

# ARAB TIMES

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023 / JUMADA AL AWWAL 7, 1445 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 18450

**150 FILS** 

## Central Bank champions financial safety with anti-fraud drive

'Robust measures'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20, (KUNA): The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) had carried out a number of measures to counter financial fraud through directives for financial institutions and banks as well as awareness campaigns for clients and the general masses.

On the level of financial institutions, the CBK had put out a number of directives to banks in 2019 to ensure proper governance and boost administrative responsibility, which in turn act as a fail-safe in case of financial fraud.

The CBK also advised Banks' board of directors to find the most effective means to safeguard information and bolster online security, making it a necessity and a common

In February of 2020, the CBK finalized a strategic framework for the banking sector's cybersecurity, which met the minimum needs for governance, risk management, administrative operations, Cloud technology and systems protecting online

The CBK made a mandate for the banking sector to implement the strategy in addition to informing clients on suspicious activities as well as recommending password changes and other measures.

Security actions also included the ability to cancel cards and accounts of clients within a short period in addition to preventing the use of credit cards on unauthorized devices.

**Continued on Page 4** 

## MPs seek clarity on vision change and airlift mission

Parliament advances sweeping reforms

### **Kuwait sets Dec 31, Jan** 1st New Year's holiday

- Details Page 2 -

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: MP Hani Shams has submitted a proposal to allocate a plot in Ahmadi Governorate for the Public Authority for Youth to establish a sports complex, including an integrated sports club, for the benefit of those residing in Khiran, Sabah Al-Ahmad City and Wafra.

### **Opinion**

### Realization of Franklin's prophecy, and Arabs are insulting each other

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

BENJAMIN Franklin, who is one of the founding fathers of the United States, was ahead of his time when, during the Constitutional Convention held in 1787 in Philadelphia, he identified one of the greatest crises that Americans would later face if the new constitution did not stipulate preventing Jews from entering the United

The late president said, "There is a great danger for the United States of America, which is the Jews. In every land where the Jews have settled, they have depressed the moral level

and lowered the degree of commercial hon-



Al-Jarallah

counting houses, gleefully rubbing their hands. I warn ou, if you do not exclude the Jews forever, your children and your children's children will curse you in their

They will not adopt our ideals even if they lived among us for ten generations. The Jews are a danger to this country if they are allowed freedom to enter. They will destroy our institutions, so they must be enslaved according to the text of the constitution.'

This prophecy was not a figment of the imagination of this American thinker who struggled alongside George Washington and others to unify the United States.

Therefore, after about 90 years, the American capital Washington began to function according to what the Jews requested because they realized from the beginning that the formula of cantons that existed in Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, and others will not give them security, control, or influence. They hence worked to acquire financial power, and took up professions that were light in weight but expensive in value.

On the other hand, the Jewish issue was preoccupying the Europeans and putting pressure on governments. Each of them was trying to address it in its own way.

At that time, the most vocal enemy of British Jews was Arthur Balfour, who announced his law in 1905 to ban Jews from entering Britain, and followed it 12 years later with its famous promise, adopting Napoleon Bonaparte's declaration, to establish a Jewish state in Palestine so that Europe could get rid of their headache.

During the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956 when Jamal Abdul Nasser decided to nationalize the Suez Canal, although this decision was a strategic mistake, and its negative effects appeared days later, it was still an opportunity for Washington to show that it is the only superpower in the world, while the Soviet ally of Egypt had no choice but

Eisenhower's declaration of the necessity to stop the aggression came, forcing the British, French, and Israeli forces to withdraw from Port Said and the lands they occupied at that time.

This American paradigm shift led to more immigration of Jewish scholars and financiers to the United States. The influence of the Zionist lobby (AIPAC) increased more than ever

### **Continued on Page 4**

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

### Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

for Scientific Research (KISR) cy Technologies Program Manager Dr. Fotouh Al-Raqum, has received the "Distinguished Service" award from the United Sates Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), for her scientific and research contributions in the

In a statement, KISR said that Al-Raqum won many local, regional and international awards during her 20-year scientific career, and still providing important research contributions to invest in technology outcomes that help respond to the requirements of the future and Kuwait needs. (KUNA)

**JERUSALEM:** Yemen's Houthi rebels seized an Israeli-linked cargo ship in a crucial Red Sea shipping route Sunday and took its 25 crew members hostage, officials said, raising fears that regional tensions heightened over the Israel-Hamas war were playing out on a new maritime

The Iran-backed Houthi rebels said they hijacked the ship over its connection to Israel and would continue to target ships in international waters that were linked to or owned by Israelis until the end of Israel's campaign against Gaza's Hamas rulers.

"All ships belonging to the Israeli enemy or that deal with it will become legitimate targets,' the Houthis said. (AP)

ANKARA: Turkish rescuers on Monday recovered the body of a crew member of a cargo ship that sank off Turkey's Black Sea coast in severe storms, officials said. Eleven other crew were re-

ported missing.
The Turkish-flagged Kafkametler sank on Sunday after hitting a breakwater outside the harbor off the town of Eregli, miles) east of Istanbul. Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Abdulkadir Uraloglu said the vessel, which was on its way to the western Turkish port of Izmir, lashed into the

of Oil and Minister of State for Economy and Investment Affairs **Dr. Saad Al-Barrak**. (KUNA)

said Monday, that KISR Efficien-

200 kilometers (124 breakwater several times before it sank. (AP)

received Monday National Assembly Speaker **Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Sadoun**.

His Highness also received Deputy Prime Minister, Minister

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait Institute

field of energy efficiency.

RAMALLAH, Nov 20, (Agencies): The Israeli occupation forces bombed the Kuwait school near the Indonesian Hospital in Gaza earlier on Monday in a new act of brutal aggression, said a Palestinian me-

The Palestine News and Info Agency (WAFA) revealed that the Israeli artillery and tanks besieged the Indonesian Hospital and bombed it since the early hours of last evening, adding that the forces fired several shells directly at the Kuwait school, which housed a

number of displaced people. The Palestinian agency indicated that number of martyrs and injured affected by the bombing was yet undetermined due to a telecommunications outage in the north of the Strip.

Additionally, the source said that ambulances were unable to reach the school due to the occupation forces siege on the Indonesian Hospital and its surrounding areas.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces pressed their offensive against Hamas in northern Gaza on Monday, battling militants around a hospital where thousands of patients and displaced people have been sheltering for weeks, raising Palestinian fears of another painful standoff and evacuation of a medi-

A shell struck the second floor of the Indonesian Hospital, killing at least 12 people, according to a medical worker inside the facility and the Health Ministry in Hamasrun Gaza. Both blamed Israeli

cal facility.

forces. There was no immediate

Medics prepare premature babies for transport to Egypt after they were evacuated from Shifa Hospital in Gaza City to a hospital in Rafah, Gaza Strip, Monday, Nov. 20, 2023. (AP)

28 premature babies transported to Egypt

Israeli tanks shell Kuwait school in Gaza

comment from the Israeli military. The advance came a day after the World Health Organization evacuated 31 premature babies from Shifa Hospital. At least 28 were transported to Egypt on Monday. More than 250 critically ill or wounded patients remain stranded at the compound

that Israeli forces stormed days ago. The plight of Gaza's hospitals is the focus of a battle of narratives over the war's brutal toll on Palestinian civilians, thousands of whom have been killed or buried in rubble since the conflict was sparked by Hamas' Oct. 7 rampage into southern Israel. In the wake of the assault, Israeli leaders vowed to eradicate Hamas, destroy its ability to rule Gaza and

uproot its militant infrastructure. Israel says Hamas uses civilians as human shields and operated a major command hub inside and beneath Shifa, while critics say Israel's siege and relentless aerial bombardment amount to collective punishment of the territory's 2.3 million Palestinians.

Marwan Abdallah, the medical worker at the Indonesian Hospital, said Israeli tanks were operating less than 200 meters (yards) from the hospital, and that Israeli snipers could be seen on the roofs of nearby buildings. As he spoke over the phone, the sound of gunfire could

be heard in the background. Abdallah said the hospital had received dozens of dead and wounded in airstrikes and shelling overnight.

Rosalynn Carter, former

US first lady, dies at 96

ATLANTA, Nov 20, (AP): Former first lady

Rosalynn Carter, the closest adviser to Jimmy

Carter during his one term as U.S. president and

their four decades thereafter as global humanitar-

The Carter Center said she died Sunday after

living with dementia and suffering many months

of declining health. The statement said she "died

peacefully, with family by her side" at 2:10 p.m.

I ever accomplished," the former president said

in the statement. "She gave me wise guidance

and encouragement when I needed it. As long as

Rosalynn was in the world, I always knew some-

President Joe Biden called the Carters "an in-

credible family because they brought so much

"Rosalynn was my equal partner in everything

ians, has died at the age of 96.

at her rural Georgia home of Plains.

body loved and supported me.'

