

FINANCE MINISTER PRESSED ON KIA'S ALLEGED ISRAELI INVESTMENTS



MoFA photo
Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the inaugural ceremony of Manama Dialogue 2023.

FM attends Manama Dialogue

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday evening attended the inaugural ceremony of Manama Dialogue 2023, patronized and attended by Bahraini Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and attended by a number of ministers of sisterly and friendly countries.

Manama Dialogue 2023 tackles several political and security issues, primarily regional and international challenges and tensions, and ways of promoting strategic cooperation to address relevant reflections and achieve regional peace and joint future ambitions. (KUNA)

US sanctions Iraqi militia members backed by Iran

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (AP): The U.S. on Friday imposed sanctions on six people affiliated with the Iranian-backed Iraqi militia Kataeb Hezbollah, which is accused of being behind a spate of recent attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria following the October 7 attacks by Hamas against Israel.

Included in the sanctions are the militia's foreign affairs chief, a member of its governing council, its military commander and a media spokesman. The sanctions block access to U.S. property and bank accounts and prevent the targeted people and companies from doing business with Americans.

A spate of drone attacks hit U.S. bases in Iraq as recently as Friday, as regional tensions have flared up following the bloody war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Two U.S. defense officials confirmed three additional attacks on U.S. military facilities in Iraq and Syria on Friday, bringing the total number of attacks on U.S. and coalition military facilities in Iraq and Syria to at least 60. The three bases attacked as of Friday included: a one-way drone targeted Al Harir air base in Erbil, with no casualties reported, but an infrastructure damage assessment was still ongoing; an attack by multiple one-way drones at Al Asad air base in Iraq that resulted in no injuries or infrastructure damage; and another multiple one-way drone attack at Tall Baydar, Syria, that resulted in minor injuries to one service member who was able to return to duty, one of the defense officials said.

Iranian-backed militias in Iraq have threatened to attack U.S. facilities there because of American support for Israel.

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control says Kataeb Hezbollah is supported by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force. And the State Department has previously designated it as a terrorist organization.

Brian E. Nelson, Treasury's under-secretary for terrorism and financial intelligence said the U.S. is "fully committed to security and stability in the Middle East and are steadfast in our efforts to disrupt these destabilizing activities."

At least 11,470 Palestinians - two-thirds of them women and minors - have been killed since the war in Gaza began, according to Palestinian health authorities, who do not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths. About 2,700 people are reported missing.

Some 1,200 people have been killed in Israel, mostly during the initial attack, and around 240 were taken captive by militants.

Advertisers fleeing Musk's X

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (AP): Advertisers are fleeing social media platform X over concerns about their ads showing up next to pro-Nazi content and hate speech on the site in general, with billionaire owner Elon Musk inflaming tensions with his own posts endorsing an antisemitic conspiracy theory.

IBM said this week that it stopped advertising on X after a report said its ads were appearing alongside material praising Nazis - a fresh setback as the platform formerly known as Twitter tries to win back big brands and their ad dollars, X's main source of revenue.



Musk

The liberal advocacy group Media Matters said in a report Thursday that ads from Apple, Oracle, NBCUniversal's Bravo network and Comcast also were placed next to antisemitic material on X.

"IBM has zero tolerance for hate speech and discrimination and we have immediately suspended all advertising on X while we investigate this entirely unacceptable situation," the company said in a statement.

Apple, Oracle, NBCUniversal and Comcast didn't respond immediately to requests seeking comment on their next steps.

The European Union's executive branch said separately Friday it is pausing advertising on X and other social media platforms, in part because of a surge in hate speech. Later in the day, Disney, Lionsgate and Paramount Global also said they were suspending or pausing advertising on X.

Musk sparked outcry this week with his own tweets responding to a user who accused Jews of hating white people and professing indifference to antisemitism. "You have said the actual truth," Musk tweeted in a reply Wednesday.

Musk has faced accusations of tolerating antisemitic messages on the platform since purchasing it last year, and the content on X has gained increased scrutiny since the war between Israel and Hamas began.

"We condemn this abhorrent promotion of Antisemitic and racist hate in the strongest terms, which runs against our core values as Americans," White House spokesperson Andrew Bates said Friday in response to Musk's tweet.

X CEO Linda Yaccarino said X's "point of view has always been very clear that discrimination by everyone should STOP across the board."

"I think that's something we can and should all agree on," she tweeted Thursday.

Yaccarino, a former NBCUniversal executive, was hired by Musk to rebuild ties with advertisers who fled after he took over, concerned that his easing of content restrictions was allowing hateful and toxic speech to flourish and that would harm their brands.

"When it comes to this platform - X has also been extremely clear about our efforts to combat antisemitism and discrimination. There's no place for it anywhere in the world - it's ugly and wrong. Full stop," Yaccarino said.

MPs invoke Constitutional right with grilling motion against PM

Lawmakers rally behind Al-Mudhaf

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Several lawmakers have expressed support for the grilling motion of MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf against HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, emphasizing that this is their absolute right as stipulated in the Constitution and regardless of the grilling points.

MP Hamad Al-Elyan explained he supports the grilling motion as per the constitutional rules and it should be discussed openly without the need for the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee or the Constitutional Court to review it. He said HH the Prime Minister must stand on the grilling podium and disprove the grilling points, asserting the MPs are free to decide whom to support under the monitoring of the nation.

MP Khalid Al-Otaibi pointed out that the corrupt media misled the public in the previous period, making it appear that grilling hinders development and disrupts legislative progress. He clarified that grilling is the most powerful parliamentary tool for addressing wrongdoings. He underscored the need to stop attempts to criminalize grilling and accuse

the MPs of instigating crisis just to prevent the lawmakers from fulfilling public demands; otherwise, the whole nation shall continue living like the previous period, instead of moving forward.

He concluded that deliberations on grilling motions will not stop the government from enforcing the necessary legislation, if it is really keen on doing so. He also highlighted the fact that the National Assembly has two main tasks -- legislation and monitoring, stressing these two tasks should be carried out simultaneously.

MP Muhammad Al-Regaib urged HH the Prime Minister to stand on the grilling podium as part of his commitment to cooperate with the Assembly, adding that the nation and lawmakers shall take the final decision.

MP Mubal Al-Hajraf emphasized the need to adhere to the Constitution, which allows MPs to grill members of the government whenever the need arises; while MP Adel Al Obaid said the grilling motion must be discussed in an open session without being referred to the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee or the Constitutional Court. He added this is one of the rights of the MPs and citizens.

MP Jenan Bu Shehri pointed out that the executive and legislative authorities had earlier reached an agreement to rectify mistakes committed in the past period. She argued that political reform cannot be separated from economic reform, stressing grilling is the duty of every MP as it is crucial in playing their monitoring role efficiently. She explained that grilling has nothing to do with coordination with the government, stating this tool must never be suspended.

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NewsWatch

IRBIL: Al-Harir military airbase, hosting the international coalition forces to fight the so-called Islamic State (ISIS), was targeted by a booby-trapped drone, the General Counter-Terrorism Directorate in **Kurdistan Region in Northern Iraq** announced Friday.

In a statement, the Directorate said that the airbase located in Northern Irbil has been subjected to continuous attacks by robotic aircraft. (KUNA)

DAMASCUS: Syria's president issued a decree granting amnesty and reducing sentences for several categories of crime committed prior to Thursday, his office and state media reported.

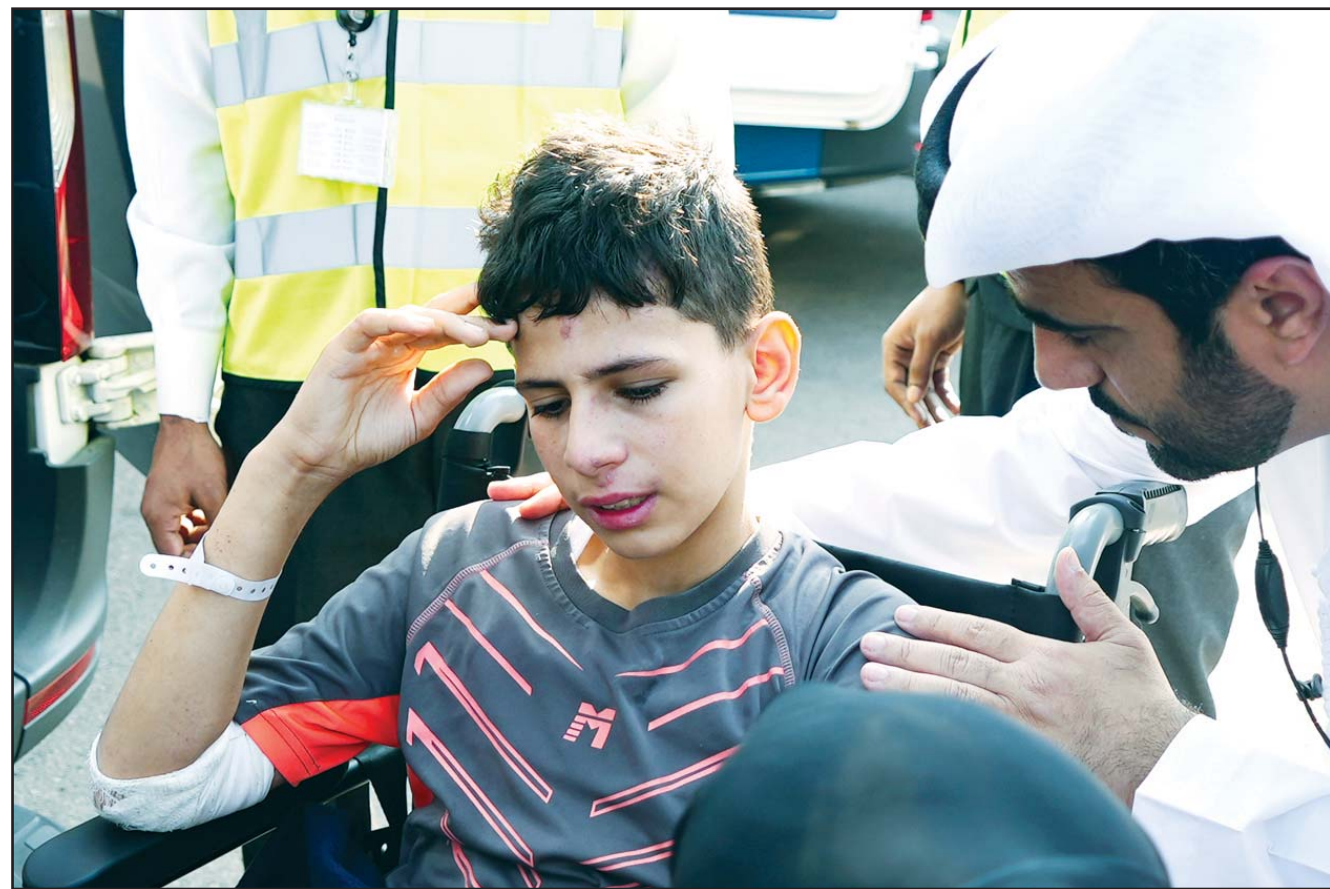
No reason was given for the amnesty but it came on the anniversary of the 1970 coup that brought the father and predecessor of President **Bashar Assad** to power. (AP)

ANKARA: The Turkish Parliament's foreign affairs committee on Thursday opened debate on **Sweden's** bid to join NATO, but adjourned the proceedings until a later date without reaching a decision.

It was not immediately known when the committee would resume its discussions on Sweden's accession protocol or when it would reach Parliament's general assembly for the last stage of the legislative process. (AP)

NEW DELHI: India appealed on Friday to the leaders of the Global South to consolidate efforts to build an inclusive global system.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs quoted Minister **S Jaishankar** as saying in his opening remarks at the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit held virtually that projecting shared interests of the Global South will be greatly impactful for the emerging world order. (KUNA)



Top: Twelve-year-old Amr Jandieh, who was wounded in the Israel-Hamas war, gestures, while surrounded by Emirati officials as he is brought down from the plane to an ambulance in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023. Jandieh is one of thousands of children in Gaza who have been injured by

the ongoing Hamas-Israeli war. But he's one of the slightly luckier ones who was able to leave the besieged enclave to get treatment outside. Above: Palestinians mourn their relatives killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, in the hospital in Khan Younis, Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023. (AP)

Wounded Palestinian children arrive in UAE

Kuwait rallies support at WFP

ROME, Nov 18, (Agencies): The State of Kuwait has received unanimous support from the Executive Board of the World Food Programme to formally demand

the sustained flow of food and humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.

The Permanent Delegation of the State of Kuwait to the WFP

told KUNA Friday that the second regular session of the Executive Board succeeded, at the conclusion of its activities held at the organization's headquarters in Rome, in issuing an official statement on the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

The Kuwaiti delegation pointed out that the Executive Board's issuance of the statement came after continuous consultations and negotiations it carried out with the rest of the board member states in coordination with the Arab group at the UN organization to tackle the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

The delegation noted that the Executive Board instructed its chairman in the statement to present to the Executive Director Cindy McCain, "the strong views of the member states regarding

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Starship launch ends in setback

WASHINGTON, Nov 18, (AP): SpaceX launched its mega rocket Starship on Saturday, but lost the booster and then the spacecraft minutes into the test flight.

The booster had sent the rocketship toward space, but communication was lost eight minutes after liftoff from South Texas and SpaceX declared that the vehicle had failed.

The trouble cropped up as the ship's engines were almost done firing to put it on an around-the-world path. Minutes earlier, the booster exploded, but not until its job was done, putting the ship on a course toward space.

At 400 feet, Starship is the biggest and most powerful rocket ever built. The first test flight in April ended in an explosion soon after liftoff.

Earlier, SpaceX's giant new rocket blasted off from South Texas on a test flight Saturday, seven months after the first try ended in an explosion.



SpaceX's mega rocket Starship launches for a test flight from Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas, Nov. 18, 2023. (AP)

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:51	Asr	14:32
Sunrise	06:14	Maghrib	16:52
Zohr	11:33	Isha	18:12

Local

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

Kuwait-Oman ties deep-rooted: Ambassador Al-Hajri

Oman marks nat'l day, limiting celebration in solidarity with Palestine

Report by Nasser Al-Ajmi

MUSCAT, Nov 18, (KUNA): The Sultanate of Oman will be marking on November 18, Saturday, its 53rd national day with celebrations limited due to the current bleak situation in Palestine.

Celebrations will include a military parade held under the auspices of Sultan Haitham bin Tareq and will include a show of solidarity with Palestinians who have been heavily assaulted by the Israeli occupation regime for over a month.

Oman would also be focusing on its 2040 development vision, launched in 2021, to achieve growth for the Sultanate.



Al-Hajri

The development vision is implemented by government entities supervising 34 initiatives to boost the economy, business, progression, and governance.

As part of the development vision, last May the Sultan Haitham city project in Seeb province was inaugurated. The city is a model of sustainability and meets the aspirations of the Omani youth.

On the political level, the election for the 2023-27 Shura council held on October 29th, saw the inclusion of 90 members with an event using the AI-based AI-Enthakb application for voting and vote count.

In regards to Kuwait-Omani relations, the two fellow GCC nations had made it a point to pursue more cooperation

under the guidance of both countries' leaderships.

The Omani-Kuwait committee met last March in Muscat, focusing their gathering on pursuing all venues of cooperation.

The joint Omani-Kuwaiti project is exemplified in the Duqm Refinery at a cost of USD eight billion.

The project is situated in the heart of the Duqm town in Oman, a strategic economic region for land and maritime transport on the Arab sea.

The refinery has a production capacity of 230,000 barrels per day and it is working on producing fuel for aircrafts in addition to liquefied gas petroleum, a main product.

The Ambassador of Kuwait to Oman Mohammad Al-Hajri Saturday congratulated the leadership and people of Oman on the 53rd anniversary of National Day, commending the deep-rooted Kuwaiti-Omani ties.

Al-Hajri told KUNA that Oman plays an active role in all local, regional and international forums.

The Kuwaiti-Omani relations are progressing steadily with unwavering determination, as they are united by the common goals under the leadership of both sides, he explained.

He underlined the keenness of the wise leaderships of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two sides.

In recent years, many agreements and memorandums of understanding have been signed that would achieve the anticipated goals and objectives for both countries, he pointed out.

Weather

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Mild, partly cloudy to cloudy and humid with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind, with speed of 15-50 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times

causing rising dust.

By Night: Mild by night rather cold, cloudy to partly cloudy and humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind, with speed of 15-50 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	25	19
Kuwait Airport	25	14
Abdaly	24	14
Jahra	25	15
Salmiyah	24	20
Nuwaisib	27	15
Wafra	26	14

HH Amir, Crown Prince, PM congratulate Oman

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable of congratulations to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman on the occasion of his country's national day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir commended the solid and historical ties between Kuwait and Oman as well as the outstanding achievements that Oman has accomplished under the wise leadership of the Sultan.

His Highness the Amir also wished the Sultan of Oman good health and further progress and prosperity for his country under his wise leadership.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent a cable Friday to

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished the Sultan everlasting well-being and the people of Oman further progress and development under his wise leadership.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent a cable on Friday to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Speaker of National Assembly Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun sent Friday two cables of congratulations to President of Oman's State Council Sheikh Abdulmalik Al-Khalili and Chairman of Shura Council Khalid bin Hilal Al-Mawali on Oman's National Day.



Belgian envoy



EU envoy

Schengen for Kuwaitis my priority: EU envoy

New Belgian envoy commends ties with Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: In his initial statement, shortly after presenting his credentials to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, the Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait, Christian Dooms, commended the friendly and pleasant nature of the meeting, reports Al-Rai daily.

Discussions primarily centered around bilateral relations between Belgium and Kuwait. Ambassador Dooms expressed satisfaction with the existing excellent relationship but conveyed a sense that more could be achieved, particularly in terms of enhancing commercial ties and fostering cultural and technical cooperation.

Highlighting Belgium's global standing in renewable energy and offshore wind energy, as well as expertise in medical and cancer treatment and artificial intelligence research, Ambassador Dooms suggested the potential for closer collaboration. He mentioned the existing security and defense cooperation with Kuwait, emphasizing Belgium's participation in the international coalition against ISIS, with two military personnel stationed at the Arifjan base.

Ambassador Domes proposed

potential areas of collaboration, including tourism initiatives and student exchanges between Kuwait and Belgian universities. While refraining from commenting on European countries' positions on events in Gaza, he reiterated Belgium's consistent call for a two-state solution to address the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Expressing concern for the situation in Gaza, he emphasized the need for a resolution and hoped for more critical voices in Israel regarding its government's actions.

