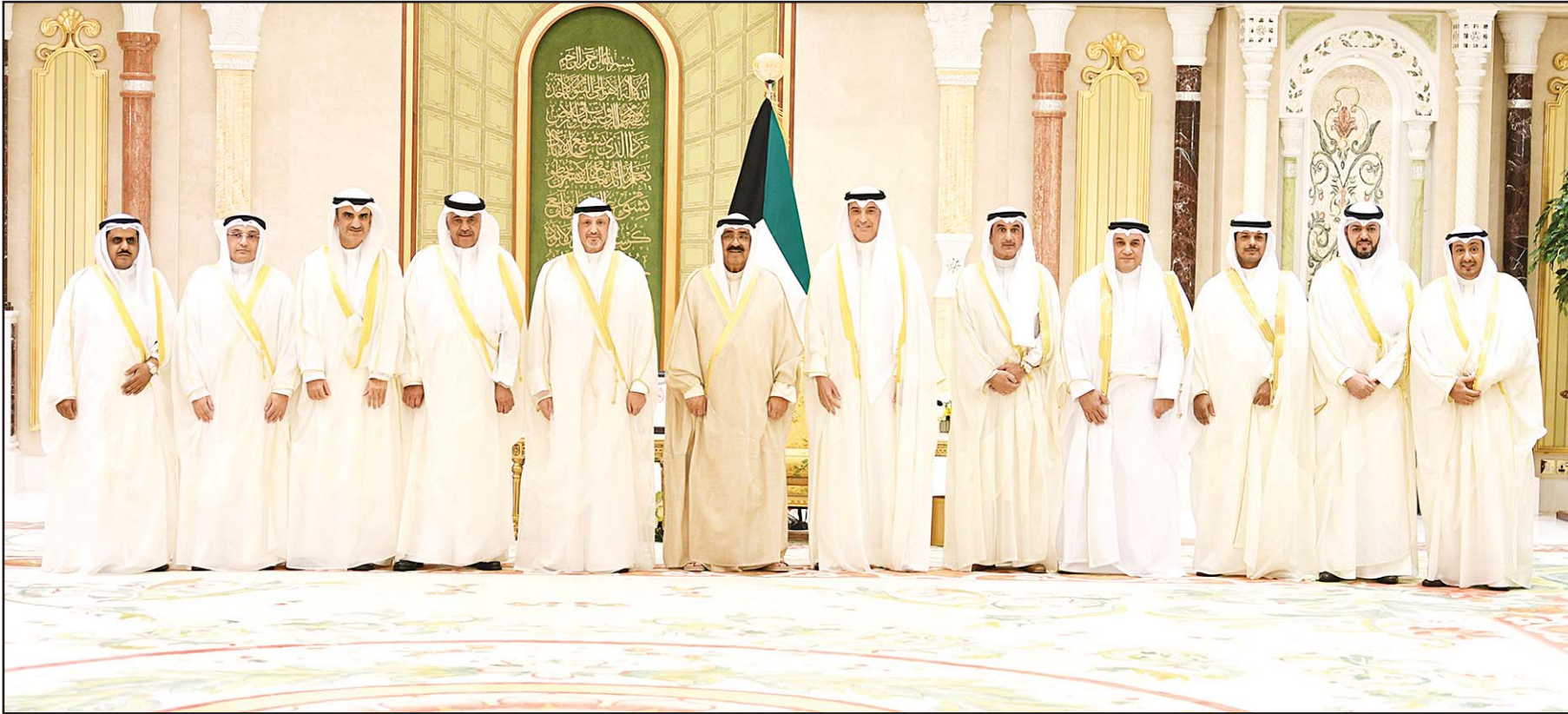
Rapporteur of the committee MP Abdulaziz Al-Saqabi confirmed that the committee will put the final touches on the bills to be ready for voting in the second reading on Nov 28.

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



Crown Prince Diwan photo

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.

### 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, Ambassa-

dor 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-Shuraim.

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 Al-Hazza.

Senior government officials attended the ceremony. (KUNA)

### 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.

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 house.

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 naive slogan "All is well" or "Kuwait is different because it has democracy" due to which citizens are left hanging.

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 prestige.

When the Minister of Education and

Continued on Page 5

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:

facebook



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

### 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 administrator. (AP)

## US allows Iraq to continue buying electricity from Iran

WASHINGTON, Nov 15, (AP): The Biden administration has extended by four months a sanctions waiver that will allow Iraq to continue to purchase electricity from Iran and gives Iran limited access to the proceeds to buy humanitarian goods.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken signed the 120-day waiver extension and it was

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 increasing pressure to end its support for proxy groups, including Hamas, that are destabilizing the Middle East.