### **Microsoft recruits OpenAl founders in surprise hiring**

LOS ANGELES, Nov 20, (AP): Microsoft announced Monday that it has hired Sam Altman and another architect of ChatGPT maker OpenAI after they unexpectedly departed the company days earlier in a corporate shakeup that



Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella tweeted that the U.S. tech giant is committed to its partnership with OpenAI, whose chatbot kicked off the generative AI craze by producing human-like text, images, video and

Altman

Nadella wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, that he looked "forward to getting to know" OpenAI's new chief executive, former Twitch

leader Emmett Shear, and the rest of the man-Microsoft invested billions of dollars in the startup and helped provide the computing power to run its AI systems. Now, it's bringing two of

OpenAI's co-founders directly into the fold. We're extremely excited to share the news that Sam Altman and Greg Brockman, together with colleagues, will be joining Microsoft to lead a new advanced AI research team," Nadella

In reply on X, Altman said "the mission continues," while OpenAI co-founder and former President Brockman posted, "We are going to build something new & it will be in-

### Also:

**LONDON:** The new head of ChatGPT maker OpenAI said Monday that he would launch an investigation into the firing of co-founder Sam Altman and work to reform the company's management following a corporate shakeup that shocked the artificial intelligence world.

In a post Monday on X, OpenAI's new chief executive Emmett Shear said he would hire an independent investigator to look into what led up to Altman's ouster and write a report within 30 days.

"It's clear that the process and communications around Sam's removal has been handled very badly, which has seriously damaged our trust," wrote Shear, who co-founded Twitch, an Amazon-owned livestreaming service popular with video gamers.

He said he also plans in the next month to 'reform the management and leadership team in light of recent departures into an effective force" and speak with employees, investors and

lack of venues for the youths to enjoy their leasure time and improve their physical capabilities. He also submitted a proposal to establish branches of ministries and other public institutions

Shams pointed out these remote areas are suffering from

in the governorate for its residents to complete their transactions easily and quickly. On the other hand, the parliamentary Housing and Real Estate Affairs Committee on Monday discussed the amendment of the bill regarding real estate agencies/authorization and the bill

on dealing with the monopoly of plots which was approved in its first reading on Nov 14. The Women, Children and Family Affairs Committee also met on Monday to deliberate on the bills regarding protection from family violence, enhancing children's rights, and allowances

women married to non-Kuwaitis Representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Civil Service Commission, Supreme Council for Family Affairs and Public Authority for Manpower attended

for housewives and Kuwaiti

the meeting. In another development, MP Hamdan Al- Azmi called for suspension of the appointment of senior officials until the relevant bill is ratified on Jan 9, 2024. He explained this is aimed at dispelling the allegation that the government is using such procedure to obtain the support and loyalty

of some MPs.

Meanwhile, MP Majed Al-Mutairi asked acting Minister of Public Works and Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Jaseem Al-Ostad if the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) signed a contract for the establishment of a firefighting unit and an administrative building, value and term of the contract if the response is in the affirmative, if projects are implemented as scheduled or delayed, reasons in case of delay, action taken against contractors proven to have committed violations, if the DGCA filed cases against these contractors, copies of the relevant documents if the answer is 'yes', value of variation orders in the projects if any, if the monitoring institutions recorded their comments in this regard, and list of officials tasked to follow up and oversee the implementation of projects.

MP Muhammad Al-Mahan asked Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Manea if the Supreme Council for Education signed a contract with a global organization for the development of education in Kuwait. If yes, he requested for details about the organization like its history, achievements, purpose and conditions of the contract; if the council has a strategy for developing education and increase its quality; copy of the strategy if the answer is 'yes'; and measures taken by the National Center for Education Development (NCED) to improve the classification of Kuwait's education in international indexes.

### Continued on Page 4

### Day by Day

IT IS good for the Kuwaiti people and their leaders to know about corruption and who benefits from it.

So, let us find out where some funds have gone. Leaders are required to clear their conscience and put people in front of the saying: "Oh today's news, tomorrow's money is Kuwait wants the news to reveal the truth about

corruption. ... Yet tomorrow is another

**Zahed Matar** 



speaker at The Carter Center in Atlanta on April 6, 2011. Rosalynn Carter, the closest adviser to Jimmy Carter during his one term as U.S. president and their four decades thereafter as global humanitarians, has died at the age of 96. (AP)

Wafra

Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

By Day: Mild with light to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08-30 km/h and some scattred clouds Weather

**Station** 

**Kuwait City** 

By Night: Rather cold to moderate northwesterly wind to light variable wind, with speed of 08-30 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

**Max Exp Min Rec** 

Kuwait Airport 24 19 Abdaly 25 19 Jahra 26 18 Salmiyah 24 Nuwaisib 25 18

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

### 'No entry for nationalities banned by certain countries'

### Unified Gulf tourist visa to become effective beginning of 2025

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: According to wellinformed sources, the recently sanctioned unified Gulf tourist visa initiative, approved by the Interior Ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council nations, is slated to take effect at the beginning of 2025, reports Al-Rai daily.

The sources revealed that following the ministerial approval, joint or country-specific technical committees will initiate the process of formulating and scrutinizing the prerequisites and conditions necessary for application. This will be done in alignment with the legal frameworks and regulations of each participating country.

While the sources commended the project for its potential to ease and streamline the movement of residents and tourists among Gulf countries, positively impacting the economic and tourism sectors, they emphasized that the project's adoption doesn't guarantee automatic approval for the entry of visa holders by all participating countries.

As per the initial project concepts, visa applicants will submit their applications through a unified platform, where scrutiny and approvals from all involved countries will be obtained before visa issuance. In the event of objections from one or more countries, the visa will be issued with the condition of entry restricted to the approved nations only.

The sources noted that, for instance, Kuwait maintains restrictions on the entry of certain nationalities, and this aspect will be among the conditions deliberated by the relevant committees, whether before the project's launch or during its implementation. Additionally, names of visa applicants deported from a country or individuals with issued sentences are automatically circulated among Gulf states in accordance with existing security agreements.

Furthermore, the project encompasses the establishment of specific visa fees. The Residency Affairs Sector within the Ministry of Interior is actively working on a study to revise visa fees across various categories. These adjustments are anticipated to be part of the forthcoming foreigners' residency law, set to be discussed in the National Assembly in December. It was emphasized that Kuwait and the Gulf countries currently have relatively low visa fees, necessitating an urgent need for their re-calibration.

## 'Juveniles killed 114 in 30 years'

Prosecution marks 40 years, issues digital bulletin

### Allama Muhammad Iqbal & thoughts of Arab academia

By Dr. Gilani Shah

**D**R ALLAMA MUHAMMAD IQBAL stands as a prominent figure in recent Muslim history, encompassing roles as a poet, professor, doctor, author, orator, debater, educationist, thinker, philosopher, and political activist. He mastered many languages including Urdu, Arabic, Persian, German, and English. He was the true torchbearer of the Muslim renaissance and Islamic glory. Without a shadow of a doubt, he held the foremost position in the recent era as a Muslim political thinker, championing the cause of political authority for Muslims

#### Reminder

Recognized as the national poet of Pakistan and the founder of the ideology behind the two-nation theory, he laid the foundational principles for the establishment of the state of Pakistan and its enduring connections. His birthday, on the 9th of November, serves as a poignant reminder, igniting a fervor for Muslim political eminence. His poetic verses resound with a call for Muslims to assert their rightful place, embodying a rallying cry for justice.

His birth on 9th November serves as a reminder of Muslim political eminence, igniting passion for their rightful stance. His poetic verses consistently call upon Muslims to stand up for their rights.

He delved into Arabic norms, aligning them with Islamic ideology as guided by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), tying himself to Islam. Personally, visiting Egypt and Palestine, teaching Arabic, and participating in international Muslim conferences, he emphasized the importance of the Arabic language for the Muslims of the subcontinent.

He urged Arabs to unite under one name, emblem, and thought. Expressing concern for Muslim political failures, he highlighted weaknesses, conflicts, and Western conspiracies. Encouraging Muslims to reclaim their traditional stance, he lamented the decline of Islamic civiliza-

His urge to reverse declining Muslim political stature was empowered by divine intuition, and he fearlessly fought for the

Sir Muhammad Iqbal's thoughts on the Muslim Renaissance elevated him to a global thinker and philosopher for Muslim glory. Hence, he is not confined to regional titles like Muhammad Iqbal of Pakistan or the subcontinent but is recognized globally. In the Arab world, he is revered as Muhammad Iqbal of Arabs for his pivotal role in advancing Muslim glory.