Regarding Kuwait's role in the on-going conflict, Ambassador Domes praised Kuwait's positive contributions, highlighting its significant commitment and generosity. He acknowledged Kuwait as the third-largest contributor of aid since the conflict's inception, sending 21 aid planes, and extended congratulations for Kuwait's humanitarian efforts.

Meanwhile, in her first official statement after presenting her credentials to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, the European Union Ambassador to Kuwait, Anne Koistinen, said the digitization of the Schengen visa is

a positive step, reports Al-Rai daily.

Koistinen said, "Facilitating Schengen requirements for Kuwaiti citizens is one of my priorities, and will contribute to facilitating communications between individuals in line with the European Union's Gulf strategy."

She went on to say, "Until the new online visa system becomes operational in 2028, I encourage applicants to obtain a Schengen visa." In Kuwait, we must continue to follow the current procedures issued by the relevant embassies in Kuwait.

She stated that once the online visa platform for the European Union is operational in 2028, applicants will still need to come in person to the Schengen consular offices or service providers in the case of first-time applicants, people whose biometric data is no longer valid, and people who have a new travel document, saying, "This new system will also replace the current visa sticker with a cryptographically signed bar code."

The European Union adopted new rules on November 13, 2023, which will allow people planning to travel to the Schengen Area to apply online for a visa.

Track down drug dealers, protect youth – minister

Driver beats sponsor, steals KD 300

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The security authorities have intensified their efforts to track down drug dealers and protect Kuwaiti youths from this deadly scourge in compliance with the directives of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, reports Al-Qabas daily.

This led to the confiscation of about 800 kilograms

of various drugs and about 1.5 million psychotropic pills from August to October 2023.

The daily obtained data showing that several individuals involved in drug cases were arrested and referred to the Public Prosecution.

In August, a total of 6,150 kilograms of various drugs and 763 psychotropic pills were confiscated within one day resulting in the filing of 10 cases involving 15 individuals; 15 kilograms of drugs and seven kilograms of psychotropic substances were found in postal parcels resulting in the filing of 14 cases against 14 people; in addition to 250,000 psychotropic pills, 11 kilograms of narcotics and 8,130 different pills confiscated in separate operations.

In September 2023, about 180 kilograms of drugs -- hashish, heroin and others -- were confiscated; as well as thousands of psychotropic pills.

In October, about 128 kilograms of hashish and other drugs were confiscated.

Over the past three months, the authorities arrested around 190 people of various nationalities for promoting and trafficking in drugs.

Recently, the authorities arrested 16 defendants involved in 12 cases with more than 11 kilograms of various drugs in their possession; in addition to two kilograms of Lyrica powder; 3,200 psychotropic pills; 15 bottles of alcohol; an undisclosed quantity of marijuana seeds; four unlicensed weapons and ammunition and some cash.



Sheikh Talal



Special children at the festival.

Special Olympics holds Diabetes Day 'festival'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: In collaboration with Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, Special Olympics Kuwait organized a health-focused sports festival to commemorate World Diabetes Day. The event saw the enthusiastic participation of 130 male and female players representing schools, institutions, and associations dedicated to individuals with disabilities, along with players from the Al-Ambuh Sports Club. The two-day festival, held at the Assima Mall, featured a walking race followed by comprehensive medical examinations. Participants underwent health assessments covering diabetes, blood pressure, body mass, and nutritional counseling.

Rehab Bouresli, National Director of Kuwaiti Special Olympics, commended the remarkable and distinctive turnout from special education schools, disability-focused associations and institutions. She highlighted the positive impact of the festival, encompassing athletic, psychological, and health aspects, as well as its role in raising awareness among children with mental disabilities.

Bouresli emphasized that the collaboration with the Diabetes and Endocrinology Unit at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital reflects Special Olympics Kuwait's commitment to fostering partnerships with medical agencies, institutions, and health specialists. This commitment aims to provide comprehensive and high-quality healthcare for individuals with mental disabilities, contributing to their improved health and physical competence. The initiative also enhances their opportunities to engage in sports and fitness programs while addressing and resolving the health challenges they may face.

Expat caught selling drugs to young people in 'south'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Officers from the Criminal Investigation General Department at the Interior Ministry have arrested an expatriate for selling narcotic substances to young people in Umm Al-Hayman, south of Kuwait City, with an undisclosed quantity of Shabu, heroin, Lyrica pills and drug paraphernalia in his possession, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a reliable source from the security sector.

The source revealed that the department received confidential information about an expatriate selling narcotic substances to the youths in Ahmadi Governorate. In response to the tip-off, the investigation officers verified the information by closely monitoring the activities of the suspect. This led to the arrest of the suspect and confiscation of the above-mentioned narcotics.

A case was registered and the suspect was referred to the concerned authorities.

Driver beats sponsor: An unidentified driver, attacked his sponsor and stole 300 dinars during a heated discussion between them, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to complaint filed by the citizen with the Farwaniya police station, he requested the driver to take him to visit his relative and the latter refused, because according to the Kuwaiti he was in an abnormal condition.

He added the driver not only attacked him but stole 300 dinars from him and fled.

A case of beating and theft has been filed against the absconding driver.

New victim of scam: Despite the warning issued by the Ministry of Interior regarding fraudulent activities carried out by individuals from outside Kuwait, posing as security personnel or bank representatives through phone calls and electronic communication platforms, an expatriate fell prey to such deceptive operations that target unsuspecting victims, reports Al-Anba daily.

A complaint filed by the expatriate at the Farwaniya police station shows the man was robbed of three thousand dinars. He said the caller claimed he was a bank employee and requested a copy of his bank card and civil ID.

Subsequently, the victim received multiple messages indicating withdrawals totaling 3 thousand dinars in a short span of time.

Upon contacting the bank, it was verified that they do not have employees soliciting customers for such information. The expatriate had, indeed, become a victim of a scam orchestrated by external criminal networks. A case has been recorded with the relevant authorities for further investigation.

Jail, fine in fraud: The Court of Appeals, headed by Judge Nasr Salem Al-Heid, has sentenced the former secretary of a lawmaker to five years in prison and fined her KD21,000 for committing fraud, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The Public Prosecution had earlier charged the defendant -- a female citizen -- with defrauding compatriots by promising to give them government houses, nationalities, farms, guest houses and chalets. She also forged the identities of many citizens and obtained a total of KD43,000 from some of the victims.

The crime was uncovered when several citizens complained about the illegal activities of the accused, who allegedly forged identification documents in printing shops.

Airport fire tackled: Thursday night, the fire operations room received a report about a fire at the "T2" airport project, reports Al-Anba daily.

Firefighting teams promptly responded to the incident, and upon their arrival, it was determined that the fire involved construction materials on a bridge that was still under construction.

The firefighters swiftly brought the situation under control, extinguishing the fire without delay without any human casualties. The fire caused only minor material damage.

The fire-fighting operation was supervised by Lieutenant General Khaled Al-Makrad, the Chief of the General Fire Force, along with Major General Jamal Badr Nasser, the Acting Deputy Chief of the Firefighting Sector and the Human Resources Development Sector.



Picture taken at the ceremony

AU secures gold awards at TICE and EEA ceremony

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The College of Engineering at the Australian University (AU) achieved noteworthy success, clinching 4 Gold awards while participating in the 14th Technological Innovations Conference and Exhibition (TICE), and the 7th Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA).

The event was held under the patronage of H.E. Sheikh Malik Al-Jaber Al-Malik Al-Sabah - Head of Sustainable Development Initiatives at the Prime Minister Office and attracted distinguished guests from Ministries, the Oil sector, Research Institutes, Industry leaders and Scholars.

Over the years, TICE has become an internationally renowned event and a place of confluence for emerging & innovative technologies that can help

find solutions for the multiple challenges faced by the industries in Kuwait including Oil & Gas and Energy sector.

The College of Engineering at AU made a significant impact at the event, presenting two research projects for the Engineering Excellence Award, delivering two presentations, nominating two alumni for the Emerging Engineer of the Year, and showcasing graduation projects by a group of students.

Dr. Suad Al Radwan, a faculty member at AU, played a crucial role as a chairperson within the organizing committee of the conference.

In a triumph under the Research Category, AU secured 2 Gold Awards. The first, "Engineering Excellence - Renewable Energy" recognized a Feasibility Study of Solar PV Imple-

mentation, supervised by Dr. Suad Al Radwan, with participating students Dana Dalleh, Dana Al Sairafi Shaikhah Al Dousari, Wafaa Al Saeed and Zahraa Kassim.

The second Gold Award, "Engineering Excellence- Research", acknowledged Realtime Monitoring of a Rotary Machine using the Cloud-Based Platform, "Thingspeak.", supervised by Dr. Mohammad Omar. Participating students included Dalal Al Ruwaie, Danah Hala-haw, Shahad Al Kharji, Sondos Al Fadhli and Lujain Al Sarraf.

Adding to the accolades, two alumni from the Petroleum Engineering Department; Eng. Salma Sameer Shehab and Eng. Hasan Hamza Al Ali, were recognized as the Emerging Engineer of the Year.

Municipality cites regulations for demolition & restoration of sites

Hawally Municipality's Safety Dept organises field tours

By Inass Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Director of the Safety Department in Hawally Municipality Al-Humaidi Al-Mutairi affirmed that awareness of the municipality's requirements and regulations for demolition and restoration of sites contributes to reducing their violations.

Al-Mutairi said this in a statement he issued on the sidelines of the third field tour organized by the Hawally Municipality's Safety Department recently as part of the comprehensive inspection campaign for the safety departments of all municipality branches in the country's governorates.

He explained that licenses must be issued by Kuwait Municipality for the demolition and restoration of sites, starting with a license from the Engineering Audit and Follow-

up Department, then a demolition safety license from the Safety Department, and then a license to prepare the demolition or restoration of the site by placing a fence around the site to prevent any stones or dust from flying outside the demolition site in order to avoid exposure to passersby or putting vehicles at risk.

Monitored

The department monitored the demolition process in a property in Bayan to ensure care was taken during the demolition process to provide a source of water, either by a tanker or other means, to spray the demolition site and prevent the spread of dirt and dust during the demolition process.

After the completion of the demolition process, certain safety management requirements are implemented such as preventing the sorting of demolition products inside the site, especially separating the iron from the concrete, ensuring they are removed promptly, and cleaning the demolition site completely.

Then the owner of the demolition site or the company responsible for the demolition should visit the Safety Department to request for a safety certificate for the cleanliness

of the site. After that, a committee from the Safety Department will inspect the site, ensure its cleanliness, and grant the owner or company the certificate through which the work can be completed.

Al-Mutairi stressed that the safety department's field tours continue daily according to a well-established geographical distribution, which makes it easier for officials to follow the progress of work and intervene if any problem occurs in a specific area.

He explained that in cases of violation of the demolition conditions, a citation is issued directly to the violator without a warning because the matter is sensitive and causes harm to the safety of those inside and outside the demolition site. In addition, the demolition companies know the requirements for demolition in advance and must adhere to them.

Violation

In case of a violation related to the presence of construction debris or other violations, a citation will be issued but it will be preceded by a warning and the issuance of a deadline for removal.

Last Thursday, the municipality launched its first campaign, which

was implemented by safety department teams in the governorate's municipality branches to ensure the implementation of safety requirements in construction and restoration operations, set up special containers for waste construction materials, and activate its supervisory role in maintaining the safety of infrastructure manholes, rain drainage, and sewage systems to confront weather conditions.

The first inspection tour in Jahra Governorate was headed by the Director of the Safety Department Hamoud Al-Mutairi during a field tour that resulted in the issuance of 293 warnings and a report against violators for non-compliance with safety regulations.

The inspection tours of the Safety Department of Ahmadi Municipality, headed by the Director of the department Khaled Al-Otaibi and the general controller for the follow-up of safety works, also resulted in issuance of warnings to 280 plots for not placing construction rubble containers and in taking legal measures, in addition to issuing a violation report against nine plots that did not modify the situation after warning about the violation of the safety conditions and regulations.

National Day greetings sent

HH Amir congratulates Morocco

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable of congratulations to the King of Morocco Mohammed VI on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir commended the outstanding achievements that Morocco has accomplished in all fields under the wise leadership of the King, wishing him good health and further progress and prosperity for his country under his wise leadership.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable to King Mohammed VI, congratulating him on the

occasion of his country's National Day. His Highness the Crown Prince wished the King everlasting well-being and the people of Morocco further progress and development under his wise leadership.

Also, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent a cable to King Mohammed VI, congratulating him on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the meantime, Speaker of National Assembly Ahmad Al-Saadoun sent two cables of congratulations to President of the Moroccan House of Councilors Enaam Mayara and Speaker of the House of Representatives Rachid Talbi on Morocco's National Day.



Awarding Bader Hussain with the second place.

KUNA photo

Big achievement for 'all of us'

3 Kuwaitis win UAE photography award

By Salem Al-Methen

ABU DHABI, Nov 18, (KUNA): Three Kuwaiti photographers won Friday Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award of the UAE in various categories, which attracted hundreds of professional and amateur photographers from all over the world.

Speaking to KUNA, Mohammad Al-Kandari, a wildlife photographer, said Kuwait's outstanding presence in this international event is a big achievement for "all of us to raise the country's flag internationally".

He expressed his delight at winning categories in the 12th edition of the award, which is one of the most important international events, adding that several photographers from Arab and foreign countries participated in the award.

Al-Kandari and his compatriot Moham-

mad Al-Qattan have won the fourth and fifth places respectively in the award titled "diversity", while their compatriot Bader Ali Hussain came second in another category of the award.

Al-Kandari is a wildlife photographer, and he won many awards in several countries, mostly in the National Geographic Photography Competition in 2015 and Hamdan International Photography Award in 2016, in addition to his participation as a member of the jury in many local and international photography competitions.

Established in 2011 in the UAE, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award aims to enhance global interest, improve performance and creativity in photography as well as create a global base and encourage the participation of citizens in relevant international competitions and activities.

In line with company's internal digitization strategy

stc digitizes its 'To whom it may concern' certs for its employees

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait has unveiled the new update to the Company's myHR application, featuring the launch of a new electronic service by issuing "To Whom It May Concern" certificates for its employees. The initiative comes as part of stc's internal digitization journey, a key segment under the Company's corporate strategy.

The new feature launched by stc for its employees aims to generate 'To whom it may concern' electronic certificates upon request that can be submitted to third party institutions such as banks and financial institutions.

The requests can be submitted through the Company's myHR App or Employee Self Service platform, in which the certificates will be generated automatically. To streamline the verification and authentication process, a QR code will be imbedded within each certificate, validating the authenticity of the certificate once scanned.

The HR e-certificates will also increase the speed, efficiency, and security of generating such documents, further building on its digitization and digital transformation journey.

stc has consistently explored and introduced new-to-market concepts that cater to all stakeholders, whether customers or employees. The Company utilizes its digital expertise and know-how to provide efficient solutions that can streamline processes and deliver efficient outcomes.

Academy holds courses on self-development

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Creative Academy 5, organized by the Martyr's Office, continues to offer its courses on various fields of life with the aim of refining children's talents and expanding their awareness of self-development to be active members of society.

In this regard, Director of the Family Guidance and Welfare Department Muhammad Al-Mutairi explained that the academy is discussing the health topic, which is one of the four topics that the academy is presenting this year.

The health axis consists of three seminars - the first on first aid, the second on health and proper nutrition, and the last on technology and the environment.

There is a lot of information in the health section that children must acquire and exploit when necessary, especially with regard to first aid and dealing with teens.

As for proper nutrition, the lecture is regarding how to deal with developments at a time when a person needs to balance between exercise and healthy food on one

hand and the luxury achieved by technology that contributes to reducing a person's movement in contrast to the strong demand for fast food.

Regarding the technological revolution and the environment, this is a matter of great importance, especially now in light of the increasing rates of pollution and ways to prevent it, such as agriculture, greening and other health technologies.

These courses were presented by a group of children of martyrs who specialized in these topics, which had a positive impact on the souls of the rest of the children and encouraged them to be diligent and persistent in order to reach the highest levels of development, excellence and success.

A large number of the children of the martyrs participate in the academy's seminars. They praised the daughters of the martyr Fares Al-Enezi, Bashayer and Shaima Al-Enezi, for the courses offered by the office and their contribution to self-building and developing their skills.

They expressed their hope that these courses will continue with broader horizons and multiple fields.

Kuwaiti students in US unfold remarkable 'Leave a Mark' initiative

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The altruistic spirit knows no bounds. In the southwestern region of America, specifically in the state of Arizona, seven Kuwaiti students from the University of Arizona Tucson have distinguished themselves within the Kuwaiti Club through a remarkable humanitarian initiative titled "Leave a Trace."

These students, in collaboration with fellow Kuwaiti volunteers, aimed to be trailblazers in promoting positive change within their community, transcending geograph-



Kuwaiti students taking part in the 'Leave a Mark' initiative.

ical boundaries.

Athba Al-Radaan, one of the

team members, in a conversation with Al-Rai, shared a collective passion for reshaping the world around them, with their primary objective being to inspire people to make a positive impact in their daily lives and in society as a whole.

Together, they organized a series of humanitarian activities targeting various segments of society, including distributing meals to those in need and organizing sports activities for children - activities wholly funded by the students themselves. Al-Radaan not-

ed, "The impact of our initiatives was palpable on the faces of the beneficiaries, who marveled at the students' ability to execute such compassionate endeavors."

Highlighting the initiative's inspirational effect, she noted, "The 'Leave a Mark' initiative succeeded in motivating numerous individuals, particularly Kuwaiti youth, leading to an increased number of volunteers. This infusion of energy added a new dynamism to the campaign, expanding its sphere of influence."



November

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Embassy celebrates Poland's National Day

'Relations between Poland-Kuwait deeply rooted and multifaceted'

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The Charge D'Affaires of the Embassy of Poland in Kuwait, Anna Marta Godowy Czeszkowska, says, "After a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to resume this cherished celebration outside the embassy, which symbolizes our collective resilience and enduring spirit."

On the occasion of Poland's national celebration, she said, "This occasion and our celebration of November 11 is a testimony to the sacrifices of generations that strived for Poland's independence. Despite the absence of 123

years from the world map, the dream of freedom prevailed, with the end of World War I on the occasion of the re-birth of our country.

Re-establishing the state after 123 years of partition was a complex endeavor. Despite not having an independent country for more than a century, the resilience of Polish identity remained constant, maintained by the unyielding spirit of Polish society throughout this period of repression. Each generation of young Poles inherited a deep connection to their national language, culture and traditions.

Identity

This enduring spirit of national identity is encapsulated in the poignant

words of our national anthem - Poland is not dead yet, as long as we are still alive."