## France issues arrest warrants for Syria president, 3 generals

‘War crimes’



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

## 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

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."



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

Continued on Page 5

**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-Aqqad 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 day.

Zahed Matar

## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 04:49 Asr ..... 14:33  
Sunrise .. 06:11 Maghrib .. 16:53  
Zohr ..... 11:33 Isha ..... 18:13

# Local

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

## Expected weather for the next

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

## Weather

night.

**By Night:** Mild to rather cold, cloudy and humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly 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

for fog forming over some areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	26	24
Kuwait Airport	26	20
Abdaly	25	19
Jahra	25	20
Salmiyah	27	25
Nuwaisib	27	20
Wafra	27	21



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.



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 Awqaf and Islamic

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)



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



His Highness the Crown Prince receives the credentials of the European Union ambassador.

## HH CP receives envoys credentials

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Wednesday the Ambassadors of Ethiopia, Algeria, the EU, Thailand, Iran,

and Belgium who handed their credentials during a ceremony at Bayan Palace. Senior state officials attended the ceremony. (KUNA)

# 'KD 66m traffic fines in '23'

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

**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.**

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 over 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-Khaleel 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:-

1. Can you talk about the development of violations, comparing 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, 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 generate 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?



Brig Gen Al-Otaibi

## '5,504 illegals deported since Jan'

## KD 2,000 paid to get job: suspect

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: The Public Authority for Manpower sources said the biggest 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 Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Kuwait Municipality is said to have arrested from the beginning of this year until last October, 5,504 workers - violators of residence and labor laws, and legal measures were taken against them to deport them from the

country. According to PAM sources, these violating 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 workers (Article 17), in addition to 1,910 whose work permits had expired and were living illegally in the country.

The sources explained that some of those arrested indicated that they paid money to business owners in exchange for recruiting them, which ranged between 1,500 and 2,000 dinars.

## UK announces new ETA scheme

**LONDON, Nov 15, (Agencies): The United Kingdom announced Wednesday new travel permit scheme, the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), to replace its predecessor the Electronic Visa Waiver (EVW), for Arab Gulf nationals.**

The ETA is an improvement from the 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 Home Office stated.

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 Britain from February 22 to apply for their ETA as of February 1.

Meanwhile, the Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait, Miguel Moro Aguilar, said the European Union's approval of the online digital Schengen visa is a positive step to serve Kuwaiti citizens and relieve pressure and requirements on them and on our embassies, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Moro Aguilar added this step will

contribute to facilitating the process for the applicant, as he will submit all the necessary papers by submitting the application online.

He added: This step will also contribute 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 easier to verify the documents.

It will also help resolve doubts of applicants when they travel to several 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 bar code.

He explained that applicants for 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 months.

## Arab expat gets 5 yrs in terror case

## Hearing in wife murder case Dec 6

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

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

suddenly, and he knows nothing about her.

□ □ □

**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

## 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-Qabas daily.

The court rejected the defense's requests to release a school principal and another ministry employee who stand accused in the case.

□ □ □

**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.



# 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 director-general 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 empathy.

The minister 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 media.

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 outlets.

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 challenges.

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 Tuesday.

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 the meeting.

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 programs, which attract Arab fans, he noted.

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 Affairs 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 sports fans. (KUNA)

## '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 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 customers a tailored experience that satisfies their



banking and financial needs, all presented with an unmatched level of luxury in banking."

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 among countries which sent humanitarian 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 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. Qatar 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.



# November

## Room Promotion







Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
<b>NOW</b>	<b>NOW</b>
<b>BHD 57.173/-net</b>	<b>BHD 128.000/-net</b>
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
<b>NOW</b>	<b>NOW</b>
<b>BHD 61.000/-net</b>	<b>BHD 136.198/-net</b>

Promo period from 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Terms & conditions apply\*



## 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 promises.

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.”



Braverman

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 Brussels.

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 Russia.

The ministerial discussion then focused on longer-term 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 production.

**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, saying 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)

## 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 McCarthy**, 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 headline 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

## 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 War-era 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 ques-

tions 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:

**NEW 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 Caucus**.

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 headline 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 two-thirds tally with Democrats for passage.



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).



Les Guice



Grady

## 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 Grady**.

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. Moseley**, 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 right-wing 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.