The Arabs appreciated him at large by his global thoughts and for the Muslims political statures and they wrote dozens of books, hundreds of papers and thousands of speeches over the thoughts, books, poetry, personality, and message of Sir Muhammad Iqbal, some of them are articulated herein.

The great Muhammad Iqbal visited the Arab world twice, first in 1905 Port Adan & Port Saeed, when he was going to England said by Egyptian a literary person Mr. Sameer Abdul Hammed and later in 1931. Mr. Abd El Wahab Azzam an Egyptian ambassador, orator, translator, in 1931 he put the introduction of Muhammad Iqbal in the Islamic Conference held in Palestine in compliance with the orders of his teacher Abdul Wahab Najjar and it was the start of the influence of the message of the great Muhammad Iqbal among Arabs, wherein he translated his poetic verses into Arabic . He translated his work/books into Arabic, initiated a weekly program under the name of "Darwish Igbal", when he was in Pakistan as an ambassador. The translation into Arabic has been published under the name of "Al-Lamaat." He authored so many papers highlighting the messages of Muhammad Iqbal, e.g., Al Minhal, a Saudi research journal.

In 1951 the well-known scholar Mr. Abu Alhassan Nadvi authored the book under the name of 'The Perfect Man in Iqbal's View' and translated into Arabic and published therein Damascus under the name of 'Masterpieces of Iqbal.' Recently, Syrian scholar Mr. Suheer Zahra translated the books of Muhammad Iqbal



Dr. Allama Muhammad Igbal

into Arabic, which has been highlighted by Al Jazeera TV.

Another scholar hailing from Egypt Savi Al-Shaulan translated the famous poetic verse called "Shikwa & Jawab Shikwa" into Arabic and it has been published under the name of 'Hadeeth Al-Rooh' furtherance hereto this (song) has been voiced by the ever-famous singer of the Arab world Umm Kalthoum in 1967 in a big public show, wherein the poetic verse & voice brought tears to everyone's eyes.

In addition other scholars like Molana Ali Mian, Umar Bahauddin Ameri, Samar Rohi, and Faisal Sham are credible.

More so, Dr. Hassan Al Azmi authored 'Philosophy of Iqbal and Islamic Culture in India and Pakistan,' and Egyptian scholar Dr. Taha Hussain wrote a paper under the name of Iqbal, . Najeeb Al-Kalyani authored the book under the name of 'The Rebel Poet,' Hussain Najeeb authored the book under the name of 'Iqbal Among the Islamic Reformers' and 'Iqbal in the Arab World, Furthermore, Mahdi Hamood Faludi authored the book with the name of 'Iqbal, a Poet or a Philosopher' appraised by Sheikh Ali Tantawi, Sheikh Al Muarkhi (ex-head of Al Azhar Al Sharief), and Abbas Mahmoud Al-Egad.

Hazam Mahmoud Ahmad authored a book under the name of 'Muhammad Iqbal, the Great Islamic Poet,', Mohammad Al Saeed authored the book under the name of 'Eternal Book for the Poet Muhammad Iqbal,' researcher Ahmad Hasan authored 'Ĝreetings to the Memory of Iqbal,' known Egyptian scholar Mohammad Hussain Haikal authored 'Iqbal the Islamic Poet,' Abbas Mahmoud translated the addresses of Muhammad Iqbal under the name of 'Renewal of Religious Thought in Islam,' and Scholar Fathi Rizwan wrote under the name of 'Iqbal the Philosopher,' Usman Ameen authored 'Message of Muhammad Iqbal,' and 'Memoir of Muhammad Iqbal,'. Dr. Ahmad Al-Sharbani authored 'The Great

### **Authored**

Dr. Salman Hazeem authored 'Remembering Iqbal' and Hasan Essa Al Zahar authored 'Muhammad Iqbal, the Islamic Renewal Preacher,' and Dr. Abdul Wadood Al Shibli authored 'Muhammad Iqbal,' and Dr. Khalid Abbas Al Assadi authored 'Muhammad Iqbal, Selected Poems, and Studies,' and Mohammad Hasan Hanafi authored 'Muhammad Iqbal, the Zatiyah Philosopher,' and there are numerous books, authors, research papers, research addresses from so many Arab scholars like Dr. Jalil Abdul Jalil from Iraq, Al-Shema Al-Damrish Al-Aaqali, Morocromen AdulAali al Mutaqi, Dr. Salah Udin from Burani, Dr. Mohammad Saeed Ramzan Albuti from Syria, Dr. Murad from Bahrain and many more.

The initiative taken by Abdul Wahab Hazam in 1936 to educate the Arab world about Muhammad Iqbal is still ongoing as each corner of the Arab world, to this day call him, Muhammad Iqbal of Arabs . His message and thoughts still ring in the hearts and are winning over the hearts. This gives a chance to consider his thoughts and gather our energy in highlighting the stature of the Muslims as desired by the great South Asian poet Sir Muhammad Iqbal .

By Jaber Al-Hamoud Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The Public Prosecution issued a special digital bulletin marking the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Juvenile Prosecution.

In the bulletin, the Public Prosecution explained that the number of cases it investigated over a period of 30 years amounted to 67,480, in which 107,693 defendants appeared

The crimes committed by minor boys amounted to 93.5 percent, and those committed by minor girls amounted to 6.5 percent. The total number of Kuwaitis among them is 61.6 percent, and the non-Kuwaitis is 38.4 percent.

The number of murders committed by juveniles in these 30 years is 114, and the number of murder attempts by juveniles is 109.

The Public Prosecution said the Juvenile Prosecution was established pursuant to juvenile law No. 3/1983, followed by the Attorney General's resolution No. 3/1983 regarding the establishment of the Juvenile Prosecution and for defining its authorities, to carry out the work entrusted to it of investigating, and prosecuting cases committed by delinquent minors. It continued to perform its duties in accordance with the developments of the juvenile law No. 111/2015, as amended, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Juvenile Prosecution.

### **Decided**

The Public Prosecution decided to issue a digital bulletin containing indicators of the most prominent crimes committed by the juvenile category during the period from 1993, which is the year when the Ministry of Justice adopted automatic coding of juvenile cases, to 2022.

It believes that this digital bulletin could contribute to the efforts of specialists, academics and researchers in the relevant legal and scientific fields to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the behavior of deviant minors, taking into account the temporary and realistic data and their reflection on that segment, in the hope of anticipating the features of the future and the optimal methods for some of its provisions in law No. 1/2017 to immunize children and protect them from delinquency.

**MP acquitted:** The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict issued by the Court of First Instance, which acquitted former MP Sa'adoun Hamad Al-Otaibi and five other defendants of buying votes from the Third Constituency district for the 2022 elections.

The defense counsel of the former MP Lawyer Dr. Faisal Ayal Al-Enezi adhered to a formal and objective defense attested to by the fact proven in the papers, through which he undermined the validity of the investigations and the authorization issued pursuant to them. He presented evidence that negated the fulfillment of the elements of that crime, and showed evidence of the fabrication of the accusation.

Court frees writer: The Criminal Court yesterday acquitted writer Buthaina Al-Issa of circulating and selling the book titled "Stateless People in the Gulf", which was a book imported from outside the country through the Takween Library without the approval of the Ministry of Information.

The book included content that conflicts with the national interest, affects the social and political system in Kuwait, and incites violations of public order.

Al-Issa denied the accusations, and the court stressed that the expressions in the book did not amount to accusations, even though it was banned by the Oversight Committee of the Ministry of Information.

### Hail expected as weather experts predict more rain

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The emergency teams in the Ministry of Public Works and other concerned entities efficiently dealt with the consequences of the moderate to heavy rains that the country experienced on Sunday, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to the daily, the amount of rain has increased in Jahra, Sulaibkhat, Doha, Quraiwan, Saad Al-Abdullah, Jaber Al-Ahmad, South Surra, Ahmadi, Hadiya, Raqqa, Kaifan and Jabriya.

A large number of security and traffic officers were dispatched along the main roads and streets to control security, deal with any emergency and regulate traffic

On the other hand, the Meteorological Department confirmed that rains will continue until Monday with varying intensity - light, moderate and heavy, in addition to thunderstorms. It indicated that there are chances of hailstorm, ac-

companied by strong winds exceeding 60 kilometers per hour, increased dust leading to reduced horizontal visibility, and waves rising to more than seven feet.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet meeting.