Czeszkowska expressed her hopes and solidarity with Ukraine, saying, "They are fighting bravely for the sovereignty of their nation, and we believe that they will soon celebrate the joys of independence. At the same time, Poland is dedicated to promoting global peace initiatives, especially in Palestine."

She went on to say, "Recognizing the urgent humanitarian needs, we have allocated PLN 1 million to fund the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), demonstrating our support for these vital peacekeeping

efforts." Czeszkowska affirmed that the historical relations between Poland and Kuwait are deeply rooted and multifaceted, as one of the prominent examples of early interaction is the trip of the Polish nobleman Wladyslaw Rzewuski to the Arabian Peninsula in the 19th century, which began as a short visit and developed into a long stay in the region.

She explained that Rzewuski's memoirs, rich with detailed accounts of the people he encountered, the places he explored, and his comprehensive study of Arabian horses, are invaluable historical documents. His life and writings create a distinctive bridge between the Polish and Arab worlds,

demonstrating that these cultures have deep, multi-layered connections despite obvious differences.

Support

Czeszkowska said, "Last year, with the support of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), we displayed an exhibition in Kuwait about Rzewuski's interactions in the region and his studies of Arabian horses. The exhibition gained great interest, further highlighting the depth and intrigue of our shared history."

This year is an important milestone as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Poland and Kuwait, which is evidence of the

exceptional cooperation between our two countries. In line with this celebration, we are pleased to conclude new agreements that further strengthen our bilateral relations.

Regarding the enduring nature of our cooperation, one notable example is the joint archaeological mission in Subiya and Failaka Island. This project has been operating successfully for nearly twenty years.

In addition, we are proud to facilitate a training program in Poland for students from the Kuwait Coast Guard. We also look forward to strengthening cooperation between Poland and Kuwait and continuing to develop our bilateral relations in various other fields."



Top and above: Some photos from the National Day celebration.

Photos by Mahmoud Jadedd

'Strictly follow rules, regulations'

8 food establishments shut: PAFN

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Inspector at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) in Hawally Governorate Mohammad Al-Kandari has stressed the need for food establishments to strictly comply with the rules and regulations; while confirming the closure of eight food establishments and issuance of 25 violation citations during the recent inspection tours in Hawally and Salmiya, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a statement to the daily, Al-Kandari disclosed that several establishments with various activities were shut down for committing violations; such as food establishments operating without a health license. He said reconciliation is not permissible in these cases and the closure order is implemented immediate-

ly, while the erring facility is open for evacuation purposes only and its records are forwarded to the Public Prosecution. He added: "The employees were also found to have violated the law as their visa is Article 20 (domestic worker)."

The team also inspected a butcher shop which, according to Al-Kandari, was closed as the butcher was caught in the act of thawing frozen liver with the intention of selling it as fresh, in addition to trading in adulterated food without a nutritional data card, non-compliance with the gen-

eral requirements for food establishments, cracks on the floors and malfunctioning meat refrigerator.

A food storage, two stores, and one store selling vegetables and fruits in Salmiya were closed for operating without a health license and violating the sanitation regulations.

MPs assert

Continued from Page 1

She added a minister or prime minister subject to grilling has the right to defend himself and disprove the accusations, leaving the decision in the hands of the nation's representatives. She emphasized the need for the MPs and members of the government to correct the wrong notion about grilling motions, which was adopted long time ago; that is, considering grilling as a way of instigating crises. She added that she is looking forward to a professional debate, during which both HH the Prime Minister and Al-Mudhaf will exhibit a civilized behavior.

Meanwhile, MP Jarrah Al-Fawzan forwarded queries to Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah about the news that Al-Seyassah daily published on Nov 15; indicating Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) owns shares in a company located in Israel, and that it invested \$150 million in Zorlu Holding and \$88 million in 2022 instead of exiting. He asked if KIA knows that Zorlu manages energy plants in Tel Aviv, percentage of the shares it owns, measures taken after the publication of the news and if the Ministry of Finance investigated the issue.

On the recent closure of four private plastic surgery clinics, MP Fayez Al-Jomhour asked the health minister to present a detailed report including the names and specializations of these clinics, copies of their licenses, their violations, number of clinics shut down in the last three months, if the clinics carried out abortion and hair transplant procedures, if the ministry received complaints against the clinics and action taken against them if any.

He asked Minister of State for Municipal and Communications Affairs Fahd Al-Shaulah to submit the list of communication towers installed on the roofs of private houses; if the communication companies were granted licenses by the Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Health, and Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) to use the roofs of private houses; steps that Kuwait Municipality and CITRA took against erring companies; and if the State Ministry for Communications formed inspection teams to follow up the violations.

Kuwait rallies

Continued from Page 1

the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and their demand of the WFP to effectively carry out its mandate of ensuring the immediate delivery of humanitarian aid to all civilians in the Gaza Strip."

It also instructed the chairman to express "the board members' expectation that the Executive Director will stress the seriousness of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and continue her call so that the World Food Program can effectively carry out its mandate of ensuring the immediate delivery of humanitarian assistance to all

civilian populations in need throughout the Strip."

In his speech at the board meeting, the representative of the State of Kuwait at the WFP Engineer Yousef Jahil, offered "condolences to our people in Gaza and salutes to the steadfast Palestinian people in the face of the most horrific occupation in history," praising the WFP's tireless efforts and work to deliver humanitarian and food aid to civilians in Gaza strip.

He stressed that the WFP, as recently confirmed by its Executive Director, "possesses logistical capabilities that enable it to quickly deliver humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, which is facing a massive hunger crisis in light of the interruption of food supplies in all its forms to civilians."

The Kuwaiti representative denounced those who do not see the "ethnic cleansing, the indiscriminate bombing of civilians, the killing of children, or the mass displacement in Gaza."

He blamed those who "pay lip service to international principles, humanitarian values, human rights, equality, solidarity, and basic rights to access to food and water and the empowerment of women and girls," wondering, "Where did these slogans go in the face of the machine of killing and destruction of the occupation forces in Gaza and the burial of children and women under the rubble of their destroyed homes?"

Kuwait was re-elected to the membership of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme, which consists of 36 countries, which presided over during the period from 2016 to 2018. The new term would end on December 31, 2024.

Meanwhile, patients, staff and displaced people left Gaza's largest hospital Saturday, health officials said, leaving behind only a skeleton crew to care for those too sick to move and Israeli forces in control of the facility.

The exodus from Shifa Hospital in Gaza City came the same day internet and phone service was restored to the Gaza Strip, ending a telecommunications blackout that forced the United Nations to shut down critical humanitarian aid deliveries because it was unable to coordinate its convoys.

Israel continued to expand its offensive in Gaza City, with the military warning in a social media post in Arabic that residents of two neighborhoods in the east and north and the urban refugee camp of Jabaliya must evacuate for their safety.

It said military activities would be paused briefly to allow them to leave. Earlier in the week, the Israeli defense minister had said troops had completed operations in the west of Gaza City.

Attacks also continued in the south of the Gaza Strip, with an Israeli airstrike hitting a residential building on the outskirts of the town of Khan Younis, killing at least 26 Palestinians, according to a doctor at the hospital where the bodies were taken.

Israel's military has been searching Shifa Hospital for traces of a Hamas command center that it alleges was located under the building - a claim Hamas and the hospital staff deny - and urging the several thousand people still there to leave.

On Saturday, the military said it had been asked by the hospital's director to help those who would like to leave do so by a secure route.

The military said it did not order any evacuation, and that medical personnel were being allowed to remain in the hospital to support patients who cannot be moved.

But Medhat Abbas, a spokesman for the Health Ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza, said the military had ordered the facility cleared, giving the hospital an hour to get people out.

After it appeared the evacuation was mostly complete, Dr. Ahmed Mokhalalati, a Shifa physician, said on social media that there were some 120 patients remaining who were unable to leave, including some in intensive care and premature babies, and that he and five other doctors were staying behind to care for them.

It was not immediately clear where those who left the hospital had gone, with 25 of Gaza's hospitals non-functional due to lack of fuel, damage and other problems and the other 11 only partially operational, according to the World Health Organization.

Israel has said hospitals in northern Gaza were a key target of its ground offensive aimed at crushing Hamas, claiming they were used as militant command centers and weapons depots, which both Hamas and medical staff deny.

Israeli troops have encircled or entered several hospitals, while others stopped functioning because of dwindling supplies and loss of electricity.

Elsewhere, the first planeload of Palestinian children wounded in the Israel-Hamas war raging in the Gaza Strip reached the United Arab Emirates on Saturday, part of a pledged relief effort by the country to aid 1,000 children.

The group of 15 people, including children and their family members, made it across the Gaza Strip's Rafah border crossing with Egypt on Friday. They then took a flight to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the Emirates.

Young children lay asleep on their moms' laps as the plane finally landed at Abu Dhabi International Airport. Some of the seats of the plane were removed to make room for the most critically wounded children, who needed to lie on stretchers.

Some of the young had bandaged arms and legs. Others sat quietly next to their parents or relatives. Some traveled alone. The mood was somber and quiet inside the plane. Many of the mothers said they were exhausted.

Twelve-year-old Amr Jandieh, his eyes welling up with tears, said he traveled to the Emirates alone.

"My dad, uncle, and I were talking on the street," Jandieh said. "My uncle was killed. My dad was injured ... all of a sudden a missile hit and I lost consciousness. I woke up and found myself in the hospital."

Mohammed Abu Tabikh, 14, was one of the more seriously wounded children on the plane. He suffered injuries to his neck and spine when a car he was traveling in was hit in a strike.

"When I got injured, I felt shock. And then I stopped moving," he quietly said before being brought carefully out of the plane.

Advertisement

to declare bankruptcy
Investment Dar Company
Kuwaiti Shareholding Company (Closed)



The bankruptcy trustees committee announces

Dr. Ali Awayed Rakhees. Mr. Ahmed Duajj Al-Duajj Mrs. Hanadi Humoud Al-Bader

Regarding the ruling issued in Case No. 380/2019, Commercial and Civil Department of Government/13, which is supported by the ruling issued in Appeal Nos. 3901/2019, 406/2020, Commercial Cassation/6, upholding the bankruptcy declaration of the Investment Dar Company, and pursuant to Application No. 134/2023, bankruptcy declaration issued by the Department Bankruptcy issued on 10/29/2023 related to the provisions mentioned above.

The Bankruptcy Trustees Committee invites all creditors to submit their claim along with the claim documents within a period not exceeding (Thirty) days from the date of this announcement. In the event of failure to do so, it will not be accepted. The address of the trustees is as follows:

Al-Waha Auditing Office - Sharq District - Block 1 - Ahmed Al-Jaber Street, Parcel (6A) Samra Aden Mills Building (opposite the Fatwa and Legislation Building) - second floor

Phone: 22423415 - 22423417 - 22424919

P.O. Box 27387 - Safat 13134, Kuwait Email: Admin@alwahauditing.com

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World News Roundup

Europe

Marines claim multiple bridgeheads: Ukraine's military said Friday its troops had secured multiple bridgeheads on the eastern bank of the Dnieper River in the Kherson region - a small but potentially significant strategic advance in the midst of a war largely at a standstill.

The Marine Infantry Command's claims were the first to come directly from the Ukrainian military about advances across one of Russia's most significant barriers. Earlier this week, **Andriy Yermak**, the head of the president's office, confirmed for the first time that Ukraine had established a foothold on the eastern side of the river.

The wide river is a natural dividing line along the southern battlefield, and Moscow's forces have used it since leaving the area around the city of Kherson in November 2022 to prevent Ukrainian troops from advancing farther toward Russian-annexed Crimea.

Troops are trying to push Russian forces away from the Dnieper to stop shelling that has routinely struck civilian areas on the Ukrainian-held west bank, the general staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces said in a report Friday.

Western officials with intelligence knowledge, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive information, said Thursday that Ukraine has portions of three brigades across the river and was expected to make small gains as the Russians have so far been unable to repel them.

"The Ukrainians have seen an opportunity there and taken it," one official said. "What we've not seen is the Russians being able to push them back from that position." (AP)

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Moscow Times declared a 'foreign agent': Russia's Justice Ministry on Friday added The Moscow Times, an online newspaper popular among Russia's expatriate community, to its list of "foreign agents" in the country's continuing crackdown on critical news media and opposition.

The "foreign agent" designation subjects individuals and organizations to increased financial scrutiny and requires any of their public material to prominently include notice of being declared a foreign agent. The label is seen as a pejorative aimed at undermining the designees' credibility.

It was not immediately clear how the move would affect The Moscow Times, which moved its editorial operations out of Russia in 2022 after the passage of a law imposing stiff penalties for material regarded as discrediting the Russian military and its war in Ukraine.

The Moscow Times publishes in English and in Russian, but its Russian-language site was blocked in Russia several months after the Ukraine war began.

The publication began in 1992 as a daily print paper distributed for free in restaurants, hotels and other locations popular with expatriates, whose presence in Moscow was soaring after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It later reduced its print edition to weekly, then became online-only in 2017. (AP)

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More than 2,400 kids taken to Belarus: More than 2,400 Ukrainian children aged 6-17 have been taken to Belarus from four regions of Ukraine that are partially occupied by Russian forces, a study by Yale University has found.

The study, released Thursday by the Humanitarian Research Lab of the Yale School of Public Health, which receives funding from the U.S. State Department, found that "Russia's systematic effort to identify, collect, transport, and re-educate Ukraine's children has been facilitated by Belarus," and is "ultimately coordinated" between Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Belarus' authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko.

"Belarus' direct involvement in Russia's forced deportation of children represents a collaboration" between the two, "with various pro-Russia and pro-regime organizations facilitating the deportation of children from Ukraine," the research said.

According to the study, at least 2,442 children, including those with disabilities, were taken to Belarus from 17 cities of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine between Feb. 24, 2022 and Oct. 30, 2023. The effort has been described in great detail in the 40-page report. (AP)

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Thousands march thru Athens: More than 25,000 people marched through central Athens on Friday to mark the 50th anniversary of a pro-democracy student uprising that was violently put down by the military dictatorship ruling Greece in 1973. The demonstration was peaceful, although minor rioting broke out at a university campus in another part of the capital after a few dozen youths set fires to dumpsters and threw petrol bombs at police who appeared on the scene.

Violence also broke out after the end of a similar march in Greece's second city of Thessaloniki, when youths threw petrol bombs and stones at police who responded with tear gas. Police said nine suspected rioters were detained. There were also minor clashes in the southern city of Patras.

The annual march in Athens started from the Polytechnic campus, which was the headquarters of the uprising, and headed toward the U.S. Embassy. America is still widely blamed in Greece for supporting the 1967-74 rightwing dictatorship during the Cold War. (AP)

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'Ensure Nagorno-Karabakh people safety': The UN top court on Friday issued an order calling on Azerbaijan to ensure the safety of people who leave, return to or remain in Nagorno-Karabakh, following the Azerbaijani military's retaking of the separatist region in September.

Armenia asked the International Court of Justice to order so-called provisional measures, guaranteeing safety and protecting property and identity documents, after Azerbaijan's army routed ethnic Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh in a 24-hour campaign that began on Sept. 19.

The region's separatist government then agreed to disband itself by the end of the year. More than 100,000 ethnic Armenians fled Nagorno-Karabakh to neighboring Armenia. Armenia last month urged judges to issue interim orders on Azerbaijan to prevent what the leader of Armenia's legal team called the "ethnic cleansing" of the Nagorno-Karabakh region from becoming irreversible. Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Elnur Mammadov denied the allegation.

"Azerbaijan has not engaged and will not engage in ethnic cleansing or any form of attack on the civilian population of Karabakh," he said at the hearings in October. He made pledges that Azerbaijan would do all it could to ensure the safety and rights of all citizens in the region. (AP)

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Sánchez beat the odds to stay PM: Spanish Socialist leader Pedro Sánchez pulled off his latest feat of political survival to get reelected as prime minister with an absolute majority in a highly fragmented parliament. Now, he will have to use all his dexterity to keep a mixed bag of supporters happy and his government in power for the next four years.

Sánchez, who has led Spain since 2018, has defied the odds before, but the ones he faces this time look especially daunting. To win the endorsement of a majority of lawmakers Thursday, he clinched deals with six small parties, including two Catalan separatist groups that demanded he take an unpopular action in return.

He agreed to push through a controversial amnesty for hundreds of people in legal trouble over the Catalonia region's failed secession attempt in 2017. Among them is the region's fugitive former president, Carles Puigdemont, who for many in Spain is public enemy No. 1 since he led the independence bid before fleeing to Belgium.

While political observers agree Sánchez has a hard road ahead, they are unwilling to start writing his political obituary just yet, especially given the record of endurance he chronicled in a 2019 memoir "A Manual of Resistance." For one thing, analysts say it is very difficult to topple a Spanish government through a parliamentary maneuver. (AP)



Britain's Prince William waves to well-wishers as he visits the Millennium Powerhouse, a multi-service youth hub which works with a wide range of local organisations with a mission to create brighter futures for young people, in Moss Side neighbourhood, in Manchester on Nov 16. (AP)

Politics

Ethics chairman launches new bid to expel Santos

Biden signs bill averting govt shutdown

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 18, (AP) - US President Joe Biden signed a temporary spending bill a day before a potential government shutdown, pushing a fight with congressional Republicans over the federal budget into the new year, as wartime aid for Ukraine and Israel remains stalled.

The measure passed the House and Senate by wide bipartisan margins this week, ensuring the government remains open until after the holiday season, and potentially giving lawmakers more time to sort out their considerable differences over government spending levels for the current budget year. Biden signed the bill Thursday in San Francisco, where he was hosting the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

News of the signing came late at night. The president signed the bill at the Legion of Honor Museum, where he held a dinner for APEC members.

Package

The spending package keeps government funding at current levels for roughly two more months while a long-term package is negotiated. It splits the deadlines for passing full-year appropriations bills into two dates: Jan 19 for some federal agencies and Feb. 2 for others, creating two dates when there will be a risk of a partial government shutdown.

The two-step approach was championed by new House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Republican, and was not favored by many in the Senate, though all but one Democrat and 10 Republicans supported it because it ensured the government would not shut down for now. Johnson has vowed that he will not support any further stopgap funding measures, known as continuing resolutions. He portrayed the temporary funding bill as setting the ground for a spending "fight" with the Senate next year.

US House Speaker **Mike Johnson** said Friday he plans to publicly release thousands of hours of footage from the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol, making good on a promise he made to far-right members of his party when he was campaigning for the job.

"This decision will provide millions of Americans, criminal defendants, public interest organizations, and the

media an ability to see for themselves what happened that day, rather than having to rely upon the interpretation of a small group of government officials," Johnson said in a statement.