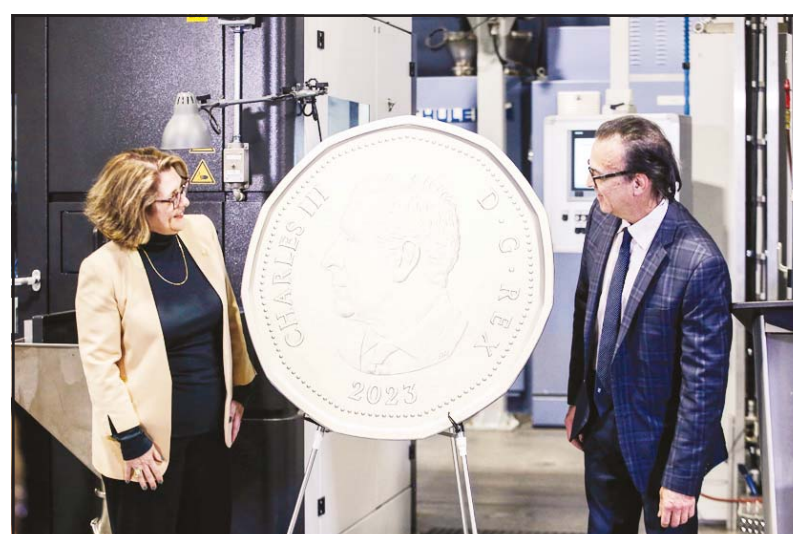
Testimony wrapped up later Tuesday, with closing arguments expected Wednesday. DePape has pleaded not guilty to attempted kidnapping of a federal official and assault on the immediate family member of a federal official with intent to retaliate against the official for performance of their duties. (AP)

**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 magazine.

Attorneys for **Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa** entered the plea before District Court Judge **Ingrid Bakke** in Boulder. The plea means Alissa’s attorneys are claiming mental ill-

ness prevented him from understanding right from wrong on March 22, 2021, the day of the attack.

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 announced.

**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 together.”

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 a boycott.

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 Ravalomanana and Hery Rajaonarimampianina. They have organized peaceful marches across the 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 Indian 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 after one candidate was injured during protests when 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.

## 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 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, 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 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 the country."

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

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

According to a five-year study by local NGO Ivory, 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 Simara.

"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, according 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 decades 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.



Rajoelina



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)

## 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-to-military communications between their armed forces when they meet on the sidelines 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 high-level 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 weapons 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

military nuclear program.

The North's existing intermediate-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.

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 "essential 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 region, in which the enemies will get 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 Korea's 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 growing 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.

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.

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" fee. (AP)

**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)



A supporter of Javier Milei, Liberty 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)



Bucio



Milei

## Lat/Am

**Milei rallying for presidency:** Batman and the Joker, a man decked out in a full-body 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 made-for-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-officer.

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.







## HEALTHCARE

## Business Plus



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)

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.

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 Services.

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 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.

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 said.

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 renewal form or provide requested 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 said.

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 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

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 under-represented 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 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 two-thirds 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 invested in funding the necessary research," Shriver said on the call. "That changes today."

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



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

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

**'My Effin' Life' is an engrossing tale of a 'classic underachiever'**

**Rock 'n' roller, Rush icon Geddy Lee goes deep in his memoir**

LOS ANGELES, Nov 15, (AP) - Geddy Lee is a rock star, that's undeniable. But he's also a polite Canadian to the core. So it's fitting that the Rush icon picked a not-too-bawdy title for his memoir, "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 Sartre. 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 laser-focus 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.

Music

**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**

**A unique 'Hunger Games' sans Katniss**

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 franchises. 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 foundations." "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 itself." 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 -

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 million. "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 romances. "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)

**Features**

ARABIC TIMES  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

**NEW YORK:** The latest honor for **Salman Rushdie** was a prize kept secret until minutes before he rose from his seat to accept it. On Tuesday night, the author received the first-ever Lifetime 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-ern New York. "I apologize for being a mystery guest," Rushdie said Tuesday night after being introduced by "Reading Lolita in Tehran" author **Azar Nafisi**. "I don't feel at all mysterious. But it made life a little simpler." The Havel center, founded in 2012 as the Vaclav Havel Library Foundation, is named for the Czech playwright and dissident who became the last president of **Czechoslovakia** after the fall of the Communist regime in the late 1980s. The center has a mission to advance the legacy of Havel, who died in 2011 and was known for championing human rights and free expression. Numerous writers and diplomats attended Tuesday's ceremony, hosted by longtime CBS journalist **Lesley Stahl**. **Alaa Abdel-Fattah**, the imprisoned Egyptian activist, was given the Disturbing the Peace Award to a Courageous Writer at Risk. His aunt, the acclaimed author and translator **Adhaf Soueif**, accepted on his behalf and said he was aware of the prize. "He's very grateful," she said. "He was particularly pleased by the name of the award, 'Disturbing the Peace.' This really tickled him." Abdel-Fattah, who turns 42 later this week, became known internationally during the 2011 pro-democracy uprisings in the **Middle East** that drove out **Egypt's** long-time President **Hosni Mubarak**. He has since been imprisoned several 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