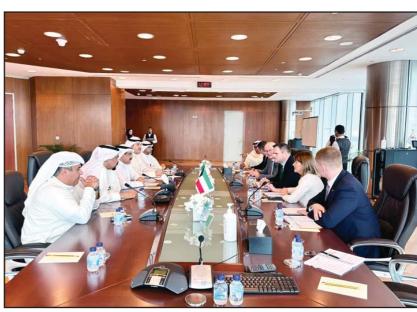
Govt declares 4-day New Year break

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: Kuwait has set December 31 and January 1 as public holidays marking the occasion of the

New Year, the cabinet said on Monday. The decision was taken during the cabinet's weekly meeting, presided over by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh

Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, citing a Civil Service Commission notice.

Government bodies with a "special work nature" will have their holidays determined by their own internal management, taking into consideration "public interest," it added. (KUNA)



The meeting in progress.

Irish team on Kuwait visit

### **Boost sought in trade relations**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: A trade mission to the Gulf Region initiated by Neale Richmond, the Irish Minister for Business, Employment, and Retail, encompassed visits to Kuwait City, Riyadh, and Jeddah, with a primary focus on strengthening existing trade connections in the region and positioning Ireland as a top-tier provider of goods and services in the Aviation, Digital

Technology, and Consumer sectors. During the three-day mission led by Enterprise Ireland Minister Richmond engaged with notable figures, including His Excellency, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, and Acting Minister of Public Works Jassem Al Ostad, Director-General for Civil Aviation Eng. Emad Al Jalawi, Acting Chief Executive of Kuwait Airways Corporation Capt. Ahmad Al Kreebani, and Nasser Al Obaid, Chief Executive Officer for Al Jazeera. During these meetings the minister was accompanied by Ambassador of Ireland to UAE, Kuwait, and Qatar, Her Excellency Alison

Enterprise Ireland has maintained a presence in the GCC region for over two decades, recognizing it as a significant growth market. In 2022, client exports to the Middle East and North Africa region increased by 8%. Ireland's trade with Saudi Arabia was particularly noteworthy, with exports totaling £163.5m in goods and services, making it the largest trading partner in the MENA region. Additionally, €44.9m in exports were recorded for Kuwait.

Minister Richmond expressed optimism about the substantial opportunities for Irish SMEs in the Gulf region, citing combined exports of over €200m to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in 2022. Emphasizing Ireland's prowess in the global aviation sector, he aims to showcase the country's capabilities during the Trade Mission, with the goal of



Kuwaiti and Irish officials at the meet-

unlocking further opportunities for Irish

During the visit, Minister Richmond met with Cleva Mamma, an Enterprise Ireland client company celebrating a successful partnership with Mother Care (Alshaya Group) since 2017 and commemorating Cleva Mamas' 20th anniversary. Additionally, discussions were held with Riyadh Air, the new national flag carrier of Saudi Arabia, and key players in the Kuwaiti aviation sector.

Tom Kelly, Divisional Manager for Industrial and Life Sciences at Enterprise Ireland, highlighted the ambitious economic plans of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the coming years. He underscored that the Trade Mission, in collaboration with client companies, aims to showcase the best of Irish offerings and engage with business leaders in the region.

### Remote area allowance for staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The remote area allowance will be paid to employees in Wafra schools starting November, as the Ministry of Education has obtained approval from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in this regard and it is currently taking the necessary steps to pave way for the disbursement of the allowance, reports Al-Anba quoting reliable sources.

Sources revealed the ministry received two letters from the CSC, stating that the first letter specified the remote area allowance of KD90 for certain employees and the second specified KD50 for other employees. Sources clarified the allowance is only for employees living outside Wafra, as those residing in the area are not entitled to the allowance according to the rules and regulations of CSC. On the other hand, Assistant Undersec-

retary for Public Education Affairs Hessa Al-Mutawa has instructed the educational districts and the Religious Education Department to give 'Teams' accounts to the new teachers and students in a confidential



The Minister of Defense decorates a new group of officers, graduates of the British Royal Naval College with

Ranks distributed

### **New officers honored**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20, (KUNA): Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah honored at Bayan Palace on Sunday new officers who graduated from the British Royal Naval College, and after the issuance of the Amiri decree appointing them as officers in the Kuwaiti army.

A statement by the Army Chief of Staff said that the inauguration ceremony began with the reading of the Amiri decree, and then the new officers took the legal oath.

The statement added that Sheikh Ahmad then congratulated the new officers for gaining the precious trust of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince as officers in the army

Sheikh Ahmed said, "today you are taking your first steps on the path of work, effort and sacrifice, so be worthy of this trust by bearing the responsibility placed on you and carrying out your duties and tasks assigned to you

The minister also expressed his best wishes for the new officers to achieve what we all aspire to in terms of development, progress, and "prosperity for our armed forces."

### Siren test on Tuesday at 10am

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The General Administration of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior notes that the General Administration of Civil Defense will conduct the second trial operation of the sirens in all governorates of Kuwait, Tuesday, at 10:00 am, reports Al-Anba daily.

This is done to determine the readiness of the sirens and to

familiarize everyone with the three siren tones during emergency situations.

Everyone must abide by these sirens -- the first "intermittent" tone signifies the imminent danger, the second (wavy) tone indicates danger in the offing, and the third (continuous) tone indicates the 'all clear'

Each tone will also be followed by voice messages in Arabic and English. For inquiries, contact the civil defense operations office: 25379278.

#### **Woman driver harassed**

### Young man stabbed twice, culprit arrested at border

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: A young man has been placed in custody following his arrest before he could flee the country after stabbing his compatriot twice in the abdomen and one in the leg in a suburb of Mangaf, reports Al-Anba daily. The bleeding victim was rushed to the intensive care unit of the

Al-Adan Hospital where doctors performed a surgery to save his life. According to a security source, the suspect, whose identity has not been disclosed, entered courtyard of the residential building where the victim lived and carried out the heinous crime. He was subsequently arrested at the Nuwaiseeb port while

attempting to leave the country. The source disclosed that the altercation stemmed from previous disputes.

**Woman harassed:** The Mubarak Al-Kabeer Investigations officers have arrested an unidentified Kuwaiti for deliberately colliding with the vehicle of an unidentified young woman on the Fahaheel Expressway following a verbal altercation between them over the 'right of way', reports Al-Anba daily. The daily added, during interrogation at a police station

he admitted to the charge filed against him and has subsequently been referred to the Public Prosecution.

The daily added, the man after hitting her car escaped from the scene and the woman informed the Operations Department of the Ministry of Interior and he was arrested. During, investigations it became clear that the man, in

fact, tried to harass her.

**Delivery man robbed:** A case has been filed against a vehicle driver who, after pilfering two phones from a delivery representative in the Maidan Hawalli area, fled the scene,

reports Al-Anba daily. The efforts of the detectives have resulted in obtaining crucial information about the perpetrator. According to a security source, the authorities were informed that a delivery representa-

tive had fallen victim to a theft orchestrated by a vehicle driver. The driver, who had initially agreed to receive two phones from the representative, refused to climb out of his vehicle to receive the phones and taking this advantage, he snatched the two phones from the rep's hands and escaped.

Fortunately, the license plate of the vehicle was noted and the driver's mobile phone number, which was in possession of the representative. Police are looking to for the thief.

Drugs found on motorist: Personnel from the Jahra Security Directorate have arrested an unidentified motorist who is believed to be in his forties on the Al-Subbiya Road for possessing narcotic drugs and three bottles of locally-made alcohol, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, the suspect was initially ordered to pull over for violating a traffic law and while issuing a citation, the officer discovered he was in a state of drug use.

The suspect and the contraband have been handed over to the concerned authority.

In the same context, two people were arrested in the Saad Al-Abdullah area for consuming drugs and possessing chemicals and drug paraphernalia.

During interrogation, they admitted to doing drugs. They have been referred with the materials to the General Department of Narcotics Control.

**Diesel thieves nabbed:** Members of the Investigations

and Public Security unit apprehended foreign nationals who specialize in the theft and illicit sale of diesel in the Abu Halifa, reports Al-Anba daily. The daily added, the suspects tried in vain to escape but a

hot pursuit culminated in the suspects being taken into custody. A detailed report was filed on the incident, with the accused acknowledging their involvement in the unlawful activity over several months.

Falls in own trap: A Kuwaiti who went to the Salwa Police Station to complain about a neighbor who was allegedly disturbing him, found himself on the other side of the fence, reports Al-Anba daily. When police registered the complaint against the neigh-

bor, they found the complainant himself was wanted by law to serve a 10-year prison term. He was subsequently detained and handed over to the

Sentences Enforcement Department.

**Car broken into:** A male citizen in his 40s has filed a complaint with the Hawalli police station accusing an unidentified person of breaking into his car and stealing his cell phone, money and important documents, reports Al-Anba daily.

Police are looking for the suspect.