The newly elected speaker said the first tranche of security footage, around 90 hours, to be released on a public committee website Friday, with the rest of the 44,000 hours expected to be posted over the next several months. In the meantime, a public viewing room will also be set up in the Capitol for viewing the footage.

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The chairman of the House Ethics Committee announced Friday he has

filed a resolution to force a vote on expelling Rep. **George Santos**, R-NY, from Congress, one day after the committee issued a withering report detailing substantial evidence that Santos converted campaign donations for his own personal use.

Santos easily survived an expulsion vote earlier this month as lawmakers in both parties stressed the need to allow due process, as Santos is also facing nearly two dozen charges in federal court. But the release of the committee's findings has generated new momentum for ousting the scandal-plagued freshman. Shortly after the report was released, Santos announced he would not seek reelection.

Officials said they haven't determined how many times Jessup was shot. (AP)

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Officials probe train crash: Federal safety officials said Friday they have launched an investigation into a Chicago commuter train crash that injured nearly 40 people but they're likely more than a year away from releasing any conclusions about what caused the incident.

National Transportation Safety Board Chairperson Jennifer Homendy said during a short news conference Friday that a team of seven investigators from her agency has started documenting the scene of the crash. They expect to spend about five days on the scene.

The investigators have not reviewed event recorders or video of the incident yet, she said. The agency expects to issue a preliminary report in a matter of weeks, she said, but didn't specify when. The agency will likely need a year to 18 months to produce a final report with an analysis of what happened, conclusions and recommendations, Homendy said. (AP)



Petronila Santos reacts to meeting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau after his visit to a grocery store in Surrey, British Columbia on Nov 14. (AP)



Hall



Carter

America

Carter in hospice care at home: Former US first lady **Rosalynn Carter** is in hospice care at home in Plains, Georgia, joining former President Jimmy Carter, who has been receiving end-of-life care since February, their family announced Friday.

The Carter family said they are "grateful for the outpouring of love and support" but asked for privacy. The Carters have been married for 77 years and are the longest-married presidential couple in US history.

The family announced earlier this year that the 96-year-old former first lady is suffering from dementia. The former president, now 99, entered hospice care at home in February but remains alert, those close to him say.

They have been together through Jimmy Carter's rise from their Georgia farm to his election to the presidency in 1976. After his 1980 defeat, the couple established The Carter Center in Atlanta as a global center to advocate human rights, democracy and public health.

"I loved politics," Rosalynn Carter told The Associated Press in 2021. She said she had "the best time" campaigning on her husband's behalf in what they both described as "a full partnership." (AP)

Shooter kills security guard: A shooter killed a security guard in the lobby of New Hampshire's state psychiatric hospital on Friday before being fatally shot by a state trooper, officials said.

The shooting happened around 3:30 pm at New Hampshire Hospital and was contained to the front lobby of the 185-bed facility. State Police Col **Mark Hall** said at a news conference. He said CPR was performed on the victim, who later died at Concord Hospital.

Authorities identified the victim Friday night as Bradley Haas, 63, a state Department of Safety security officer who was working at the front lobby entrance.

Haas lived in Franklin, a small town about 20 miles (32 kilometers) from Concord. He worked as a police officer for 28 years and rose to become police chief, according to a statement from the state attorney general's office.

All patients at the psychiatric hospital were safe, and the state trooper who killed the shooter was not wounded, according to authorities. (AP)

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Police fired 36 shots at armed man:



Emergency crews get to work on the back portion of the Amtrak train involved in a crash on Nov 16 at the Lakeside Road crossing between New Buffalo and Three Oaks, Mich. An Amtrak train heading to Chicago with 200 passengers derailed after striking an unoccupied vehicle and a tow truck in southwestern Michigan, authorities said Friday. (AP)

LatAm

'Poll results dubious'

Biden & Obrador pledge 'solidarity'

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 18, (AP): US President Joe Biden and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador pledged Friday to work side-by-side to confront illicit fentanyl trafficking into the U.S. and to manage the growing number of migrants traveling north to the border between their nation.

"Nothing is beyond our reach in my view if Mexico and the United States stand together and work together," Biden said.

Biden's relationship with López Obrador has at times been tense, in part because of Biden's willingness to criticize Mexico on topics such as fentanyl production and the killing of journalists. And López Obrador isn't afraid to snub the US leader. He skipped a Los Angeles summit last year where leaders tackled the issue of migration because the US didn't invite Cuba, Nicaragua or Venezuela. He also initially said he would skip this year's APEC conference, but changed his mind.

The two men were all smiles and compliments before the press on Friday, with Biden telling López Obrador: "I couldn't have a better partner than you," and the Mexican leader calling Biden a "good man" and an "extraordinary president."

They were in San Francisco for the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference, where Biden has held a series of face-to-face meetings with other leaders, including China's President Xi Jinping and the leaders of Japan and South Korea, as he seeks to reassure the region that the US and China are competitors, not zero-sum rivals.

Biden and Lopez Obrador set to work talking migration as the US strains to manage a rising number of southern border crossings.

They also discussed deadly fentanyl trafficking, particularly after Biden secured an agreement with Xi to curb the illicit opioid. Mexico and China are the primary sources for synthetic fentanyl trafficked into the



Xi

Trafficked

US Nearly all the chemicals needed to make it come from China, and the drugs are then mass-produced in Mexico and trafficked via cartels into the US.

"I want to tell you about my great conversation with Xi Jinping on that issue," Biden told López Obrador. The issues of fentanyl and immigration are related. Human smuggling over the border is a part of cartel operations that also include drug trafficking into the US.

"We're working side-by-side to combat organized crime," Biden said.

The powerful opioid is the deadliest drug in the US today. More than 100,000 deaths a year have been linked to drug overdoses since 2020 and about two-thirds of those are related to fentanyl. The annual death toll is more than 10 times the level in 1988, at the height of the crack epidemic.

"We're aware of the damage it poses to the United States youth," López Obrador said through an interpreter.

And migration challenges facing the US are growing increasingly intractable. Democratic leaders at the state and local level are begging for federal assistance to help care for migrant families living in squalid shelters and sleeping in police stations. Republicans are loudly critical of Biden's border policies as too lax. And Congress has not passed an immigration overhaul in decades.

Biden asked for \$14 billion from Congress for border security but the temporary spending bill he just signed did not have funding for the border, Ukraine aid or Israel.

There are rising numbers of migrants at the border. Arrests for illegal crossings along the US-Mexico line were up 21% to 218,763 in September, and Biden has repeatedly said Congress should act to fix outdated immigration laws. But in the meantime, his administration has developed policies that aim to deter migrants from making a dangerous and often deadly journey while also opening up new legal immigration pathways.

Also:

Buenos Aires, Argentina: This may sound familiar: A self-styled outsider aims to win the presidency and purge the political establishment so he can restore order to a broken nation - if only he can overcome a system rigged against him.

But this isn't former President Donald Trump, or even happening in the US. It's Argentine presidential candidate Javier Milei, the latest politician to follow Trump's playbook and claim that election results are dubious and that gatekeepers may deprive him of the nation's top job.

Analysts say it is a tactic to fire up Milei's base and promote vigilance at polling stations, or set the stage for refusing to concede a loss.

The right-wing economist rose to fame blasting the political class on television and has welcomed comparisons to Trump. His message that a corrupt elite has left the country behind resonates with Argentines coping with rising poverty and 142% annual inflation.

Milei represents upheaval, and casting doubt on the electoral system - in a nation where it is widely trusted - is true to form. Since Argentina's return to democracy a half century ago, no candidate in any national race has formally challenged results, according to the electoral appeals court.

Pre-election polls in the Nov. 19 runoff between Milei and Economy Minister Sergio Massa show a dead heat.



GUATEMALA CITY: Guatemalan prosecutors said Thursday they will seek to strip President-elect Bernardo Arévalo and several members of his party of their immunity for allegedly making social media posts that encouraged students to take over a public university in 2022.

Cultural Heritage prosecutor Ángel Saúl Sánchez announced the move aimed at Arévalo and members of his Seed Movement at a news conference while federal agents executed search warrants and sought to arrest more than 30 student members of the party.

It was only the latest legal salvo against Arévalo, an anti-corruption crusader who shocked the nation by winning the presidential election in August. The United States government, Organization of American States and other outside observers have suggested the legal attacks are an attempt to keep Arévalo from taking power in January.

Attorney General Consuelo Porras and outgoing President Alejandro Giammattei have denied political motivations.



A security guard walks beside the damaged ceiling of a shopping mall in General Santos City, South Cotabato, southern Philippines on Nov 17. A powerful undersea earthquake has shaken the southern Philippines. The US Geological Survey says the quake measured magnitude 6.7 and was located 26 kilometers

(16 miles) from Burias at the southern tip of the Philippines. Inset: In this handout photo provided by the Philippine Red Cross, volunteers attend to people affected by an earthquake that struck General Santos City, South Cotabato, southern Philippines on Friday. (AP)

Powerful quake shakes southern Philippines, causing ceilings to fall at malls

A powerful undersea earthquake shook the southern Philippines on Friday, causing ceilings in shopping malls to plunge to the ground as shoppers screamed. No tsunami warning was in effect.

The Office of Civil Defense said it was investigating a report of one death.

Gregorio Narajos, 34, was getting ready to eat at

the SM City General Santos mall when the quake hit Friday afternoon.

"We went under the table, we can't do anything else," he told The Associated Press. "People started running downstairs. We were scared because there might be a stampede, then the lights went off, the earthquake was so strong. People were

screaming and shouting, 'Oh my God! We just started praying.'"

The magnitude 6.7 quake was located 26 kilometers (16 miles) from Burias at the southern tip of the Philippines, the United States Geological Survey said. It was centered at a depth of 78 kilometers (48 miles), it said. (AP)

Asia

Taiwan envoy hopeful Biden-Xi meet will cut tensions

Biden seizes chance to refocus on Asia

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 18, (AP): Sometimes it can be easy to forget that President Joe Biden's original foreign policy priority was reasserting American influence in Asia.

After all, that was before Russian tanks tried to blitz Ukraine, and before Israel and Hamas descended into a fresh round of bloody fighting. With each new crisis, it appeared that Asia was slipping further down the presidential to-do list.

But this week was a rare opportunity for Biden to demonstrate otherwise. While playing host for an annual summit of Asian leaders in San Francisco, he could finally refocus on the continent that he views as key to the future.

"The United States remains vital to the future of the region, and the region is more vital than ever to the United States of America," he told a gathering of business executives during one of the summit's many receptions. "That's been my administration's outlook from day one."

Reshaped

Turning that vision into a reality has never been more challenging. Biden's tenure as president is being constantly reshaped by two very different and unpredictable wars in Europe and the Middle East. He's also struggling to ease doubts about his reelection chances as Donald Trump, the former Republican president, pursues a comeback bid for the White House that would upend American foreign policy.

However, those concerns faded into the background for at least a few days during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. Biden outlined a vision of collaboration and friendship for the region during a gala for visiting dignitaries on Wednesday evening.



The 92-year-old businessman who represented Taiwan at this week's

Navy divers likely hurt by Chinese navy 'unsafe' use of sonar: Aussies

BEIJING, Nov 18, (AP): Australia on Saturday accused the Chinese navy of likely causing minor injuries to Australian naval divers by operating its sonar while they were trying to clear fishing nets from their ship's propellers.

The Australian government has expressed its serious concerns to the Chinese government over what it called the unsafe and unprofessional conduct earlier this week, Defense Minister Richard Marles said in a statement on his official website.

There was no immediate comment from the Chinese side. The US, Canadian and Australian militaries have complained multiple times about what they say have been dangerous actions by the Chinese navy and air force in the western Pacific. Analysts fear a collision or other accident could spark an international incident and escalate into conflict.

Also:

TAIPEI, Taiwan: Taiwan's two main opposition parties have failed to agree on a joint candidate for president, once again throwing into

doubt their ability to unseat the ruling party in January's election.

The Nationalist Party and the Taiwan People's Party were expected to unveil an agreed-upon candidate at a news conference Saturday. Instead, they announced the need for further consultations after a disagreement over how to use polling data to make the selection.

TOKYO: Daisaku Ikeda, who headed Soka Gakkai, a Japanese Buddhist organization, that includes famed musician Herbie Hancock and other celebrities in its fold, has died at 95, the Japanese religious organization said Saturday.

Ikeda died on Nov. 15 at his home in Tokyo, "from natural causes," the group said in a statement, without giving details.

Along with his two predecessors, Ikeda is credited with reviving Nichiren Buddhism in the modern age, making it more accessible for present-day practitioners by emphasizing a philosophy of goodness, respect for others and being happy and at peace.

chairs.

"You don't have to be a leader to know that if there is no peace, there is no supply chain to start with," Chang said at a news conference at the close of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

Chang said the Biden-Xi meeting was a "good" one, pointing to their agreement to resume high-level military communications.

summit of Asia-Pacific leaders in San Francisco expressed hope Friday that the meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping would help to reduce tensions between the two superpowers and in the region.

Morris Chang, the founder of the microchip giant Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, also suggested the meeting could help to promote economic stability and reliable supply

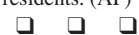
Floods death toll rises to 130: At least 130 people have died in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia following heavy rains that trig-

gered what aid agencies described as flooding seen only once every 100 years.

Somalia bore the brunt of the flash floods

that inundated the Horn of Africa region. The National Disaster Management Agency said 51 people have been killed across the country and a half-million displaced since the rains started in October.

Emergency workers fear the death toll could rise since there were many people still unaccounted for. Parts of the country remained cut off and inaccessible after roads and bridges were washed away, marooning thousands of residents. (AP)



Former c.bank chief arraigned: The former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, who was removed from office in June, was on Friday charged with procurement fraud at a local court, which remanded him in prison pending his bail ruling.

In amended charges, the Nigerian government said Godwin Emezie illegally awarded contracts for dozens of vehicles during his time as the governor of the apex bank in Africa's largest economy, according to court documents.

The charge sheet alleged that Emezie used his position as the bank's governor to "confer a corrupt advantage" on another member of staff by awarding the contracts to a company with links to that staff member, thereby breaching Nigeria's procurement laws. (AP)



Residents of Chamwana Muma village walk through flood water after using a makeshift bridge to cross the swollen River Tana, in Tana Delta, Kenya, on Nov 15, (AP)



Sonko



Weah

Africa

Weah concedes defeat: Liberian President George Weah conceded defeat late Friday after provisional results from this week's runoff vote showed challenger Joseph Boakai beating him by just over a percentage point.

Elections officials said that with 99.58% of ballots counted from Tuesday's election, Boakai was in the lead, with 50.89% to Weah's 49.11%. The results were a dramatic reversal from the election six years ago when Weah easily beat Boakai in the second round.

"The Liberian people have spoken and we have heard their voice," Weah said in an address to the nation, adding that Boakai "is in a lead that we cannot surpass."

The concession speech given even before official results were announced in Liberia comes at a time when there have been growing concerns about the decline of democracy in West Africa. The region has seen a spate of military coups over the last several years, including one earlier this year carried out in Gabon in the aftermath of a presidential election. (AP)



Court blocks Sonko from running: Senegal's highest court on Friday effectively barred detained opposition leader Ousmane Sonko from running for president early next year by overturning a decision that would have reinstated him to the West African country's voter rolls.

The legal setback for the embattled politician came the same day that a West African regional court dismissed his case seeking his reinstatement. Sonko was recently returned to a Dakar jail after being hospitalized for several weeks amid a hunger strike.

Senegal's government formally dissolved Sonko's political party earlier this year and canceled his voter registration after he was convicted of corrupting youth. His followers maintain the charge and prosecution were politically motivated and aimed at derailing his candidacy in the February election. (AP)



US President Joe Biden meets with Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit on Nov 17, in San Francisco. (AP)

TikTok, Meta challenge Europe's new rules

TikTok and Facebook owner Meta are filing legal challenges against new European Union rules designed to counter the dominance of digital giants and make online competition fairer by giving consumers more choice.

TikTok said in a blog post Thursday that it's appealing being classified as an online "gatekeeper" by the Digital Markets Act, arguing that it's playing the role of a new competitor in so-

cial media that is taking on entrenched players.

Meta said a day earlier that it disagrees with the 27-nation bloc's decision to include its Marketplace and Messenger as gateway services under the new rules, adding that it is seeking "clarification on specific points of law."

The Digital Markets Act will take effect by March, with a list of dos and don'ts for big tech

companies aimed at giving users more choices and threatening big penalties if they don't comply.

Labeling TikTok a gatekeeper undermines the DMA's goal by "protecting actual gatekeepers from newer competitors like TikTok," the company said, adding that the video-sharing app is "arguably the most capable challenger" to bigger social media rivals. (AP)

US imposes new sanctions over Russian oil price cap violations

The U.S. Treasury on Thursday imposed a new round of sanctions on firms and ships that used American service providers to carry Russian crude oil in violation of the multinational price cap - and imposed another set of sanctions on a group of Balkan people and firms tied to Kremlin influence in the region.

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control imposed sanctions on three United Arab Emirates-based

firms and blocked three ships that used U.S. service providers to carry Russian crude oil above the \$60 price cap. The sanctions block access to U.S. property and bank accounts and prevent the targeted people and companies from doing business with Americans. The actions on the ships blacklist them from transporting goods with U.S. service providers.

The U.S., along with the EU, countries in the Group of Seven

and Australia, imposed a \$60 a barrel limit last year on what Russia could charge for its oil. The cap is designed to deprive the Kremlin of revenue to fund its war in Ukraine, forcing the Russian government either to sell its oil at a discount or find a costly alternative shipping network. Treasury in October imposed its first set of sanctions on two companies that shipped Russian oil in violation of a multinational price cap. (AP)

Sweden could lead the way with this efficient public transportation

Electric ferries may set new standard around clean transportation

STOCKHOLM, Nov 18, (AP) - Many cities around the world see clean and efficient public transport as a crucial way to lower their carbon emissions. For cities with waterways, a high-tech ferry in Sweden could soon set a new standard.

Speeding through Stockholm's archipelago, electric boat maker Candela's new P-12 vessel barely makes a sound as it glides over a meter (3 feet) above the water. Its developers hope the ferry, which was unveiled this week, will yield a new era of waterborne public transport.

"This is a real leap forward," said Erik Eklund, who is in charge of the commercial vessel division at Candela. "The energy savings we get by going airborne on the foils give us the speed and range we need to make this work on batteries."

The vessel is designed to carry 30 passengers at a maximum speed of 30 knots (56 kph or 35 mph) - considerably faster than other electric passenger ferries. It achieves this with carbon fiber hydrofoil wings that lift the boat out of the water, reducing drag.

Candela says its technology reduces the energy per passenger-kilometer by 95% compared with the diesel ships that are currently transporting passengers across the picturesque Stockholm archipelago, which is made up of tens of thousands of islands and skerries stretching out into the Baltic Sea.