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



Rushdie Ward

climate change's impact "The Great Displacement" are among the finalists for the Andrew Carnegie Medals for Excellence. The medals are presented by the American Library Association and given for fiction and nonfiction, with winners in each category receiving \$5,000. On Tuesday, the library as-

sociation 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." Finalists will be announced Jan. 20. The awards, made possible by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York, were established in 2012. (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 2023 and simultaneously published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Lipoprotein(a), often shortened to just Lp(a), is made in the liver and has similarities to LDL, 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 increases 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 worldwide.

"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 administration.

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) levels."

A phase 2 trial studying lepodisiran is currently underway.



Dr. Nissen

## Gulf Bank initiates prostate cancer screening for male employees in Movember campaign

Our employees are our most valuable asset: Salma Al-Hajjaj

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: In line with its ongoing dedication to prioritize the overall well-being 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 required. 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 health.

Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of the Human Resources Department, emphasized

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 employees throughout 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 campaign.

not only within the bank, but also extending beyond it. These efforts serve to fortify the bank's influential position in Kuwait's leadership sphere.

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 interventionalists in all the countries of the world."

The Board members of the Gulf Intervention 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 Intervention Society (GIS) and the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), recognizing their dedication and commitment to this enriching educational journey."

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 Sondasamargandy (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 pa-

tients by healthcare professionals.

General Secretary Mousa Akbar, Consultant 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 (SACIS). 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.

## MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health



To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

**For your ads on this page**

Call: **24813805** E-mail: **advt@arabtimesonline.com**

**www.arabtimesonline.com**

**مرکز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي**  
**SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE**  
الفروانية FARWANIYA

**Obstetrics & Gynecology**

**Our gynecology department, the most dependable one in Kuwait, offers below services:**

- Special Care and treatment during prenatal and postnatal periods.
- Treatment of other gynecological problems such as disturbances of menstruation recurrent miscarriages etc.,
- Diagnosis and treatment of infertility cases.
- Treatment of patients with high-risk pregnancies; managing complex problems related to reproductive endocrinology and infertility
- Screening programmes for early detection of tumours, breast cancer, cervical cancer, ovarian cancer etc.

**Dr. Rehab Mohamed**  
MBBS, MS  
(Mansoura University, Egypt)  
17 years' experience

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police station - Farwaniya

**24 734 000** **60 749 749**  
**www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw**



## 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-Itihad 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.

The 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-Itihad Championship, 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

KUWAIT 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 Asian 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 remain-

ing teams are expected to arrive today.

The Asian Handball Championship features 12 clubs, divided into two groups. The first group includes defending champions Al-Najma from Bahrain, Al-Kuwait from Kuwait, Al-Gharafa from Qatar, Al-Khaleej from Saudi Arabia, Al-Salah from Palestine, and the Indian Golden Eagle. The second group comprises Al-Qadsia, Sai from India, Al-Arabi from Qatar, the Iraqi Army, Shabab Sidon from Lebanon, and Al-Sharjah from the Emirates.

rahman Al-Otaibi, Abdulaziz Najm, Abdullah Bouftin, along with the contributions of Chinese athlete Liu Bei

Bin and Iranian standout Saber Kazemi. The stage is set for a thrilling culmination to this season's Super Cup.



HD International and Kuwait padel officials pose for a photo after the press conference.

## 'Partnership serves the best interests of the sport'

## HD International becomes exclusive sponsor for paddle in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 15: Paddle Inn 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 Inn'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 Inn 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 Abdul, 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 initiative, 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 highlighting 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 environment.

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.

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-Maillem. Al-Maillem has offered unwavering support to propel the club forward in both administrative and technical aspects. The high demand for 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 height.

## 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



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)

## SOCCER

the end of a high-scoring season in the Brazilian league.

The Argentines will take on two-time World Cup champions Uruguay at La Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires.

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.

## 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 from the Training and National

## BASKETBALL

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, Abdulmoheem 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). Others



Dr. Abdulaziz Dhari, the Director of teams.

include Alexander Al-Ghais, Muhammad Adnan, Hamad Adnan, Imran Anbar, Mustafa Al-Rifai, Turki Hammoud, Sahu Al-Shammari, Abdul-Rahman Al-Shammari, Youssef Al-Hamdan (Kuwait), Hassan Burme, Ali Al-Hadhoud (Al-Arabi), and Youssef Al-Failakawi (Yarmouk). Dhari stated that the national teams committee will release the preparation program for Kuwait in the coming period.