# diwaniya والنية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

### 'Hideous wars remain dominant on human psyche'

"WARS are ugly, there is no doubt about that, but the ugliest thing we see today is the global preparations to ensure the continuation of these wars in a way that has led to the comprehensive militarization of the world

around us, until military budgets have reached astronomical figures. Here is the United States, which ranks first in armaments with a budget exceeding 761 billion dollars, and Russia with more than 82 billion, while China ranks second with spending of approximately 230 billion dollars, followed by (major) countries with budgets of no less than 51 billion dollars," columnist Suad Fahd Al-Mojil wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.



"Most scientists believe that war is an extension of the biological behavior of animals that humans have tamed to defend their surroundings and property, in addition to competing with others for food and water quotas. They believe that animals are inherently aggressive, and their aggression is manifested in their conflicts and fights to preserve their species and defend their pastures, while their aggression is manifested in humans are in wars and they mutate, so that the motive behind them is no longer to preserve food, water, or spatial gains. Rather, technology has developed that innate motive to become more violent and ferocious in a way that exceeds any imagination or rational think-

ing.
"Psychologists have always tried to explain the psy-

chology of wars and the reasons why humans always seek them and transcend peace and love. Most of them have agreed that it is impossible for humans to live in peace, as evidenced by the history of wars extending across recorded human civilizations. Indeed, some of these scientists, and geneticists agree with them here. They believe that one of the most prominent reasons why humans are in a state of constant war and conflict is that they were originally created from selfish genes whose cloning and reproduction requires ferocity, aggression, and selfishness, and from this biological formation emerged the aggressive human tendency in its attempt to impose its survival and continuation on

"Such biological theories may not provide a comprehensive and conclusive explanation for the human tendency to war, but it remains a factor among several factors that lead to the wars that humans witness. There are certainly psychological aspects related to man's hunger in general and his continuous and permanent desire to obtain and protect his property, position, authority, and leadership. All wars revolve around the occupation of others' lands or control of wealth, minerals, and ports, with the aim of securing the security and future of the race, sect, nationality, and other components of human belonging.

"British researcher Richard Ned Lippo says in one of his books that there are four motives for war: fear, interest, status, and revenge. Perhaps fear here ranks first among these motives. Fear of the other is a biological trait rooted in the human gene, which today's advanced war technology has enabled to be more clear, ferocious, and violent.

"In one of Vienna's parks stands a very large concrete building that was used during World War II as a shelter from raids. One of the graffiti artists wrote on its wall a sentence saying: "We will never do it again." However, Europe returned to the war through the gate of Ukraine, and Churchill said this after the war ended. The Second World War said: "We must draw the curtain on all the horrors witnessed in the past." However, the curtain of wars has not been drawn. As for one of the Western philosophers, he said: "Whoever forgets the horrors of the past must inevitably repeat them,' and the world undoubtedly always forgets the horrors

"However, despite all this, the psychology of war remains dominant over the human psyche in a very hideous way that we see every day in the remains of Gaza's children and its innocent victims, women and the elderly. It is embodied by the greed and violence of the Zionist entity in its ugliest forms, which exceed all the massacres of war throughout human history.

"O war, how hideous you are! How hideous are the arguments that a person carries with his weapon in defense of his (right) to kill others and destroy the earth! The war on Gaza today remains one of the most horrific wars, as the Zionist entity was stripped of the slightest amount of good human genes. All that remained was the blatant evil represented by their killing of children and bombing of hospitals in a way that exceeded the ugliness of all previous wars between humans."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

### **MP** questions minister on **boosting Kuwait security**

'Check travelers with Israeli passport'

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: Par**liamentarian Hamad Al-Olayan has directed a parliamentary inquiry to the First Deputy **Prime Minister and Minister** of the Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, regarding the Ministry's protocols for preventing individuals with Israeli citizenship, holding Gulf or foreign passports, from entering Kuwait, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Olayan sought clarification on whether the Ministry of Interior has a defined strategy aimed at bolstering Kuwait's security and enforcing laws prohibiting normalization with Israelis. Specifically, he inquired about measures to prevent the entry of individuals with Israeli nationality, even if they hold passports and nationalities from other foreign countries. He also sought details on the mechanisms employed by the Ministry in this regard.

Additionally, Al-Olayan requested information on the steps taken by the Ministry of Interior to enforce Kuwaiti legislation against normalization with Zionists. Given Kuwait's declared state of war against the

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20, (Agencies): The

Municipality's Committee formed to study

and review building regulations has final-

ized the proposed schedule outlining re-

quirements to establish public radio com-

The committee headed by Muhammad Al-

Mutairi said in a letter addressed to the Director

General of the Municipality Saud Al-Dabbous,

that an additional Article, 39 bis, has been in-

corporated into the new telecommunications

regulations. This article introduces penalties.

including fines ranging from 9,000 to 10,000

dinars, withdrawal of the engineering office's

license, suspension of the contractor's classifi-

cation, and administrative deportation for non-

The violations subject to these penalties

encompass the unauthorized implementa-

tion or supervision of telecommunications

stations and towers, exceeding the designat-

ed area of 300 square meters, placing vehi-

cles in unauthorized locations, establishing

communication infrastructure in prohibited

Kuwaiti violators.

munications stations across Kuwait.

occupying Zionist forces in Palestinian and Arab lands, he asked about the verification processes to ensure that foreigners entering Kuwait do not possess Israeli citizenship alongside their other nationalities. He questioned whether modern technologies are employed for verification or if the Ministry relies solely on received information.

The parliamentarian further inquired whether, between 2003 and 2023, instances occurred where individuals with foreign nationalities and passports entered Kuwait, only for it to later emerge that some held Israeli citizenship. He requested documentation supporting the Ministry's actions in such cases.

Al-Olayan also sought information on Kuwait's stance regarding the unified Gulf tourist visa project. Specifically, he asked whether the Kuwaiti government unconditionally approved, refused to implement, or expressed reservations about the unified visa. He sought clarity on whether Kuwait intends to be part of the Gulf countries implementing this visa and when it is slated for implementation in Kuwait.

Concluding his inquiry, Al-Olayan addressed circulating reports on social media suggesting Kuwait's reservations about the unified Gulf tourist visa due to specific security considerations preventing the acceptance of certain nationalities received by other Gulf countries. He sought clarification on the accuracy of such information

sites, and failing to maintain the required

20-meter distance from residential build-

ings, schools, kindergartens, and facilities

Al-Mutairi further highlighted that the ar-

ticle imposes a fine of 100 to 500 dinars for us-

ing materials other than permeable iron mesh

to enclose communication stations and tow-

ers, not adhering to specified fence height, and

neglecting to display indicative and warning

3,000 to 5,000 dinars for placing advertising or

to 5,000 dinars if the site of telecommunica-

tions stations and towers is left unfenced. In

all instances, a ruling will be made to rectify

the violation, with the possibility of adding

further penalties such as license suspension or

withdrawal. Violators may also face criminal

or civil accountability when deemed necessary,

and fines increase with the number of viola-

Additionally, the committee specified fines of

The third clause outlines a penalty of 4,000

signs on relevant buildings and sites.

promotional material within these sites.

for people with disabilities.

### **Other Voices**

### The army of Ratyan and ignorance of the reality

By Ahmad alsarraf

omparing our service conditions to the Gulf countries is unfair, due to the difference in governance systems. In order to become like them, we must abolish the regulatory bodies and work in a more centralized manner.

This means not caring about the cost of any project, as its implementation is the most important. This was applied in Kuwait to a limited extent. and the results were, in the opinion of some, unsuccessful, and examples are shown at the car racing track.



alsarraf

Our tragedy with our roads, for example, is mainly the result of lax government administration, the spread of corruption in ness to hold negligent people accountable, and the matter has nothing to do with our democratic system.

Just as there are examples of some of them failing, there are wonderful democracies that have achieved a lot and are superior in number!

Muhammad Al-Ratyan, the Saudi writer, wrote an article years ago, which did not receive much attention, which included a comparison between what countries in the Gulf achieved and the devastation that resulted from the "military" rule in Gaddafi's Libya.

The article was rephrased again in

2016, and its author or someone else added Kuwait to Lebanon, and compared the situation of the two countries, the democrats, with some of the Gulf states. It was published under the title "The Sheikhs, the Military, and the Democracy," and its title confirms the truth that it was mainly about Lebanon and the Gulf states.

The author says that in some countries there is a large amount of free noise, with little freedom, and that politicians are more than citizens. There is more gossip than achievements. He wondered why the democratic model in Kuwait failed in the area of development, and its success in other Gulf countries?