An added benefit is that the vessel is exempt from the 12-knot speed limit in Stockholm because it leaves no wake - waves made by a boat's displacement through water that increase with speed and could swamp other vessels or erode the shoreline.

The P-12 is still in testing but is set to enter service in July between

the Stockholm suburb of Ekero and the city center as part of a nine-month pilot project. The ferry will cut the travel time from Ekero by conventional public transport from 55 minutes to 25 minutes.

The company wants to build on lessons learned from the launch of its smaller electric hydrofoil leisure boat. Onboard, engineers are fine-tuning the hydrofoils, which are regulated by a computer 100 times per second to compensate for the sea state and negate the effects of any waves. The vessel can operate in waves of up to two meters (6.5 feet).

Transport

Candela hopes that as well as Stockholm, cities like San Francisco, New York and Venice will lead the electrification of waterborne public transport.

Gustav Hemming, Vice President of the Regional Executive Board in Stockholm, said the Swedish capital is on board.

"The ambition is, for the Stockholm region, to expand public transport on water, because we think that is one of the keys to make public transport more attractive," he said.

There were around 6.2 million public transport boat journeys in the Stockholm region in 2022, and while boat traffic remains a small part of the entire public transit system, it is the fastest-growing mode of public transport after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our roads are congested and building new ones is very expensive and not very environmentally friendly," Hemming said, looking out onto the open waters of Stockholm on a cold autumnal day. "But here we have our traditional infrastructure. There is no congestion on the water."

Deal allows US investment & tech

US and Philippines sign a nuclear cooperation pact

MANILA, Philippines, Nov 18, (AP) - The United States and the Philippines have signed a nuclear cooperation pact under which U.S. investment and technologies are to help the Southeast Asian nation transition to cleaner energy and bolster its power supply.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. witnessed the signing of the deal by his energy secretary and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

"We see nuclear energy becoming a part of the Philippines' energy mix by 2032 and we are more than happy to pursue this path with the United States as one of our partners," Marcos said at the signing ceremony.

He said the pact, known as a Section 123 agreement, would support the development of reliable, affordable and sustainable power in the Philippines. It will also open doors for U.S. companies to invest and participate in nuclear power projects, he said.

Blinken said negotiations with the Philippines were completed within a year, the fastest for a Section 123 agreement, which is required under the U.S. Atomic Energy Act to allow the transfer of nuclear equipment

and material for peaceful uses.

He noted that the Philippines has set an ambitious target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030. With its peak energy demand expected to quadruple by 2040, nuclear energy will help it meet its needs in a sustainable way, he said.

"With access to U.S. material and equipment, the U.S. and the Philippines will be able to work together to deploy advanced new technologies, including small modular reactors, to support climate goals as well as critical energy security and baseload power needs within the Philippines," he said.

"In a nation of more than 7,000 islands, small modular reactors -- some just the size of a city bus -- can generate energy locally and conveniently," he added.

The Philippines began building a nuclear generating plant, the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, in the 1970s but it was never completed after questions were raised about its cost and safety, including its location near a major fault and the Pinatubo volcano.

The United States has 23 Section 123 agreements in force that govern peaceful nuclear cooperation with 47 countries, the International Atomic Energy Agency and Taiwan.

N. Jersey moving forward with its offshore wind power goals

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Nov 18, (AP) - Despite the loss of two major offshore wind farm projects when Danish developer Orsted pulled out of New Jersey, the state is moving forward with its plans to support and grow the nascent industry.

The state Board of Public Utilities on Friday voted to seek bids for a transmission facility into which several offshore wind projects can plug, an important part of getting the power from ocean-based wind turbines into the onshore electrical grid.

But on a more elemental level, Friday's vote represented a vote of confidence in offshore wind from a state that wants to be the East Coast leader in the industry.

"Recent setbacks will not prevent us from moving forward with our commitment to offshore wind," said Christine Guhl-Sadovy, the board's president. "Offshore wind is and continues to be the economic development opportunity of a generation, and remains a key tool in climate change mitigation."

The board authorized a solicitation of proposals for an energy transmission system. That system would be "an open-access transmission facility, located either in the Atlantic Ocean or onshore, used to facilitate the collection of offshore wind energy or its delivery to the electric transmission system in this state," according to a 2019 law.

It would include concrete structures and empty pipes through which power cables would pass. They would be installed in a single construction effort, capable of servicing multiple offshore wind farms.

James Ferris, the deputy director

of the board's clean energy division, said that installing the project all at once "would minimize environmental and community impacts by resulting in a single shore crossing."

Those eligible to apply include power transmission developers and owners, and offshore wind developers, Ferris said.

The board vote came nearly three weeks after Orsted, the world's largest offshore wind developer, scrapped its Ocean Wind I and II projects off the coast of New Jersey. The company cited inflation, supply chain problems and a failure to secure as much government financial subsidies as it wanted as reasons the projects were no longer feasible.

That sent shock waves through the offshore wind industry. It also heightened its opponents, who said Orsted's decision to walk away from New Jersey and write off \$4 billion in losses, mostly due to the cancellations, shows the industry is inherently unprofitable without massive government subsidies.

Shortly after Orsted scraped its projects, numerous community groups celebrated, and promised to oppose other pending wind farms, including one by Atlantic Shores, a project by EDF/Shell.

"The communities of southern New Jersey are surely celebrating the end of the project," said Joseph Mancini, mayor of Long Beach Township. "New Jersey can harness sustainable energy solutions more effectively without succumbing to the industrialization of the ocean. There are smarter, more considerate avenues to explore that protect our state's interests and national natural treasures."

EU countries to stop 'shipping' plastic waste to poor countries

Major breakthrough reached

The Conversation

BRUSSELS, Nov 18, (AP) - The European Union made a major breakthrough Friday in efforts to stop sending its plastic trash to poor countries.

Under a tentative agreement, the 27 EU countries will no longer be able to export their plastic waste outside the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development club of wealthy countries.

The text now needs to be formally approved by both the council representing the EU member states and the EU Parliament to enter into force.

Recycled

Only a third of plastic waste in Europe is recycled, and half of the plastic collected for recycling is exported to be treated in countries outside the EU.

"The EU will finally assume responsibility for its plastic waste by banning its export to non-OECD countries," said Pernille Weiss, the EU Parliament rapporteur. "Once again, we follow our vision that waste is a resource when it is properly managed, but should not in any case be causing harm to the environment or human health."

In addition, plastic waste exports to the 38 OECD countries "will be subject to stricter conditions, including an obligation to apply the prior written notification and consent procedure, and closer compliance monitoring," the Parliament said.

Negotiations

The deal was announced as United Nations-led negotiations for a treaty aimed at cutting plastics pollution take place in Kenya.

After a period of five years following the introduction of the regulation, non-OECD countries will have the option to ask the EU Commission - the bloc's executive arm - for the right to import plastic waste and the ban will be lifted if they prove they can treat it properly.

The EU Commission said negotiators agreed to set up a group to coordinate the action of member countries to make sure illegal shipments are detected and prevented.

According to EU data, the global production of plastic has grown from 1.5 million tonnes in 1950 to 359 million tonnes in 2018. As part of the Green Deal, 55% of plastic packaging waste should be recycled by 2030.

Companies stay because the money is just too good

China making it 'incredibly hard' for foreign businesses to operate

By Amitrajeet A. Batabyal
Rochester Institute of Technology

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

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Doing business in China can be a difficult and contentious proposition for companies in many countries. Yet even with charges of intellectual property theft, forced partnerships and tight restrictions on doing business, China continues to attract foreign capital. Why do businesses want to invest in China when there are so many other "business-friendly" countries and financial markets that support foreign investment?

The United States has accused China of stealing the intellectual property of American firms, theft that is estimated at US\$600 billion annually. As a precondition for doing business in China, American and other firms may be subjected to the forced transfer of their technology. In addition, regulations can require foreign investors to partner and set up a joint venture with a Chinese firm before they can do business in China.

In 2001, after becoming a member of the World Trade Organization, China promised to open up its banking, telecommunications and electronic payment processing sectors. But action in these areas has been nonexistent or, at best, half-hearted. The Chinese telecommunications industry, for example, remains under government control, and the government has barred Facebook and Google from offering their services in China.

Doing Business 2020, a publication of the World Bank, ranks China - in terms of the availability of credit and the ease and magnitude of tax payments - 80th and 105th, respectively, out of 190 nations in the world. Using 10 other indicators, such as protection offered to minority investors, registering property and enforcing contracts, China ranks 31st out of 190 nations in the world for the overall ease of doing business. By contrast, the U.S. ranks 6th out of 190, according to the same report.

In addition, doing business in China can be politically risky. Negotiations with the Communist-led government can be difficult; it has a political system with a reputa-

tion for a lack of transparency and intolerance for dissent. The nation has significant rules about the inflows and outflows of capital that can change without public notice. Corruption is pervasive in China, which hurts foreign investors like the United States.

Despite these negative business conditions, according to the 2020 World Investment Report, in 2018 and 2019 China attracted a staggering \$138 billion and \$141 billion in foreign investment, respectively. Focusing on just 2019, this massive foreign investment into China exceeds the GDPs of entire nations such as Kuwait - \$137 billion; Kenya - \$98 billion; and Venezuela - \$70 billion. In 2019, China was the world's second largest recipient of foreign investment, second only to the United States.

Unfriendly

Despite being relatively business-unfriendly, if the world's 31st ranked nation can attract such large amounts of foreign investment, surely the world's first ranked nation must be doing as well as China, if not better. But New Zealand, ranked first in the world for its business-friendly climate, doesn't come close to China in terms of foreign investment.

On the two metrics - credit availability, which measures how easy it is to obtain credit; and tax payments, which measure the straightforwardness and the magnitude of tax payments made to the country where business is being done - New Zealand ranks 1st and 9th in the world. And for overall ease of doing business, by contrast to China's 31st rank, New Zealand ranks first in the world.

Despite that honor, in 2018 and 2019 New Zealand attracted only \$1.95 billion and \$5.43 billion, respectively, in foreign investment. In other words, in 2018 and 2019, China attracted 71 times and 26 times more foreign investment than New Zealand, even though New Zealand is considered a stable democracy with a lower political risk than other forms of government and the least corrupt nation in the world. What explains this vast disparity in foreign investment?

The size of a national market - or scale - matters greatly for business. The more consumers that a market comprises, the more products have

the potential to be sold. In 2019, China's population was about 1.4 billion, as compared to New Zealand's population of about 4.8 million. In addition, when measured by gross domestic product, the Chinese economy is the second largest in the world, as compared to New Zealand's economy, which ranks 51st. Whether the issue is viewed in terms of the sheer number of consumers or the total size of the "economic pie" that is GDP, the Chinese economy overshadows the New Zealand economy.

This enormous disparity in size or scale matters. Even though China is a significantly less friendly place in which to do business relative to New Zealand, it still makes sense for American and other multinational firms to invest in China.

From the standpoint of financial gain, consider the profits of a firm that invests in China. The markup is the difference between the price a firm charges for a product and the cost of producing an additional unit of the product. Profit, then, is simply the markup multiplied by the number of products that can be sold. The larger the market, the more product can be sold. More sales translate into more profit. This explains why firms throughout the world are prepared to tolerate questionable Chinese business practices and still invest in China.

One example of doing business in China, despite the many constraints, comes from Hollywood. Disney produced "Mulan," a \$200 million live-action film that took more than five years to make. Disney shot a large portion of the film in New Zealand with the intention of releasing it in China, primarily to gain access to that vast market and to maximize profits. Disney bowed to many Chinese demands to ensure that "Mulan" could be released in China without objections from Chinese officials.

Disney's relationship and concessions to China are an example of why so many foreign investors continue to pursue business in China - profit. Despite the institutional restrictions on investment, with access to more than 1.3 billion people, many of them potential consumers, and a flourishing GDP, China represents a global market opportunity that multinational companies around the world continue to exploit. (AP)

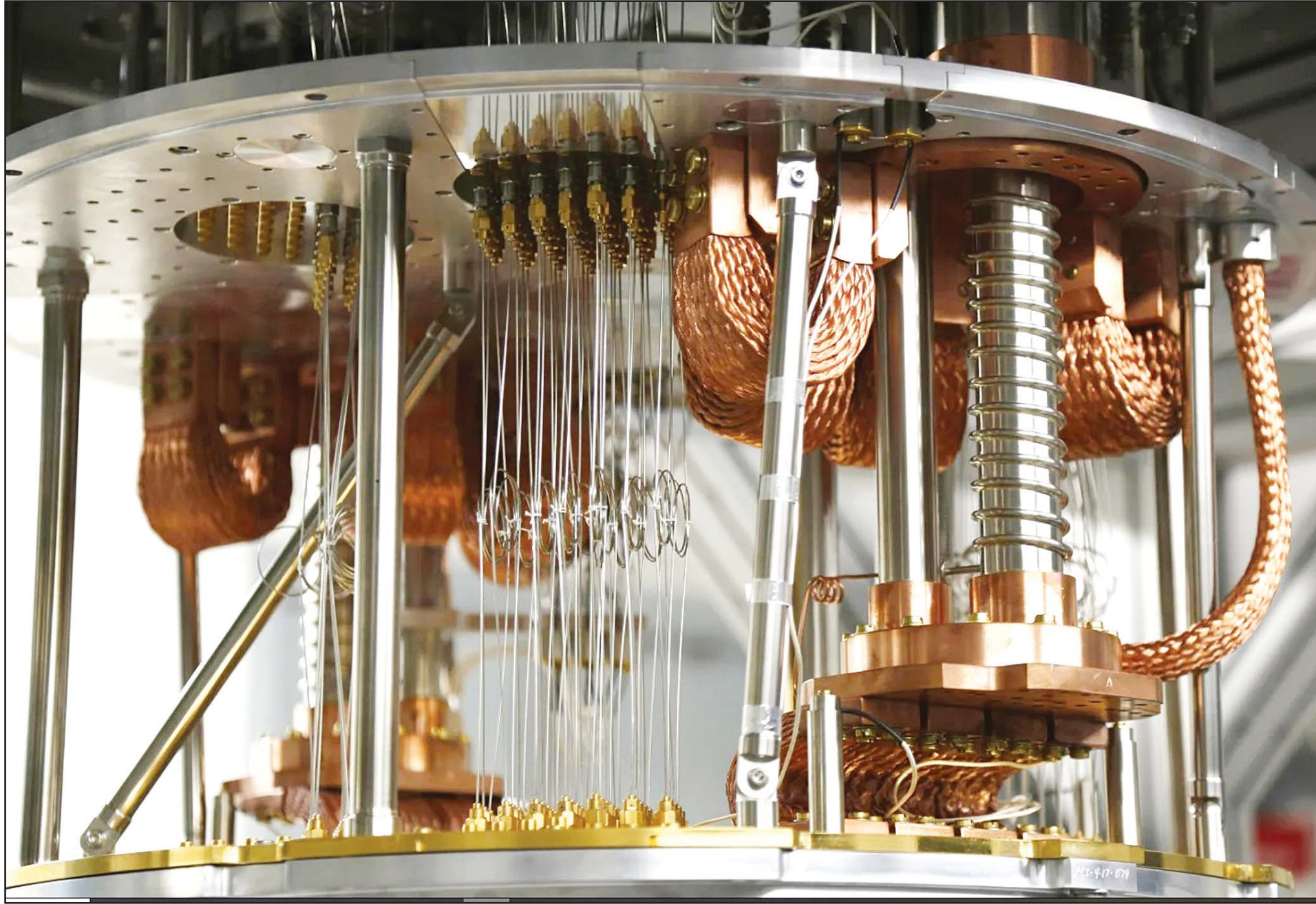
INNOVATION

Business Plus



Scientist explains milestone marking the arrival of extremely powerful computers

From qubits to quantum ... tech at crucial juncture



This Feb. 27, 2018 photo, shows electronics for use in a quantum computer in the quantum computing lab at the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. (AP)

By Daniel Lidar

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

Quantum advantage is the milestone the field of quantum computing is fervently working toward, where a quantum computer can solve problems that are beyond the reach of the most powerful non-quantum, or classical, computers.

Quantum refers to the scale of atoms and molecules where the laws of physics as we experience them break down and a different, counterintuitive set of laws apply. Quantum computers take advantage of these strange behaviors to solve problems.

There are some types of problems that are impractical for classical computers to solve, such as cracking state-of-the-art encryption algorithms. Research in recent decades has shown that quantum computers have the potential to solve some of these problems. If a quantum computer can be built that actually does solve one of these problems, it will have demon-

strated quantum advantage.

I am a physicist who studies quantum information processing and the control of quantum systems. I believe that this frontier of scientific and technological innovation not only promises groundbreaking advances in computation but also represents a broader surge in quantum technology, including significant advancements in quantum cryptography and quantum sensing.

Central to quantum computing is the quantum bit, or qubit. Unlike classical bits, which can only be in states of 0 or 1, a qubit can be in any state that is some combination of 0 and 1. This state of neither just 1 or just 0 is known as a quantum superposition. With every additional qubit, the number of states that can be represented by the qubits doubles.

This property is often mistaken for the source of the power of quantum computing. Instead, it comes down to an intricate interplay of superposition, interference and entanglement.

Interference involves manipulating qubits so that their states combine constructively during computations to amplify correct solutions and destructively to suppress the wrong answers.

Constructive interference is what happens when the peaks of two waves - like sound waves or ocean waves - combine to create a higher peak. Destructive interference is what happens when a wave peak and a wave trough combine and cancel each other out. Quantum algorithms, which are few and difficult to devise, set up a sequence of interference patterns that yield the correct answer to a problem.

Entanglement establishes a uniquely quantum correlation between qubits: The state of one cannot be described independently of the others, no matter how far apart the qubits are. This is what Albert Einstein famously dismissed as "spooky action at a distance." Entanglement's collective behavior, orchestrated through a quantum computer, enables computational speed-ups that are beyond the reach of classical computers.

Quantum computing has a range of potential uses where it can outperform classical computers. In cryptography, quantum computers pose both an opportunity and a challenge. Most famously, they have the potential to decipher current encryption algorithms, such as the widely used RSA scheme.

One consequence of this is that today's encryption protocols need to be reengineered to be resistant to future quantum attacks. This recognition has led to the burgeoning field of post-quantum cryptography. After a long process, the National Institute of Standards and Technology recently selected four quantum-resistant algorithms and has begun the process of readying them so that organizations around the world can use them in their encryption technology.