The majority of those who sent the article and liked it treated it as a talk, and considered it an argument against supporters of democracy, and that it was not cre-

First: Our democracy goes back six decades, and we will not neglect it, because

a writer did not like our political system. We have become accustomed to it, and we breathe through it, no matter how much noise is around us. The course of history says that what we call for is what will prevail in the end, and not the other way around. It is the nature of things, and is completely in line with human nature and its constant yearning for freedom. Second: The freedoms and democracy

that Lebanon enjoyed made it the best country, for half a century, among all Arab countries, in terms of education, tourism, medicine, and culture. Lebanon's distinguished people, its creators, and the product of its democracy have filled the entire world, and there is not enough space to mention even half of them. This is what the rest of the Arab coun-

tries combined, and even Syria, which is similar to it, have failed to achieve, and the reasons for this are known.

Egypt's greatness, in many areas, occurred during the period of democracy, and everything dried up and died down

Also, the freedoms that we have enjoyed, for half a century, are what made Kuwait, this small country, what it has become and the distinction and uniqueness it has achieved in its surroundings, which is the distinction that I used to feel and touch whenever I visited the Gulf countries, over the course of half a century, praise and admiration always came from them, not from me, because I knew that what they achieved, we could achieve with money and planning, but what about humans?

Third: Responding to brother Muhammad Al-Ratyan and to the enemies of democracy, especially at home, the majority of whom are either naive or have their own agendas, is easy, as they are not the obstructing factor.

The advancement of the state is a decision owned by the government, in cooperation with the Council, or others, and all we need is a future vision, a clear goal, and the power to make decisions.

We will all not be satisfied, neither today nor tomorrow, with rulers other than Al-Sabah. The issue of the complete absence of the voices of those who called for the Foreign Minister to be interrogated, if he refused to accredit the American ambassador, is a good example.

Therefore, with or without democracy, the Sabahs will remain our rulers, so what is the reason to neglect our current politi-

e-mail: a.alsarraf@alqabas.com.kw

Allowances to be hiked: minister

tions committed.

**Heavy fines introduced** 

New telecom strategy unveiled

### Bid to improve retirees living

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah confirmed in a recent interview at the 'Layali Al-Kuwait' (Kuwait Nights) television program that his ministry is keen on improving the living conditions of retirees, studying the interestfree loans issue, and increasing the cost of living allowance for employees in the public and private sectors, reports Al-Anba daily.

In the same program, Director General of the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) Ahmed Al-Thunayan disclosed that PIFSS has two main goals: providing the best service to ensure decent living conditions for retirees, and guaranteeing the continuity and permanence of the institution.

He added: "We are keen on ensuring the autonomy of the institution and to refrain from burdening the State budget. As per the royal directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber

Al-Sabah, as well the wise government; the bill on increasing the minimum pension of retirees was approved, and it will be referred back to the government for approval and action.

He pointed out that the law on the minimum pension of retirees was ratified in 2003 and its goal is to provide the minimum standard of living for retired Kuwaitis to meet their needs. He stated the annual increase for retirees is an acquired right.

On the proposal to increase the interestfree loan amount, he confirmed this is still under study to determine the best option for

"We have many proposals regarding the interest-free loan. We are discussing them intensively with the Council of Ministers and the nation. The current law does not cover those registered under Chapter Five. We will hold meetings with a number of public benefit associations to listen to their opinions," he concluded.





Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh

## **UN** convention on special people's rights not yet implemented: KALD

'7,197 students suffering from learning difficulties in Kuwait'

By Inass Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The Chairperson of the Kuwait Association for Learning Differences (KALD), Amal Al-Sayer says Kuwait has signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in 2013, which obligates it to implement comprehensive educational inclusion within five years, but this has not been achieved on the ground.

She said this in a speech she delivered at the opening of the 10th Parents' Forum, which was

organized by

the associa-

tion with the

support of the

Kuwait Pro-

jects Founda-

tion recently

Cultural and

of



Al-Sayer

at the headquarters the Women's

Social Society, under the title "Deficiency in Executive Functions between Understanding and Optimal Coexistence: Practical Applica-

Al-Sayer explained that the number of students suffering from learning difficulties in Kuwait reached 7,197, according to statistics from the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA).

Choosing "Executive Functions" as the topic for this year's forum was because of its importance in understanding the challenges facing those with dysfunction, such as students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The international expert suggested calling this disorder "Executive Function

She stressed the importance of activating comprehensive integration education programs for the disabled students in Ministry of Education schools, and preparing

and training teachers for the success of the integration process.

Meanwhile, the general coordinator of the forum and professor of teaching methods at the College of Education at Kuwait University Dr. Wafaa Al-Yassin confirmed that executive functions are needed by a person to perform many mental operations that help him coexist in his surroundings and interact with them in a positive way.

She said the forum included an open dialogue with parents that focused on three axes to address deficiencies in executive functions for those suffering from learning differences - memory and its types, attention, and the issue of foods that enhance it.

### **Bangladeshis pay homage to war heroes, martyrs**

### B'desh Armed Forces Day's significance

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: Bangladesh celebrates 21 November as the Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh. The day bears special significance in the history of Bangladesh. Members of Bangladesh Armed Forces take special pride in organizing ceremonies on this day in befitting manner with honour and dignity.

Following 23 years of ceaseless struggle to establish rights, with historic declaration of independence by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, liberation war of Bangladesh began on 26th March 1971. The war lasted for 9 months. Initially it was the guerrilla resistance movement consisting of the Bangladeshi military, paramilitary and civilians.

#### **Liberation war**

At the later stage of the liberation war, Bangladesh Liberation Forces were organized as conventional Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force. From 21 Nov 1971, the simultaneous and coordinated operations of the Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force gain offensive momentum. Subsequently, occupation forces surrendered on 16 Dec 1971, Bangladesh emerged as independent country in the world map. The independence of Bangladesh came at the cost of supreme sacrifice of 3 million martyrs, 200 thousand women lost their sanctity and many suffered war injuries

On this special day, all Bangladeshis pay homage to their war heroes, martyrs. The day inspires the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces to renew their oath to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their motherland. It also signifies the paramount importance of comradeship, togetherness and jointness in arms to fight collectively against enemy.

Bangladesh Armed Forces which were organized during liberation war, is also known as armed forces of the people.

Bangladesh Armed Forces are a symbol of pride, a symbol of trust and confidence in Bangladesh. In addition to constitutional role, Bangladesh Armed Forces play key role in nation building activities, disaster management and internal security duties etc. Bangladesh Armed Forces played very important role in successfully combating COVID-19 situation and in managing forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals of more than one million. Bangladesh Armed Forces stand today as the largest troops contributing country in the United Nations Peace Keeping Operations. Bangladesh now has more than 7,000 Armed Forces personnel deployed in

10 United Nations missions across the globe. Bangladesh Armed Forces are being modernized under "Forces Goal-2030" Bangladesh Armed Forces maintains very friendly relation with many Armed Forces of the world.

#### Cooperation

The cooperation between Bangladesh Armed Forces and Kuwait Armed Forces is very special. Apart from exchange of visit, training etc, Bangladesh Armed Forces has a constructive role in Kuwait. Presently, being divided in 11 contingents, skilled personnel of Bangladesh Military Contingent to Kuwait is providing technical and vocational expertise support in the fields of engineering, medical, communication, security, administration etc to rebuild Kuwait for the past

A total of 96 member of Bangladesh Armed Forces sacrificed their lives while working for the friendly country. More than 5,200 personnel of Bangladesh Armed Forces are serving now in Kuwait. Defence Wing, Bangladesh Embassy takes pride in celebrating Armed Forces Day with friendly country Kuwait. Long live Bangladesh Armed Forces, long live Kuwait-Bangladesh Friend-ship.

### Realization of **Continued from Page 1**

Today, when we look at the European and American positions on the brutal Israeli aggression on Gaza, we realize that the creation of influence begins with domination of the financial and media industry, and research and university education institutions in any country.

That is why Europeans today fear the return of the Jews to their countries. Franklin's prophecy has come true and has become a nightmare for everyone in the

The Arabs and Palestinians have not worked in their history to build soft power, like the one that Zionism currently has. Therefore, Israel will continue to enjoy power and influence, while the Arabs will continue to assert their rights, be content with statements, and insult each other.

### MPs seek

### **Continued from Page 1**

MP Hassan Jawhar forwarded queries to Minister of Justice and State Minister for Housing Affairs Faleh Al-Raqaba about the procedures followed in the establishment of the Higher Elections Commission as per Article Two of Law No. 120/2023. He pointed out this law was published in Kuwait Gazette on Aug 27, 2023; indicating the Justice Ministry emphasized the ing the Justice Ministry emphasized the need to establish the commission before the issuance of the executive regulations for the

He wants to know the difficulties that Al- Raqaba faced in forming the commission if any, if the minister has started receiving nominations for members of the commission, and level of the minister's commitment to form the commission considering it should be done within six months after the publication of the law in Kuwait Gazette.

He also asked Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah about the tasks of the Supreme Council for Governorates; number of meetings it held from Dec 12, 2022 till date; number of employees appointed at the council's Secretariat General; if it is separated from the Council of Ministers; copy of the relevant decision if the answer is 'yes'; number of employees at the Supreme Council for Governorates; their career history and achievements of the council since 2020 till

The lawmaker asked Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari if the Amiri Diwan was informed about changing the national vision from Kuwait 2035 to 2040 as per the statement of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil and State Minister for Economic and Investment Affairs Saad Al-Barrak. He wants to know why the statement of Al-Barrak about the vision is different from that of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

MP Dawoud Maarefi asked Minister of

Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban if there is coordination between public institutions and other concerned entities to implement : ministerial Decision No. 29/2023 on the formation of a committee to conduct a study on specifying delivery charges, conclusion and recommendations of the committee if any, and if there is a comprehensive plan to regulate delivery

MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf forwarded queries to HH the Prime Minister about Åmiri Aircraft G650 (Flight No. KUG069) that took off Kuwait International Airport at night on Oct 27, 2023 for the evacuation of Kuwaitis stranded in Lebanon. He wants to know if this is part of the plan of Kuwait to evacuate its citizens, list of evacuated citizens through this flight, list of all those onboard the aircraft when it went to Lebanon including their positions and tasks, and if the purpose of the trip included meeting the concerned Lebanese parties as part of Kuwaiti diplomatic tasks.

### **Central Bank**

### **Continued from Page 1**

In April of 2023, the Central Bank issued a memo to local banks in regards to payment links for individuals, mandating that the clients, involved in this type of transactions, must provide the necessary information from banking statements, which includes names of the clients and the reason for the payment. This particular transaction via online link must not exceed 24 hours and must have a certain daily and monthly

value ceiling.
The CBK, last September, also issued a notification for local banks to ban the use of the malicious "Anydesk" application on smartphones. It also tasked Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) to establish a round the clock-command center to deal with financial fraud and reports from clients in

To reinforce banking cards, the CBK had made imperative for banks to remind clients to activate their cards with their respective banks before usage in addition to measures such as locking the cards in the case of three failed attempts of entering pass-

In regards to further protecting clients, the CBK launched in December 2022 as cyber unit to protect clients, which gathers complaints from them against local banks.

The Central Bank had been encouraging local financial institutes to establish their respective units in this regard since January of 2011. In 2013, it established the clients' 1864444 complaints hotline.

A comprehensive guide for clients' rights protection was also issue in 2015 to create a safe environment in Kuwait and bolster efforts to counter fraud.

The CBK's measures also focused on boosting the public awareness of financial fraud, launching the "Let's Be Aware" campaign to prevent online fraud. The campaign saw the cooperation of the public and private sectors in addition to the participa-



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

Promo period from 1st - 30th November 2023

Email: reservation@albander.com

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351

**₹ ©** @albanderhotelandresort

Terms & conditions apply\*

www.albander.com

#### **Municipal Council panels meet**

Draft okayed regarding regulating cultivation of state-owned squares

#### By Inass Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The Legal and Financial Committee of the Municipal Council, during its meeting Saturday, headed by Fahad Abduljader, approved the draft ministerial decision re-

garding the ordinances regulating the cultivation of stateo w n e d squares adjacent to private and model residential homes. It



Al-Abduljader

also approved a proposal for increasing registration fees for bidders and reconsidering fees

for selling auction documents company qualification booklets.

In a related context, on Tuesday, the Joint Committee of the Technical Committee and the Legal and Financial Committee of the Municipal Council will hold a meeting headed by Dr. Hassan Kamal to discuss the

items on its agenda. These items are - the amendments to the proposed schedule regarding the special requirements and specifications for establishing public radio communications stations in all regions of Kuwait, the draft communications list, the letter of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health regarding the third meeting of the joint committee between the Technical Committee and the Legal and Financial Committee, and a letter from the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Communications and Information Technology Commission regarding the eighth meeting of the Joint Committee, in addition to the final version of the proposed schedule regarding the special requirements and specifications for establishing public radio communications stations in all different parts of Kuwait.

On Wednesday, the Environmental Affairs Committee of the Municipal Council, headed by Alia Al-Farsi, will hold a meeting to discuss the letter submitted by the Kuwait Green Wall Association regarding the Green Oasis Project in the area between the Abdullah Port Refinery and Zour Refinery.

It will also discuss the letter of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) regarding the call for the second meeting of the Environmental Affairs Committee, in addition to the two proposals submitted by the member Alia Al-Farsi regarding the service of removing bulky residential waste of large quantities and sizes (bulky waste).

Also, the proposal to allocate land for date palm cultivation in the north of the country, in addition to the proposal submitted by member Sherifa Al-Shalfan regarding maintaining the cleanliness of the marine environment will also be discussed.

On Thursday, the Capital Governorate Committee of the Municipal Council will hold a meeting headed by Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader to discuss a number of important issues on its agenda.

Among the most prominent issues are the letter from the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature regarding the restoration and rehabilitation of Sheikh Fahad Al-Salem Al-Sabah Palace, a request submitted by NCCAL regarding the Jableh Cultural Project, a letter submitted by the Ministry of Public Works regarding the practice of radical road maintenance work in the Capital Governorate, and a letter from the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation regarding the documents related to the allocation of the oil complex to the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

Other issues include the squares designated as gardens within the cadastral plan for the Qurtuba area, the letter of the Public Authority for Industry regarding the parking lots located south of the authority's main building in South Surra, and the request for approval to open the discussion on licensing a commercial complex for the Athletics Union located in Kaifan.

## Diesel crisis 'hits' fish markets

'Prices rising'

By Abdul Nasser Al-Aslami

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff **KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: Ac**cording to the Kuwait Fishermen Union, the diesel crisis has affected the market and prices, especially since the Sharq and Fahaheel markets are almost devoid of the local product. The supply is much lower than before, and prices are rising due to the lack of supply, as if we are revolving in a vicious circle. Urgent solutions must be developed before reaching a dead end. Many fishermen are considering selling their licenses and boats and relieving their workers due to the high operational cost and the insufficient share of subsidized diesel.

In a press statement, the union explained that the cost of a basket of shrimps has touched KD 100.

What is happening with the Kuwait Fishermen Union has not happened with any other food security union.

The decision to spend half of the diesel quota subsidized and the other half unsubsidized has disastrous proportions and will cause fishermen to refrain from going into the sea. This is due to the fact that the cost of a fishing trip is more than KD 400, and this will double due to unsubsidized diesel. Entering the sea will then be of no benefit and will inflict more losses on the fisher-

The union called on the Subsidy Committee to review its decision and disburse the full share as it did in past years.

It affirmed that it did not find a justification for stopping the subsidized diesel share at times, and reducing it to half at other times, and then the subsidy committee would resort to returning half of the diesel share as subsidized and the other half as unsubsidized. This is what the fishing license holders were upset about. They are wondering about the reasons that led to the fight against the local product of fish and shrimp.

The union said, "We often hear from some officials about the necessity of supporting the local product, but unfortunately we find that they are just slogans. There are those who deliberately place obstacles in front of the local product, as we see in the issue of withholding subsidized diesel. It is as if someone is trying to eliminate the entire fishing profession - this ancient traditional profession - and is pushing in the direction of relying on imported products.'

### Flexible working hours not suitable for MoH: minister

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadhi, confirmed that flexible working hours are not appropriate for the work of the Ministry of Health, citing "the special nature of work in all the ministry's facilities which is not compatible with

flexible working hours, and therefore the ministry has not issued any decision in this regard," reports Al-Rai

daily. Al-Awadhi was responding to a parliamentary query submitted by MP Osama Al-Shaheen, when told that the

"Public Authority for Food and Nutrition had already issued the Administrative Resolution No. 637/2023 specifying flexible official working hours from Sunday to Thursday, 7 hours work in accordance with the provisions of this





**AL-KHAFJI JOINT OPERATIONS** 



الشركة الكويتية لنفط الخليج KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)

ARAMCO GULF OPERATIONS

### TENDER ADVERTISMENT

Aramco Gulf Operations Company Limited ("AGOC") and Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (K.S.C) ("KGOC"), (Al Khafji Joint Operations) invites intending bidders to participate for the **Tender** No.: GT819PC23 Construction of Non-Directional Beacon (NDB) Building.

Each intending bidder may purchase the tender documents upon payment of Saudi Riyals Five Hundred (SR 500) or Kuwaiti Dinars Forty (KD 40) only which is non-refundable by visiting our Contracts Department at Al- Khafji, Saudi Arabia, or KGOC's Main Office in Al- Ahmadi, Commercial Affairs Group. The bidder may visit our KJO website: www.kjo.com.sa and follows the path; E-Services Tendering Contractors Ongoing Tenders to review part of tender documents, before purchasing.