In addition, quantum computing can dramatically speed up quantum simulation: the ability to predict the outcome of experiments operating in the quantum realm. Famed physicist Richard Feynman envisioned this possibility more than 40 years ago. Quantum simulation offers the potential for considerable advancements in chemistry and materials science, aiding in areas such as the intricate modeling of molecular structures for drug discovery and enabling the discovery or creation of materials with novel properties.

Another use of quantum information technology is quantum sensing: detecting and measuring physical properties like electromagnetic ener-

gy, gravity, pressure and temperature with greater sensitivity and precision than non-quantum instruments. Quantum sensing has myriad applications in fields such as environmental monitoring, geological exploration, medical imaging and surveillance.

Initiatives such as the development of a quantum internet that interconnects quantum computers are crucial steps toward bridging the quantum and classical computing worlds. This network could be secured using quantum cryptographic protocols such as quantum key distribution, which enables ultra-secure communication channels that are protected against computational attacks - including those using quantum computers.

Despite a growing application suite for quantum computing, developing new algorithms that make full use of the quantum advantage - in particular in machine learning - remains a critical area of ongoing research.

The quantum computing field faces significant hurdles in hardware and software development. Quantum computers are highly sensitive to any unintentional interactions with their environments. This leads to the phenomenon of decoherence, where qubits rapidly degrade to the 0 or 1 states of classical bits.

Building large-scale quantum computing systems capable of delivering on the promise of quantum speed-ups requires overcoming decoherence. The key is developing effective methods of suppressing and correcting quantum errors, an area my own research is focused on.

In navigating these challenges, numerous quantum hardware and software startups have emerged alongside well-established technology industry players like Google and IBM. This industry interest, combined with significant investment from governments worldwide, underscores a collective recognition of quantum technology's transformative potential. These initiatives foster a rich ecosystem where academia and industry collaborate, accelerating progress in the field.

Quantum computing may one day be as disruptive as the arrival of generative AI. Currently, the development of quantum computing technology is at a crucial juncture. On the one hand, the field has already shown early signs of having achieved a narrowly specialized quantum advantage. Researchers at Google and later a team of researchers in China demonstrated quantum advantage for generating a list of random numbers with certain properties. My research team demonstrated a quantum speed-up for a random number guessing game.

On the other hand, there is a tangible risk of entering a "quantum winter," a period of reduced investment if practical results fail to materialize in the near term.

While the technology industry is working to deliver quantum advantage in products and services in the near term, academic research remains focused on investigating the fundamental principles underpinning this new science and technology. This ongoing basic research, fueled by enthusiastic cadres of new and bright students of the type I encounter almost every day, ensures that the field will continue to progress. (AP)

Will AI catapult humanity to new heights or a dystopian nightmare?

Leaders, tech titans probe AI's promise and peril

As our interactions with technology become more and more natural, computers will increasingly be able to see and interpret our intent and make sense of the world around us

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 18, (AP): US President Joe Biden and other global leaders have spent the past few days melding minds with Silicon Valley titans in San Francisco, their discussions frequently focusing on artificial intelligence, a technology expected to reshape the world, for better or worse.

For all the collective brainpower on hand for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference, there were no concrete answers to a pivotal question: Will AI turn be the springboard that catapults humanity to new heights, or the dystopian nightmare that culminates in its demise?

"The world is at an inflection point - this is not a hyperbole," Biden said Thursday at a CEO summit held in conjunction with APEC. "The decisions we make today are going to shape the direction of the world for decades to come."

Not surprisingly, most of the technology CEOs who appeared at the summit were generally upbeat about AI's potential to unleash breakthroughs that will make workers more produc-

tive and eventually improve standards of living.

None were more bullish than Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, whose software company has invested more than \$10 billion in OpenAI, the startup behind the AI chatbot ChatGPT.

Like many of his peers, Nadella said he believes AI will turn out to be as transformative as the advent of personal computers were during the 1980s, the internet's rise during the 1990s and the introduction of smartphones during the 2000s.

"We finally have a way to interact with computing using natural language. That is, we finally have a technology that understands us, not the other way around," Nadella said at the CEO summit. "As our interactions with technology become more and more natural, computers will increasingly be able to see and interpret our intent and make sense of the world around us."

Google CEO Sundar Pichai, whose internet company is increasingly infusing its influential search engine with AI, is similarly optimistic about

humanity's ability to control the technology in ways that will make the world a better place.

"I think we have to work hard to harness it," Pichai said. "But that is true of every other technological advance we've had before. It was true for the industrial revolution. I think we can learn from those things."

The enthusiasm exuded by Nadella and Pichai has been mirrored by investors who have been betting AI will pay off for Microsoft and Google. The accelerating advances in AI are the main reasons why the stock prices of both Microsoft and Google's corporate parent, Alphabet Inc., have both soared by more than 50% so far this year. Those gains have combined to produce an additional \$1.6 trillion in shareholder wealth.

But the perspective from outside the tech industry is more circumspect.

"Everyone has learned to spell AI, they don't really know what quite to do about it," said former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who is now director of the Hoover Institution

at Stanford University. "They have enormous benefit written all over them. They also have a lot of cautionary tales about how technology can be misused."

Robert Moritz, global chairman of the consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, said there are legitimate concerns about the "Doomsday discussions" centered on the effects of AI, potentially about the likelihood of supplanting the need for people to perform a wide range of jobs.

Companies have found ways to train people who lose their jobs in past waves of technological upheaval, Moritz said, and that will have to happen again or "we will have a mismatch, which will bring more unrest, which we cannot afford to have."

San Francisco, APEC's host city, is counting on the multibillion-dollar investments in AI and the expansion of payrolls among startups such as OpenAI and Anthropic to revive the fortunes of a city that's still struggling to adjust to a pandemic-driven shift that has led to more people working

from home.

"We are in the spring of yet another innovative boom," San Francisco Mayor London Breed said, while boasting that eight of the biggest AI-centric companies are based in the city.

The existential threat to humanity posed by AI is one of the reasons that led tech mogul Elon Musk to spend some of his estimated fortune of \$240 billion to launch a startup called xAI during the summer. Musk had been scheduled to discuss his hopes and fears surrounding AI during the CEO summit with Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff, but canceled Thursday because of an undisclosed conflict.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman predicted AI will prove to be "the greatest leap forward of any of the big technological revolutions we've had so far." But he also acknowledged the need for guardrails to protect humanity from the existential threat posed by the quantum leaps being taking by computers.

"I really think the world is going to rise to the occasion and everybody wants to do the right thing," Altman said.

editor's choice



Harrowing Ukraine war docu '20 Days in Mariupol' now on TV

Television

NEW YORK, Nov 18, (AP) — The visceral documentary "20 Days in Mariupol," about Russia's early assault on the Ukrainian city, will soon reach its widest audience yet.

The 94-minute film, a joint production by The Associated Press and PBS "Frontline," has been met with critical acclaim and an audience award at the Sundance Film Festival. AP journalist Mstyslav Chernov directed the movie from 30 hours of footage shot in Mariupol in the opening days of the war. Chernov and AP colleagues Evgeniy Maloletka, a photographer, and producer Vasilisa Stepanenko were the last international journalists in the city before escaping.

"I thought I should do something more. I should do something more with that 30 hours of footage to tell a bigger story and more context to show the audience of the scale," Chernov has said.

After screenings in dozens of cities, "20 Days in Mariupol" will air on PBS stations in the US beginning Tuesday. As it heads to home and streaming devices, here are details on how it came together and where you can watch it.

PBS shows air depending on local schedules, so it's best to check for when the documentary will air on the "Frontline" website at <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/schedule/>.

"Frontline" episodes are also available after they air on the PBS app, which also includes other ways to purchase them.

It is an intense account of the war's early days. Death

abounds. Chernov, Maloletka and Stepanenko documented fighting in the streets, the crushing strain on Mariupol's besieged residents and attacks that left pregnant women, children and others dead.

The trailer provides some sense of difficult scenes in the film. The film has gotten excellent critical reception and won numerous awards, including two Critics Choice honors this week. It currently has a 100% rating on the film review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes.

"Watching Chernov's film is a humanitarian duty," Harper's Bazaar said.

Tragedy

The film is also a New York Times Critic's Pick, with reviewer Jason Farago noting: "This film is very hard to watch, and so it should be, though its episodic structure makes it somewhat easier to endure."

"What comes through most vividly, other than the human tragedy on display, is the vital importance of war correspondents and the courage and ingenuity they must possess in order to work under such life-threatening conditions," The Hollywood Reporter said in its review.

Chernov and the AP team could only send limited footage and dispatches during their 20 days in Mariupol.

Once they were safely outside the city, the team was able to review their footage and Chernov considered what to do with it. He wanted to focus on the time the team was in the city and narrated the film himself.

"It's OK to tell the audiences about your emotions," he said. "It's just important to not let those emotions dictate what you show and don't show ... While narrated by me, I still tried to keep it fair."

"Frontline" producer Michelle Mizner edited "20 Days." Chernov's first-person account of fleeing the city - with Russian soldiers hunting for the AP team - tells the amazing backstory behind their reporting.

For months after leaving Mariupol, the AP team continued to document the conflict in Mariupol, including a detailed investigation into a Russian attack on a theater that killed an estimated 600 civilians and Russia's efforts to scrub the city's identity after taking control of it.

The team, which included investigative correspondent Lori Hinnant, won the Pulitzer Prize for public service. The Pulitzer website includes links to the team's stories and videos. AP's coverage of the war, in Mariupol and beyond, also won the breaking news photography Pulitzer this year.

AP and "Frontline" also produced a project tracking potential war crimes, including two short documentaries that can be found on PBS' site.

Variety



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Joaquin Phoenix in a scene from 'Napoleon.' (AP)

Film

Phoenix leads in a provocative take on male power

Scott's 'Napoleon' has plenty of ego

By Jake Coyle

For such a famed historical figure, Napoleon has made only fleeting appearances in movies since Abel Gance's 1927 silent film.

Stanley Kubrick had grand designs for a Napoleon epic that went unmade. Napoleon and his bicorne hat - more icon of history than a real character - mostly only pops up in time-traveling odysseys like "Time Bandits" or "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure."

The party, though, is finally on in Ridley Scott's "Napoleon," starring Joaquin Phoenix. Scott doesn't do anything small, not even famously diminutive French emperors. And his two-hour-38-minute big-screen biopic serves up a heaping historical spectacle complete with bloody European battles and massive military maneuvers.

But don't mistake "Napoleon" for your average historical epic. Our first sense that this may not be a grand glorification of a Great Man of history comes early in the film, when a 24-year-old Bonaparte leads the siege on the British troops controlling the port city of Toulon. When Napoleon, then a major, charges forward in the fight, he's visibly terrified, even panting. He looks more like Phoenix's anxious protagonist in "Beau Is Afraid" than the man who would become France's Caesar. Napoleon doesn't storm the gates so much as lurch desperately at them.

And for the rest of Scott's film and Phoenix's riveting performance, Napoleon's actions are never much more complicated than that. He assumes power cavalierly. His coup d'état against the French Directory in 1799 is a ramshackle farce. He flings his armies around the continent without the slightest concern. He's prone to petulant rages, screaming at the British: "You think you're so great because you have boats!"

"Napoleon" subscribes more to the Not-So-Great Man theory of history. This Napoleon isn't extraordinary nor is he much of a man. He's a boyishly impulsive, thin-skinned brute, careening his way through Europe and leaving battlefields of dead soldiers in his wake. When he, while on a campaign in Egypt, is informed over lunch that his wife, Joséphine (Vanessa Kirby), is having an affair back in Paris, he responds curtly to the messenger: "No desert for you."

For more than 200 years, characterizations of Napoleon have ranged from genius reformer born out of the French Revolution to marauding tyrant whose wars left three million dead. Napoleon, himself, helped shape his legacy while exiled on St. Helena with a self-serving memoir. Some of the titans of 19th century literature reckoned with him. Victor Hugo wrote Napoleon lost at Waterloo because he had grown "troublesome to" Tolstoy, in "War and Peace," was less impressed, calling him, "that most insignificant instrument of history."

In "Napoleon," which begins with Marie Antoinette at the guillotine and ends with Napoleon on St. Helena where he died at age 51 in 1821, it's startling how much disregard the movie has for its protagonist. Hollywood historical epics have traditionally leaned toward aggrandizement, not the undressing of fragile, deluded male egos who exclaim over dinner: "Destiny has brought me here! Destiny has brought me this lamb chop!"

Portrait

Here is a sweeping historical tapestry - no one does it better today than Scott - with a damning, almost satirical portrait at its center. That mix - Scott's spectacle and Phoenix's the-emperor-has-no-clothes performance - makes "Napoleon" a rivetingly off-kilter experience.

It's not always a smooth mix. Phoenix's characterization may at times have more in common with some of his past depictions of melancholy loners ("The Master," "The Joker") than any factual record of Napoleon. A quality like ambition, you'd think, would be prominent in depicting Napoleon. He was a notorious workaholic, meticulously organized and an energetic intellectual - little of which is present here, making Napoleon's rise to power sometimes hard to fathom.

But that's also part of the point of "Napoleon," which surely has some contemporary echoes. There are plenty of enablers along the way (a highlight of the supporting cast is Paul Rhys as the scheming diplomat Talleyrand) as the film marches through major events like the fall of Robespierre, the 1799 coup, Napoleon making himself Emperor in 1804 and the triumphant Battle of Austerlitz. The last is Scott's finest set piece in the film, ending in a rout of the

Russian forces as they flee over a frozen pond while the bombardment of cannons plunges them into an icy grave.

But in David Scarpa's screenplay, the real through line in "Napoleon" isn't the string of battles leading up to the downfall we all know is coming at Waterloo. (There, Rupert Everett's sneering Duke of Wellington enlivens the military tactics.) It's Napoleon's relationship with Joséphine that makes the main thread.

When he first sees her across a crowded party, he stands transfixed. Anyone would be. The slinky Kirby, sporting a pixie cut, rivals Phoenix for most potent presence in "Napoleon." She has a complete hold on Napoleon, who turns out to be no more suave in the bedroom than he is among society. When he returns from Egypt furious from the well-publicized rumors of her infidelity, they have a prolonged fight that ends with her turning the tables. "You are nothing without me," she tells him, as he cowers, happily. "Say it."

There's a version of the film that could be wholly focused on their dynamic. Joséphine is omnipresent for a long stretch - he writes her constantly from the battlefield in letters narrated to us - but "Napoleon" never quite finds its balance in cutting between their life together and the military exploits. Scott is expected to release a four-hour director's cut on Apple TV+ after the film's theatrical run, which may offer a more calibrated version.

But the 85-year-old Scott - himself a symbol of ceaseless ambition - has made a film that, like his previous "The Last Duel," is a provocative takedown of male power. Scott has made plenty of brawny, swaggering epics in his time - including "Gladiator," with an Oscar-nominated Phoenix as the Roman emperor Commodus. But even though not everything in "Napoleon" coheres, it's appealing destabilizing. In one of the film's final images, Napoleon and his hat are in silhouette as he slumps to his death like a keeling ship, going down.

"Napoleon," an Apple Studios release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for strong violence, some grisly images, sexual content and brief language. Running time: 158 minutes. Three stars out of four. (AP)

Features

ARABIC TIMES

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023

FONTAINEBLEAU, France:

One of the signature broad, black bicorne hats that Napoleon Bonaparte wore when he ruled 19th-century France and waged war in Europe is expected to fetch upwards of 600,000 euros (\$650,000) at an auction Sunday.

Other history-laden items in the sale of industrialist Jean-Louis Noisiez's collection of Napoleonic memorabilia include a silver plate looted from Napoleon's carriage after his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. It also includes a wooden vanity case he owned, with razors, a silver toothbrush, scissors and other personal belongings.

The faded black felt hat is the star piece, valued at between 600,000 and 800,000 euros (\$650,000 to \$870,000).

While other officers customarily wore their hats with the wings facing front to back, Napoleon wore his with the ends pointing toward his shoulders. That style - known as "en bataille," in battle, in French - made it easier for his troops to spot the military general and statesman in combat.

"For people who are into Napoleonic souvenirs, it's the holy grail to have a hat," said Jean-Pierre Osenat, head of the Osenat auction house. (AP)

NEW YORK: George "Funky" Brown, the co-founder and long-time drummer of Kool & The Gang who helped write such hits as "Too Hot," "Ladies Night," "Joanna" and the party favorite "Celebration," died Thursday in Los Angeles at age 74.

Brown died after a battle with cancer, according to a statement released by Universal Music. He had retired earlier in the year, nearly 60 years after the band began, and revealed that he was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.

Kool & The Gang has sold millions of records with its catchy blend of jazz, funk and soul, what Brown liked to call "the sound of happiness." In 1964, Brown helped launch the Grammy-winning group, originally called the Jazziacs, along with such friends as bassist Robert "Kool" Bell, brother Ronald Bell on keyboards and guitarist Charles Smith.

After years of relative obscurity, name changes and personnel changes, Kool & The Gang broke through in the mid-1970s with "Jungle Boogie" and "Hol-

lywood Swinging" among others songs and peaked in the late '70s-mid 1980s, with hits ranging from the ballads "Cherish" and "Joanna" to the up-tempo, chart-topping "Celebration," now a standard at weddings and other festive gatherings. (AP)

LONDON: British author A.S.



Brown



Phoenix

Byatt, who wove history, myth and a sharp eye for human foibles into books that included the Booker Prize-winning novel "Possession," has died at the age of 87.

Byatt's publisher, Chatto & Windus, said Friday that the author, whose full name was Antonia Byatt, died "peacefully

at home surrounded by close family" on Thursday.

Byatt wrote two dozen books, starting with her first novel, "The Shadow of the Sun," in 1964. Her work was translated into 38 languages.

"Possession," published in 1990, follows two young academics investigating the lives of

a pair of imaginary Victorian poets. The novel, a double romance which skillfully layers a modern story with mock-Victorian letters and poems, was a huge bestseller and won the prestigious Booker Prize.

Accepting the prize, Byatt said "Possession" was about the joy of reading. (AP)

People & Places

People

Cosby: New lawsuit

Combs, Cassie settle lawsuit within 24 hrs

NEW YORK, Nov 18, (AP): A lawsuit by singer Cassie containing allegations of beatings and abuse by music producer Sean "Diddy" Combs has been settled, the artists announced Friday, one day after the lawsuit was filed.

The settlement was announced in a statement sent by attorney Douglas Wigdor, who represents Cassie, whose full name is Casandra Ventura.

The statement said they had reached a deal "to their mutual satisfaction" Friday evening, but no terms of the agreement were disclosed and no further statements would be issued beyond those made by Ventura, Combs and Wigdor in the email distributed by the lawyer.

In her statement, Ventura said: "I have decided to resolve this matter amicably on terms that I have some level of control. I want to thank my family, fans and lawyers for their unwavering support."

Combs said: "We have decided to resolve this matter amicably. I wish Cassie and her family all the best. Love."

Ben Brafman, an attorney for Combs, did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. On Thursday, he said in a statement that Combs "vehemently denies" the allegations.

The lawsuit alleged Combs brought the singer into his "ostentatious, fast-paced, and drug-fueled lifestyle" soon after she met him and signed to his label in 2005, when she was 19 and he was 37.

Ventura, now 37, said Combs, now 54, began a pattern of abuse as soon as their on-and-off relationship began in 2007.

The lawsuit alleged that, "prone to uncontrollable rage," Combs subjected Ventura to "savage" beatings in which he punched, kicked and stomped her. It alleges he plied her with drugs and forced her to have sex with other men while he masturbated and filmed them.

According to the lawsuit, as Ventura was trying to end the relationship in 2018, Combs forced her into her Los Angeles home and raped her.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly as Ventura has.

Combs is among the most influential hip-hop producers and executives of the past three decades. The founder of Bad Boy Records and a three-time Grammy winner, he has worked with a slew of top-tier artists including Notorious B.I.G., Mary J. Blige, Usher, Lil Kim, Faith Evans and 112.

This year, he released his fifth studio album, "The Love Album: Off the Grid," which earned two Grammy nominations this month. It was his first studio album in 17 years.

"The bad boy of entertainment is getting the key to the city from the bad boy of politics!" Mayor Eric Adams said in September as he presented a giant key to Combs in Times Square. Combs was born in New York City and raised in nearby Mount Vernon.

Ventura gained fame with the Ryan Leslie-produced hit single "Me & U," which rose to No. 1 on the Billboard Hot R&B/Hip-Hop songs chart in 2006. It was her only studio album. As an actor, she was in several projects including Fox's "Empire," "Step Up 2: The Streets" and "Spenser Confidential."

Brafman's statement on Thursday said Ventura had for the past six months persistently demanded \$30 million while threatening to write a damaging book about her relationship with Combs. The lawyer said the demands were rejected as "blatant blackmail."

Ventura withdrew the initial threat before filing a lawsuit "riddled with baseless and outrageous lies, aiming to tarnish Mr. Combs' reputation and seeking a payday," Brafman said.

Wigdor responded Thursday in a statement saying Combs had offered her "eight figures to silence her" and prevent the lawsuit from being filed.

"She rejected his efforts and decided to give a voice to all woman who suffer in silence," Wigdor said.

Wigdor praised his client in a statement included in his email announcing the settlement on Friday.

"I am very proud of Ms. Ventura for having the strength to go public with her lawsuit. She ought to be commended for doing so," he said.

A woman who said Bill Cosby sexually assaulted her when she was a young comedy writer more than 50 years ago filed a lawsuit against the actor Thursday under a soon-to-expire New York law that gave victims of sexual abuse a one-year window for claims that would otherwise be barred by time limits.

Joan Tarshis initially came forward with allegations against Cosby in 2014 that are repeated in the new lawsuit. Tarshis said Cosby drugged her and forced her to perform oral sex on him in 1969 or 1970, and then drugged and raped her during another encounter a year or two later.

The New York resident was living in California at the time of the first assault and had met Cosby through a mutual friend while he was starring in "The Bill Cosby Show," according to the lawsuit, filed in state Supreme Court in New York City.

A spokesperson for Cosby did not address the specifics of Tarshis's claims.

"Diddy, LA Reid, Steven Tyler, and now they circle back to this," spokesperson Andrew Wyatt said, referring to others recently sued under New York's Adult Survivors Act. "When is it going to stop?"

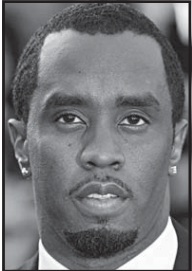
Cosby, 86, has been accused of rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment by more than 60 women. He has denied all allegations involving sex crimes. He was the first celebrity tried and convicted in the #MeToo era and spent nearly three years at a state prison near Philadelphia before a higher court overturned the conviction and released him in 2021.

Tarshis was among the first accusers to speak publicly about Cosby, whom she met when she was 19 and just breaking into comedy writing. An interview she did with CNN newsman Don Lemon soon after she came forward drew a flurry of attention on social media, and an apology from Lemon. While on-air, the host suggested Tarshis could have bitten Cosby on his genitals during the first assault, something Tarshis said she hadn't thought of.

Tarshis previously sued Cosby in Massachusetts, where Cosby had a home. She was among seven women who filed defamation claims after Cosby branded them liars. The cases were settled in 2019.

The new lawsuit alleges assault, battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress and false imprisonment. It seeks unspecified damages.

In it, Tarshis said Cosby invited her to meet with him at the studio lot where he was filming his show, under the pretense of working on a skit she was writing.



Combs



John Legend performs during an opening ceremony for the Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix auto race, Wednesday, Nov. 15, in Las Vegas. (AP)



Keith Urban performs during an opening ceremony for the Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix auto race, Nov. 15, in Las Vegas. (AP)



Snoop Dogg



Rosé

Variety

NEW YORK: Asking for privacy, hip-hop legend and longtime marijuana enthusiast Snoop Dogg says he's going to stop smoking - though he didn't specify exactly what that might mean.

"After much consideration and conversation with my family, I've decided to give up smoke," Snoop wrote in a message shared on Instagram and X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, on Thursday. "Please respect my privacy at this time."

The rapper and entrepreneur, who has become known for his own weed-related ventures over the years, provided no additional details in his brief announcement, which came the week after a new marijuana-adjacent product was introduced bearing his name. Representatives for the 52-year-old Snoop, born Calvin Cordozar Broadus Jr., did not immediately respond to The Associated Press' requests for comment Friday.

That didn't stop ample speculation from fans, many of whom filled the comments of Snoop's post after being caught off guard by his decision.

Some wondered if Snoop would switch to another form of THC or announce a new business-related or marketing venture down the road. Others applauded the announcement and suggested Snoop may have chosen to stop smoking for his own personal health.

Marketing and branding experts note that it's not uncommon to see this kind of response when celebrities make unexpected announcements - especially if it contradicts something fans have identified them with for such a long time. (AP)

SAN FRANCISCO: K-pop superstar Rosé said Friday at a mental health awareness event hosted by first lady Jill Biden that it's important for the world to understand that famous people grapple with emotional struggles, too.

"I think that would be very great, for everybody who works under the public eye," she said, perched on a slate gray couch at the Apple Park campus in Cupertino after hugging the first lady, who thanked her for coming.

Rosé, a part of the supergroup BLACKPINK, said having a large

Music

A symphony of music and motorsport

Music takes front seat at F1 Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Nov 18, (AP): At the inaugural Formula One Las Vegas Grand Prix, music and entertainment have taken a dominant role. As the elite motorsport experiments with the new race, A-list events are ubiquitous in Sin City, an unignorable part of the celebration.

Here are some of the highlights. On Thursday, at a Sinatra-themed restaurant in the lobby of the Encore casino, Colombian reggaetonero J Balvin emerged in all black leather.

He'd performed the day before at the Las Vegas Grand Prix opening ceremony - the only artist to perform a song not in English, his Usher-sampling "Dientes." On Saturday, he'll close the race weekend with a longer performance, making him the only musician to take the stage at this inaugural Formula One race twice. In many ways, it is fitting: F1 is a global sport, Balvin is a global artist, and music has become increasingly integrated with the sport.

"No matter where you're from, your language, people just love it, you know?" he told The Associated Press about his connection to the motorsport. "It's really cohesive - my vision and Formula One."

"On the business side, it's good exposure," he says of why artists are motivated to perform at F1 events. "Other things relate to it, but personally, I love fast cars."

The sentiment echoes something will.i.am told AP in advance of the opening ceremony: "Every producer, every DJ wants to play F1. Why? Because it's a (expletive) of money they make," he said. "Every band that's any band wants to play the mainstage at F1."

Las Vegas is the most expensive F1 race of the 2023 season - and the money is felt.

At night, countless concerts overlapped with what was supposed to be

the first two Formula One practice sessions - a loose water valve cover canceled the first, and the second was delayed two-and-a-half hours for track repairs. Dedicated spectators were removed from viewing areas ahead of the 90-minute session that ended at 4 a.m. local time - the deadline for F1 to return the roads to Las Vegas commuters.

But for a large population of Vegas tourists, it was as if nothing was amiss. Jack Harlow played an abridged and charming set at a private SiriusXM + Pandora Concert at The Cosmopolitan. (Liberty Media, which owns Formula One, is also the majority owner of SiriusXM.) The Chainsmokers hit the stage at the Wynn. (The luxury club and casino is a founding partner in the Las Vegas Grand Prix.) Travis Scott performed at Zouk Nightclub located in Resorts World Las Vegas, another partner of this particular race.

For the music fan, it was a remarkable night of all-star performances. For the racing fan - not so much.

Medley

It was raining in the Las Vegas desert on Wednesday night when Thirty Seconds to Mars emerged atop a giant, custom-built LED platform on the Formula One racetrack that, in just over 24 hours, will host the first ever F1 practice session.

For the inaugural Vegas race weekend, the Grand Prix hosted an Opening Ceremony - not too dissimilar from the star-studded event that launch the Miami race in 2022. Jared Leto and his brother Shannon Leto wore matching race suits, launching into a medley of 2005's "The Kill," their biggest hit, and 2023's "Stuck," their most recent one.

Then, in less than half an hour, there were abridged performances from Keith Urban, Andra Day (with

a rich cover of the Beatles' "Come Together"), Kylie Minogue's summertime smash "Padam Padam," Bishop Briggs, Journey, Steve Aoki, J Balvin, and will.i.am, each musician appearing atop their own LED platform.

Tiësto and John Legend performed together from the roof of the exclusive Paddock Club, where top-tier tickets could set attendees back \$40,000. For the audience in the grandstands, tickets ranged from \$100-\$200.

The event reflects Formula One's accelerating influence on the music world - and vice versa.

"Anyone who hasn't been to an event like this can't conceive of the level everything is at," Keith Urban told AP the morning of the performance.

"It's much closer to an Olympics opening ceremony than anything I've ever seen," he added.

For his set, the country star performed "Somewhere in My Car," a clever gesture to the automotive theme - and promotion for his continued Las Vegas residency.

The eclectic lineup reflects a shift in the F1 audience, which has grown in popularity among young Americans over the last half decade. The inclusion of Grammy- and Oscar-winning actor Day, for example, is a welcomed surprise in a bill stacked with dedicated artists who frequently perform at these events: Tiësto, Steve Aoki, and F1 Global Artist in Residence will.i.am among them.

"The Formula One world is new to me," Day said, adding that the global reach of the sport was the "biggest draw" for her to join the event. "There's such a variety of people from all over."

"At the same time, it is nostalgic for me. It reminds me of being a young girl, and how cars can bring people together. Just like music."

social media following makes her feel vulnerable, particularly when people are critical.

"I do feel like some of the things I do

is just never enough, and no matter how hard I work on something, there's always gonna be somebody who has their own opinion or who enjoy taking control of

the narrative," she said. "And so, that comes to me as a sense of loneliness."

She said it was important to talk about such things, however difficult it may be.

"Just as we feed ourselves for better health and fitness, mental health can only be maintained equally -- if not more intentionally - as our physical well being." (AP)

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.: It's been a long journey for one lone Mexican gray wolf - from the forests of southeastern Arizona, across the dusty high desert of central New Mexico to the edge of what is known as the Yellowstone of the Southwest.

Her paws have seen hundreds of miles now over the last five months.

Having reached Valles Caldera National Preserve in northern New Mexico, she has wandered far beyond the boundaries established along the Arizona-New Mexico border for managing the rarest subspecies of gray wolf in North America. The recovery area - spanning tens of thousands of square miles - is home to more than 240 of the endangered predators.

Federal wildlife managers have confirmed to The Associated Press they have no immediate plans for capturing the lone female wolf nicknamed Asha. But they will continue tracking her movements.

Known to biologists by her formal name of F2754, the wolf is outfitted with a GPS collar. (AP)



Photographer Evgeniy Maloletka, (from left), 'Frontline' producer/editor Michelle Mizner, director Mstyslav Chernov, and field producer Vasilisa Stepanenko pose for a portrait to promote the film '20 Days in Mariupol' at the Latin House during the Sundance Film Festival on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023, in Park City, Utah. The film is a joint project between The Associated Press and PBS 'Frontline.' (AP)

HEALTH



Photos from the event.

Collaboration aims to transform diabetes, dyslipidemia care standards in Kuwait

Kuwait Diabetes Society partners with Sanofi to elevate cardiometabolic care

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: To enhance cardiometabolic care standards in Kuwait, the Kuwait Diabetes Society (KDS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sanofi for patients living with diabetes and dyslipidemia.

The MoU was signed between Dr. Walid Al-Dhahi, Chairman of the Kuwait Diabetes Society and Director of the Internal Medicine Department at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, and Niven Al-Khoury, General Manager of General Medicines at Sanofi KSA and Gulf MCO. Her Excellency Claire Le Flecher, French Ambassador to Kuwait, was also present to witness the occasion.

Under the terms of the agreement, Sanofi will collaborate with Kuwait Diabetes Society to implement a training program aimed at enhancing the capabilities of primary care physicians in the management of diabetes and dyslipidemia. Sanofi will also support the upgrading of pharmacists' knowledge about recent trends in Pharmacoeconomics.

Awareness

Furthermore, and with the goal of empowering the patient community, Sanofi and KDS will jointly develop comprehensive awareness materials to provide patients with the tools they need to prevent and control diabetes and dyslipidemia.

Dr. Walid Al-Dahy: "Our cooperation with Sanofi has the potential to dramatically improve the quality of care provided to patients with diabetes, heart disease and dyslipidemia in Kuwait. The MoU covers in its scope several vital areas including the preparation and implementation of training courses and workshops for primary care doctors, pharmacists and diabetes educators with specific standards and indications for use, as well as the deployment of digital health tools to provide integrated care for patients, enabling them to achieve optimal blood sugar control. Over the years, Sanofi has played an active role in supporting Kuwait's public health agenda, and we look forward to more fruitful cooperation between us in the time to come."

Commitment

Niven Al-Khoury: "Our collaboration with Kuwait Diabetes Society is a testament to our shared commitment to fostering a culture of care, support, and empowerment within the healthcare landscape of Kuwait. With the rising prevalence of chronic diseases such as diabetes and dyslipidemia posing a key public health challenge in the country, Sanofi is committed to working with its partners to improve the quality of life of patients with cardiometabolic diseases. Through awareness and education, and harnessing digital solutions to empower patients, we are proud to be actively contributing to the achievement of the country's healthcare agenda."

Kuwait Insurance, New Mowasat raise diabetes awareness

KIC conducts diabetes, BP tests for employees

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: Kuwait Insurance Company (KIC), in cooperation with New Mowasat Hospital, organized a two-day diabetes awareness campaign to conduct blood sugar and blood pressure tests for the Company's employees. This event coincided with the activities of World Diabetes Day, which is held on November 14th of each year. An integrated medical team from the New Mowasat Hospital conducted diabetes and blood pressure tests for the Company's employees. Dietitian Roaa Qaddoura from the hospital's Nutrition Department was also on hand to provide nutritional, fitness and lifestyle consultations with the aim of spreading awareness of diabetes, caused by the unhealthy habits of large segments of society, and advised on how to prevent it.

For her part, Fajer Al-Sayegh, Corporate Communication Manager in Kuwait Insurance Company, said, "This campaign comes in response to the challenges posed by diabetes as a major health issue facing Kuwaiti society, as it is noteworthy that the State of Kuwait is one of the countries with the highest rates of diabetes in the world, in



A photo from the event.

addition to a high number of those who have what is called pre-diabetes and are at high risk of contracting this disease. Diabetes can be avoided by following a healthy lifestyle and such initiatives in the field of social responsibility will contribute to improving lifestyles in all

age groups, and raise health and cultural public awareness that contributes to the development of society".

Al-Sayegh concluded, "These awareness-raising activities are a continuation of the efforts undertaken by Kuwait Insurance Company to preserve the health

and safety of community members, promote health awareness, and encourage proper behavior".

She also thanked the marketing department team, the medical staff who attended from the New Mowasat Hospital, and all those responsible for the campaign."



Photos from the event.

Specialized IDF doctors offer in-depth guidance on breast cancer

LuLu Hypermarket organizes breast cancer awareness & support campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: As part of its social responsibility to the community, LuLu Hypermarket organized a Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign at their Al Rai outlet on Nov 16. The campaign, which was held in association with the Indian Doctors Forum (IDF), aimed to raise public awareness about breast cancer and support patients in need.

The compassionate initiative garnered significant attention and participation from the community. The top management of LuLu Hypermarket played an active role in supporting the campaign, and donated a significant amount to aid breast cancer patients, providing them with the necessary

support and resources in their battle against this formidable disease.

Distinguished cancer specialists facilitated an awareness seminar on breast cancer during the event, drawing a large crowd of women, including individuals who were directly affected by this condition. Over 10 specialized doctors participated in the campaign, ensuring that attendees received comprehensive information regarding breast cancer risks, early detection, and preventive measures.

In a further inspiring and heartfelt gesture, LuLu Hypermarket's entire female staff actively participated in the

campaign. Staff members, who had been affected by breast cancer, shared their personal experiences during the session.

As part of the campaign, LuLu Hypermarket also set up a pink colored 'Support Wall', where shoppers were encouraged to write messages of support, or share their own experiences of breast cancer, and stick the message on the wall in an expression of solidarity with breast cancer patients in the community.

LuLu Hypermarket's breast cancer awareness campaign created a platform for raising awareness and educating the public through accurate medical information from the IDF doctors, and provided support for individuals impacted by

breast cancer. By actively engaging customers and the community, the event not only provided valuable information but also brought a sense of empowerment to those affected by this disease.

LuLu Hypermarket's commitment to social responsibility continues to shine through initiatives such as the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign. As a leading retail chain, they recognize the importance of giving back to society and making a positive impact on individuals and communities in need. Their efforts to support cancer patients through the IDF collaboration is certainly highly commendable.

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Australia donate to Gaza humanitarian causes ahead of WC qualifier vs Palestine

Kuwait looking to bounce back from opening setback against India

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 18, (Agencies): Kuwait's Portuguese national team coach, Rui Pinto, has made the decision to call up Kuwait Club striker Ibrahim Kamil to fill the void left by the suspension of Faisal Zayed, the enrollment of Ahmed Al-Zanki in a military course, and the injury of Salman Al-Awadhi for 2026 World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup qualifiers.

Kamil has joined the Al-Azraq delegation in the Saudi city of Dammam to prepare for the upcoming match against the Afghanistan scheduled for Tuesday. Kuwait will be looking to bounce back from their opening setback against India.

During a press conference following Al-Azraq's recent loss to India by a single goal last Thursday, Coach Pinto acknowledged the team's modest performance in the initial round. He expressed a sense of responsibility for the defeat, citing the choices he made and emphasizing that the team's level did not reflect the effort put in over the past period. Pinto stressed the importance of working to overcome the setback against India and apologized to Kuwaiti fans for the outcome.

Meanwhile, Igor Stimac, the coach

of the Indian national team, stated that the victory over Kuwait in their home country did not come as a surprise to him. Stimac highlighted the patience of Indian players in scoring and mentioned that the Kuwaiti team faced pressure during the match. He explained that India adopted a defensive strategy, relying on rebounds.

Stimac expressed optimism about the joint qualifiers, stating that both India and Kuwait have the potential

SOCCER

to succeed. He praised the technical prowess of the Kuwaiti national team, considering it superior to many teams in the Asian continent.

Players on Australia's national soccer team will donate a portion of their match fees from a World Cup qualifier against Palestine towards humanitarian causes in Gaza. Australia plays Palestine in Kuwait on Tuesday in a game that was going to be held in the West Bank but was relocated due to the escalation of violence in the region.

Hamas' deadly attack on Israel's



Faisal Zayed vies for the ball with Indian player during the World Cup and Asian Cup qualifier in Kuwait.

southern region on Oct. 7 was followed by Israel declaring war on the group and launching retaliatory strikes on the Gaza Strip. Palestinian health officials say more than 11,000

residents in Hamas-controlled Gaza have been killed in air and artillery strikes.

"It's unfathomable to comprehend," midfielder Jackson Irvine was quoted

by Australian Associated Press as saying Saturday. "You're talking about one of the most complicated geopolitical issues of the last 100 years."

The players' union, Professional

Footballers Australia, confirmed a percentage of player match fees would be directed towards Oxfam's humanitarian efforts in Gaza, via the PFA's Footballers' Trust. The move is a player-led effort with Football Australia matching the players' donation, but no dollar amounts were mentioned.

"The thoughts of the PFA are with all of those impacted by the conflict and the humanitarian crisis that is unfolding as a result," co-chief executive officer Beau Busch said in a statement. "Aid agencies and humanitarian groups have been clear on the scale of need and the players were able to play a part."

Irvine is the PFA president as well as captain of German club FC St. Pauli. The Socceroos beat Bangladesh 7-0 in Melbourne on Thursday and took a charter flight to Kuwait on Saturday. The Palestinians held Lebanon to a 0-0 draw on neutral turf in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates in their second-round opener.

"We're aware of the situation, we understand that football in this moment is probably not the priority in some ways," Irvine said. "But at the end of the day, we've got a game to win and a performance to focus on."

Al-Qadsia dominate road race

'Success not unfamiliar'

Miura wins figure skating title

ESPOO, Finland, Nov 18, (AP): Japanese figure skater Kao Miura edged past his teammate Shun Sato to win his first figure skating Grand Prix title Sunday and book a place in next month's finals.

Miura and Sato each landed three qua-

druple jumps in the free skate Saturday at Grand Prix Espoo, with Sato scoring slightly higher. Miura's three-point advantage from Friday's short program helped him hold on to win with a total 274.56 points to Sato's 273.34.

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The athletics team of Al-Qadsia Club secured the overall championship in the youth, cubs, and buds divisions during the recent road race organized by the Kuwait Athletics Federation near Jaber International Stadium.

The victory in the youth category saw the yellow-clad players clinching the top spot, with Kazma Club securing second place and Khaitan Club claiming the third position. Similarly, in the Cubs category, the

ATHLETICS

Al-Qadsia Club emerged as the frontrunner, followed by the Kuwait Club in second place and Kazma Club in third place.

The same pattern continued in the Buds category, with the Al-Qadisiyah Club securing the title, the Al-Sahel Club attaining second place, and the Kazma Club securing the third position.

Expressing his joy at this accomplishment, Ali Al-Azmi, the Director of Athletics at Al-Qadsia Club, highlighted that this success is not unfamiliar to the Royal Champions.

He emphasized that the team consistently excels, claiming top positions and earning titles. Al-Azmi credited this achievement to the collective efforts and dedication of the players in their daily training sessions.

Al-Arabi eye second consecutive victory

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: In the fifth round of the basketball league, Al-Arabi aim for their second consecutive victory as they take on Al-Qurain at 5:00 pm in Al-Itihad Hall, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Hall Complex. Simultaneously, another matchup unfolds between Al-Qadsia and Al-Tadamon at 7:15 pm in the same venue.

The league follows a two-part combination system, with the top four teams qualifying for the semi-finals to vie for the championship title.

BASKETBALL

Al-Qurain strives for its first league victory, while "Al-Akhdar," having faced initial setbacks against Al-Kuwait and Al-Qadsia aim to overcome Yarmouk. This victory would bring them closer to securing a spot among the top four, especially after notable pre-league signings, including Hussein Al-Khabaz and Abdullah Salmin.

In the second match, the stage seems set for Al-Qadsia, leading with 8 points, to extend their advantage against Al-Tadamon, currently in seventh place with 4 points. The technical disparity between the two teams favors Al-Qadsia, especially considering that Al-Tadamon are the sole team in the league competing without professional players.



Qadsia Club athletes celebrate with the championship trophy as officials look on.



Hamad Al-Taweel runs for the ball during the friendly encounter.

Kuwait Olympic team lose to Tajikistan

DUBAI, Nov 18: The Kuwaiti Olympic team suffered a 1-0 defeat against Tajikistan in a friendly match held in the Emirate of Ajman as part of their training camp.

The Kuwaiti national team are currently in preparation for the AFC U-23 Cup, set to take place in Qatar next April. This tournament serves as a qualifier for the 2024

SOCCER

Paris Olympics.

The performance of Al-Azraq under their Portuguese coach, Pexi, fell short of expectations, particularly in the second half, which saw the Tajik national team scoring the decisive goal.

Looking ahead, the Kuwaiti national team are scheduled to participate in their second friendly match against the UAE national

Best of the Rest

Strong winds cancel race:

Strong winds forced the cancellation of a women's World Cup downhill on the Matterhorn mountain Saturday, a week after two men's races on the same course were wiped out because of snowfalls and gusts.

The International Ski and Snowboard Federation initially delayed Saturday's program as the ski lifts could not be operated in the early morning, before calling off the race hours later as conditions failed to improve. (AP)

□ □ □

Everton handed pt deduction:

Everton were deducted 10 points by the Premier League for breaching the competition's financial rules. The club reported three-year losses totaling nearly 372 million pounds (\$454 million) last season. (AP)

Kuwait face Egypt in inaugural match of Arab School Sports Championship

CAIRO, Nov 18: Kuwait football team are set to embark on its first match in the Arab School Sports Championship against the Egyptian team at the Police Union Stadium in Abbasiya at 9:30 pm. The draw placed our team in the first group, which also features the Saudi team. The second group includes Morocco, Oman, Lebanon, and the third group consists of Algeria, Iraq, Palestine, and Libya.

Responding to a proposal by Dr. Ahmed Al-Hamdan, Secretary-General of the School Union, the Football Technical Committee, led by Dr. Jamal Ali, approved a modification to the match duration. The proposal ex-

tended the playing time from 50 to 80 minutes, divided into two halves.

The tournament format dictates that the top-ranked team and the best second team, excluding the fourth-placed team in the third

SCHOOL GAMES

group, will qualify for the semi-finals. The second-ranked team that doesn't reach the semi-finals will engage in a match to determine fifth and sixth places, while the remaining teams will compete in the consolation round.

Expressing gratitude, Walid

Ayesh, Vice President of the Kuwait School Sports Federation and Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Arab Union, acknowledged the organized session by the organizing committee and praised the efficient organization of the draw led by Dr. Jamal Ali. He also appreciated Kuwait's proposal to modify the match duration, which aligns with international federation regulations.

Dr. Al-Hamdan emphasized the collaboration of the technical committee with Kuwait's proposal to adjust the match duration and the adoption of observations put forth by other committee members.



Officials hold a meeting on the eve of the tournament.



Women's 10m pistol winner in the annual shooting championship Israa Bahman.
KUNA photo

Sports

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Al-Aiban inaugurates Club Handball Champ'ship



Qadsia player goes for the ball during the opening match against Sharjah Emirati.



Dignitaries applaud participants during the inauguration of the Asian club handball championship in Kuwait.

Al-Qadsia suffer opening defeat

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 18: The 26th Asian Club Handball Championship was officially opened by Mohammed Al-Aiban, the Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, during ceremony held at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex.

Among the attendees at the tournament's opening were Yousef Al-Baidan, Director of the General Sports Authority, Badr Al-Dhiyab, Vice-President of the International Handball Federation, Sheikh Talal Al-Fahd, former President of Al-Qadisiyah Club, and members of the club's Board of Directors.

In a brief speech, Minister Al-Aiban expressed regret for the absence of the Palestinian Al-Salah team, unable to participate in the competition. He wished them well and invoked divine kindness and assistance.

The minister extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, referring to the hosting nation as the "land of friendship and peace."

Vice President of the International Handball Federation, Badr Al-Dhiyab, emphasized the strong support of the Asian Handball Confederation for host countries and clubs in continental championships, especially the Asian Club Championship, national teams, and Olympic qualifiers. He praised the AFC's

efforts in ensuring the tournament's technical success, particularly in terms of referees and observers. Acknowledging the significant contributions of Al-Qadsia, Al-Dhiyab noted Kuwait's prowess in organizing such events.

Wishing success to all participants, he expressed hope for a high technical level in the tournament, showcasing the game's status in the Yellow Continent.

HANDBALL

In the opening match, the Al-Qadsia Club suffered a defeat against Sharjah Emirati, with a score of 28-30. Other results from the first round included Al-Arabi of Qatar beating the Iraqi Army 42-23 and the Lebanese Shabab Sidon defeating the Indian Sai 47-34 in the second group. In the first group, Saudi Gulf won against Al-Gharafa of Qatar with a score of 28-27, and the Bahraini Star overcame the Indian Golden with a score of 42-21.

With these results, the Qatari Al-Arabi team led the second group by goal difference, followed by Shabab Sidon II and Al-Sharjah III, each with two points. Al-Qadsia, Sai, and the Iraqi Army remained without a score.

In the first group, the Bahraini Al-Najma team topped on goal difference from Al-Khaleej 2, both with two points, while Al-Gharafa and Golden remained without a score.

As per the tournament schedule, all teams will rest today, and matches will resume on Monday.

Italy get key win to set up showdown game against Ukraine

Denmark, Albania advance to European Championship

GENEVA, Nov 18, (AP): Denmark and Albania advanced to the European Championship and title-holders Italy got a crucial win ahead of a showdown game against Ukraine.

Italy beat North Macedonia 5-2 to both avenge their elimination in the 2022 World Cup qualifying playoffs and ensure they need only a draw against Ukraine on Monday to secure a place at Euro 2024 in Germany. At stake is second place behind group winners England, which beat Malta 2-0.

Robert Lewandowski and Poland must go through the playoffs in March after a 1-1 draw at home to the Czech Republic ended their chance of advancing directly with group leaders Albania.

Albania kicked off earlier needing only a point in Moldova to secure their Euro 2024 place and did just enough in a 1-1 draw.

Denmark ensured they will finish top of Group H by beating closest rivals Slovenia 2-1 thanks to a 54th-minute goal by midfielder Thomas Delaney.

That set up another decisive final game Monday: Slovenia host Kazakhstan needing only a draw to return to the Euros for the first time since 2000. Kazakhstan, which beat San Marino 3-1, has never qualified for a major tournament.

England secured their place last month and a 2-0 win over Malta at Wembley Stadium was routine, as was Harry Kane scoring his 25th goal in a prolific season for England and Bayern Munich.

The only surprising moment of drama was Kane being shown a yellow card after he was adjudged to have dived in the penalty area.

England are on course to be among the group winners with the best records who will be in the pot of top-seeded teams when the Euro 2024 tournament draw is made on Dec. 2 in Hamburg.

SOCCER



England's Phil Foden (centre) challenges for the ball with Malta's Yannick Yankam during the Euro 2024 Group C qualifying soccer match between England and Malta at Wembley stadium in London. (AP)

Olimpico in Rome. Even when a three-goal half-time lead had been cut back to 3-2 entering the closing minutes, Italy rose again rather than faltered.

"I liked the team in the second half," Italy coach Luciano Spalletti said. "These matches reveal the level of personality and these lads have it. After

the scoreline became 3-2, I expected them to suffer, to sit back. Instead, they responded very well, trying to attack even more."

Brazilian coach Sylvinho is going to Euro 2024 with his Albania team.

The former Arsenal and Barcelona left-back was appointed in January and has led Albania on a seven-game unbeaten run after starting qualifying with a 1-0 loss at Poland in March.

Sylvinho has found success after lasting less than a year at his previous jobs coaching Lyon and Corinthians.

Albania needed just one point from its final two Group E games, after outperforming the higher-ranked Poles and Czechs, and got it at the first attempt Friday. Veteran forward Sokol Cikalleshi's 25th-minute penalty put Albania ahead before Moldova equalized in the 87th.

"After the last whistle, but really after nine months, working every day, it's a dream, it's a dream," Sylvinho told Albanian media. "In fact, I should enjoy it. And that is why I am very pleased, like all of you."

Thousands of Albanian fans gathered at the main Skanderbeg and Mother Teresa squares in Tirana to celebrate the result by waving national flags and setting off fireworks. Cars drove through the center of the city blaring their horns and loud national music.

Kohli the focal point

Cricket-mad India readies for WCup final against Australia in 132,000-seat venue

AHMEDEBAD, India, Nov 18, (AP): India, a country of 1.4 billion people, will come to a virtual standstill on Sunday when its cricket team led by Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli take on five-time champions Australia in the Cricket World Cup final.

It will be played at Narendra Modi Stadium, the world's largest cricket venue with a seating capacity of 132,000.

It was commissioned in 2015 and built with the purpose of hosting the tournament final eight years later. In the process it will likely set a world cricket attendance record.

From Chennai to Dharamsala and Mumbai to Kolkata, India has played in front of partisan crowds during the six-week tournament. The home side have channeled that weight of expectations and pressure to win 10 consecutive games - the only unbeaten team.

"We know it's going to be a packed house," said Australia captain Pat Cummins. "There's going to be 130,000 fans here supporting India. So it's going to be awesome. You have got to embrace it. The crowd will be very one sided, but also in sport, there's nothing more satisfying than hearing a big crowd go silent. That's the aim for us tomorrow."

Kohli, not surprisingly, has been the focal point for this Indian performance. Now the foremost one-day international batter in history with 50 centuries, he has scored 711 runs in 10 innings at average of 101.57. It is an insurmountable tally, with Sharma

(550 runs) and Australia's David Warner (528) well behind.

India's dominance in this World Cup, however, has been underlined by its bowling attack. Mohammed Shami has been the leader - 23 wickets in only six games. And Shami wasn't in contention for the first four games when India opted for Hardik Pandya and Shardul Thakur/Ravichandran Ashwin.

Pandya's left ankle injury ruled the allrounder out of the tournament and made more room for Shami, also helping India was Jasprit Bumrah, who took 18 wickets in 10 games, while spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav chipped in with 31 wickets between them.

India's bowling has been so impressive that it has yet to chase any total over 273 runs in this tournament and restricted the opposition to sub-100 scores twice and under-200 scores two other times. Among them, Australia were bowled out for 199 in its tournament-opening match at Chennai on Oct. 8.

"The difference is our bowling attack," said opener Shubman Gill. "Our bowlers have either defended the total or restricted the other team to a below-par score."

Going for their sixth title, Australia are the most dominant side in World Cup history. They have lost two finals - to the West Indies in 1975 and to Sri Lanka in 1996. Now in their eighth final, they stand between India's quest for a third title.

The two sides have a previous knockout history - they have met on two occasions. Australia beat India in the 2015 World Cup semifinal at Sydney, enroute to its fifth title. In 2011, Yuvraj Singh's heroic half-century allowed the eventual championship-winning home side to beat Australia in the quarterfinals at Ahmedabad.

Ghana make winning start to WC qualifying

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Nov 18, (AP): Ifiaki Williams gave Ghana a winning start to World Cup qualifying by scoring deep into injury time to secure a 1-0 victory over Madagascar.

Ghana have qualified for four of the last five World Cups, only missing out in Russia in 2018, and reached the quarterfinals in South Africa in 2010.

The Black Stars were a big favorite at home against Madagascar but manager Chris Hughton's team struggled to breach the visitors' organized defense in Kumasi.

Williams finally broke the deadlock with a powerful header after the Spain-born Athletic Bilbao forward had an earlier goal disallowed for offside.

SOCCER

The two teams observed a moment of silence in memory of former Ghana and Levante striker Raphael Dwamena, who collapsed and died on the field last Saturday during an Albanian league game.

Also Friday, Leicester forward Patson Daka scored twice as Zambia defeated Republic of Congo 4-2 at home. Lameck Banda and Fashion Sakala got the other goals for the host in Ndola. Silvere Gangooula M'Boussy and Mons Bassouamina scored for the Congolese.

Malawi snatched a 1-0 win away to Liberia in Monrovia through a 78th-minute goal by teenager Chifundo Mphasi.

Libya won 1-0 away against Eswatini in a match played in South Africa. Comoros beat Central African Republic 4-2 at home and Guinea edged Uganda 2-1 in Morocco.

Nine teams from Africa will qualify directly for the 48-team 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada. A 10th team could make the field through the playoffs.



Poland's Robert Lewandowski (2nd right), tries to head the ball during the Euro 2024 group E qualifying soccer match between Poland and Czech Republic at the National stadium in Warsaw, Poland. (AP)

Vinicius expected to miss nearly two months

MADRID, Nov 18, (AP): Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior tore a leg muscle while playing with Brazil's national team in South American World Cup qualifying, the Spanish club said Saturday.

Madrid said medical exams showed Vinicius has a muscle tear in his left leg. He was injured in Brazil's 2-1 loss at Colombia on Friday, having to be substituted before halftime.

Madrid did not give a timetable for Vinicius' recovery, but that type of injury can sideline players for about two months. Vinicius "has been diagnosed with a tear in his left femoral bicep which is affecting the tendon in

his hamstring. His recovery will be monitored," the club said.

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Madrid has already qualified for the knockout stage of the Champions League. It is two points behind leader Girona after 13 rounds in the Spanish league.

The 23-year-old Vinicius has scored six goals for Madrid this season, including three in the team's last two matches.