The sale of Tender Documents will be effective from **November 20, 2023, until 12:00 Noon**, December 13, 2023.

Attending the Pre-Tender Meeting and Site Visit are Mandatory.

A Pre-Tender meeting will be held for interested bidders at KJO Auditorium, Office Park Building, at Al-Khafji Joint Operations, Saudi Arabia, at 10:00 AM local time on December 13, 2023. A site visit will be held soon after the pre-tender Meeting.

The bid proposal shall be delivered by hand-delivery or thru courier service to the Contracts Department in Al- Khafji Joint Operations, Al- Khafji, Saudi Arabia on or before the closing date 14:00 Hours, Monday, January 15, 2024 of the time stipulated in the tender document.

For more Information, You May Contact The Following Nos.

Tel. No.: +966 (13) 765 4483 E- Mail: ctdtenders@kjo.com.sa

Website: www.kjo.com.sa





ألواح الجبس 🔷

ALUMINIUM CEILINGS

GYPSUM BOARDS





**CEMENT BOARDS** 

غراء البلاط / لاصق البلاط 🔷

♦ TILE GLUE / TILE ADHESIVE





الصوف الزجاجي / الصوف الصخري - العزل 🔷

♦ GLASSWOOL / ROCKWOOL - INSULATION























DRYWALL SCREWS / JOINT COMPOUND

التشكيلات المعدنية / الملحقات المعدنية / فتحات الصيانة 🔷

METAL PROFILES / METAL ACCESSORIES / ACCESS PANEL









GYPSUM AND ACOUSTIC MINERAL FIBRE CEILING TILES

**◆ UAE** 

### **World News Roundup**

### **Europe**

#### **Teen back home**

### US defense chief on surprise visit to Kyiv

WASHINGTON, Nov 20, (AP): US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin made an unannounced visit to Kyiv on Monday in a high-profile push to keep money and weapons flowing to Ukraine even as US and international resources are stretched by the new global risks raised by the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Austin, who traveled to Kyiv by train from Poland, is scheduled to meet with senior Ukrainian officials and publicly press Ukraine's urgent military needs as it enters another tough winter of fighting.

This is Austin's second trip to Kyiv, but he's making it under far different circumstances. His first visit occurred in April 2022, just two months after Russia's large-scale invasion. At the time, Ukraine was riding a wave of global rage at Moscow's invasion, and Austin



Austin

launched an international effort that now sees 50 countries meet monthly to coordinate on what weapons, training and other support could be pushed to Kyiv.

"I'm here today to deliver an important message - the United States will continue to stand with Ukraine in their fight for freedom against Russia's aggression, both now and into the future," Austin posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

But the conflict in Gaza could pull attention and resources from the Ukraine fight. The US has worked feverishly since the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas on Israel, and the weeks of devastating bombardment on Gaza by Israel that has followed, killing more than 10,000 civilians, to keep those attacks from turning into a regional war.

#### Shift

The US has already committed two carrier strike groups, scores of fighter jets and thousands of US personnel to the Middle East, and has had to shift its force posture and conduct airstrikes against Iranian-backed militant groups who are now hitting US bases in Iraq and Syria on a regular basis.

To date, Ukraine has received more \$44 billion from the US and more than \$35 billion from other allies in weapons, ranging from millions of bullets to air defense systems, advanced European and US battle tanks and, finally, pledges for F-16 fighter jets.

But Ukraine still needs more, and after almost 20 months of shipping arms to Ukraine, cracks are beginning to show. Some European countries such as Poland have scaled back support, noting their need to maintain adequate fighting ability to defend them-

Ukrainian officials have strongly pushed back on suggestions it's in a stalemate with Russia after a long-awaited counteroffensive over the summer did not radically change the battle lines on the ground. 

Russian drones target Kyiv: Russian drones targeted Kyiv on Sunday as the British Defense Ministry said there were "few immediate prospects" for major change along the Ukrainian front line as the war enters

Russia launched 20 Iranian-made Shahed drones overnight, targeting the Ukrainian capital and the Cherkasy and Poltava regions, according to a military statement. Ukrainian anti-aircraft systems shot down

The overnight strike on Kyiv is the second attack on the Ukrainian capital in 48 hours, said the city's Military Administration spokesperson, Serhii Popko.

He said that the drones attacked Kyiv from different directions in waves that were "constantly changing

Orphaned teen back home with relatives: An orphaned Ukrainian teenager who was taken to Russia last year during the war in his country returned home after being reunited with relatives in Belarus on his

18th birthday Sunday.

Bohdan Yermokhin was pictured embracing family members in Minsk in photographs shared on social media by Russia's children's rights ombudswoman, Maria Lvova-Belova

Andrii Yermak, the head of the Ukrainian president's office, confirmed that Yermokhin had arrived back in Ukraine and shared a photo of him with a Ukrainian flag. Yermak thanked UNICEF and Oatari negotiators for facilitating Yermokhin's return.

Yermokhin's parents died two years ago, before Russia invaded Ukraine. Early in the war, he was taken from the port city of Mariupol, where he lived with a cousin who was his legal guardian, placed with a foster family in the Moscow region and given Russian citizenship, according to Ukrainian lawyer Kateryna

'Justice for Nahel': The mother of a 17-year-old who was killed during a traffic stop in France led a protest Sunday to call for justice after after the police officer suspected in the fatal shooting of her son was

released from custody pending further investigation. The death of Nahel Merzouk June touched off rioting around the country that highlighted anger over police violence, poverty and discrimination against people with immigrant backgrounds. Merzouk was of North African origin.

A few hundred people rallied Sunday at the site where he was killed, Nelson Mandela Square in the Paris suburb of Nanterre. Police vans lined nearby streets. Shouts briefly erupted when objects were thrown at police, but the gathering was overall peace-

The late teenager's mother, Mounia, choked with emotion as she described missing her son. She led the group in chants of "Justice for Nahel.

Irish supermarket heir dies at 74: Ben Dunne, an Irish business tycoon who survived a kidnapping by the IRA and later triggered a scandal that shook the

cozy world of Ireland's politics, has died. He was 74. Dunne's son Robert confirmed his death to the news website Extra.ie. Irish media reported that the elder Dunn died of a heart attack Saturday during a trip to Dubai. Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs said it was aware of the sudden death of an Irish citizen in Dubai and was providing consular assistance.

The Cork-born retail baron's name was one of the most ubiquitous in Ireland thanks to the supermarket chain Dunnes Stores, founded by his father, and the

Ben Dunne Gyms fitness centers. In 1981, masked gunmen from the Irish Republican Army kidnapped Dunne as he was on his way to open a store in Northern Ireland.



US President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden poses for a photo after speaking with service members and their relatives at the Norfolk Naval Station on Nov 19 in Norfolk, Va. President Biden is visiting naval installations in Virginia for an early kickoff to the Thanksgiving holiday week. (AP)

### Bidens start Thanksgiving early by serving dinner, showing 'Wonka' to service members

US President Joe Biden visited naval installations in Virginia on Sunday to kick off the Thanksgiving holiday week, introducing an early screening of the upcoming movie "Wonka" and sharing a "friendsgiv-

ing" meal with service members and their relatives. Biden also paid tribute Sunday to former first lady Rosalynn Carter, who died Sunday, and to President Jimmy Carter. "They brought so much grace to the office," Biden said.

The president and first lady Jill Biden headed

to a packed auditorium at Naval Support Activity

Hampton Roads to introduce the new film centered around the early life of Roald Dahl's fictional eccentric chocolatier, Willy Wonka. It will be officially

released Dec 15. He joked to the many youngsters in the crowd: "I like kids more than adults" and added "I wish I could stay and watch Wonka with you."

Instead, the Bidens helped serve dinner with service members from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and the USS Gerald R. Ford at Norfolk Naval Station, the largest installation of its kind in the world,

along with their families.

"You literally are the backbone, the spine, the spine of this nation," the president said. "Only 1% of you, that's all, that protects the 99% of us.'

The event featured around 400 service members and their relatives seated in folding chairs and around wooden, circular tables inside a concrete-floored hanger that included three display Blackhawk helicopters, a towering American flag and a screen with the image of the White House surrounded by falling leaves and the words "Happy Thanksgiving." (AP)



Texas Gov Greg Abbott, (left), chats with Republican presidential candidate and former US president Donald Trump at the South Texas International Airport on Nov 19 in Edinburg, Texas. Abbott and Trump serve a Thanksgiving luncheon to Texas state troopers and National Guard personnel. (AP)





### America

Shooting survivor heals with op: For Kylie Ossege, the 19-year-old college student who survived two deadly mass school shootings in Michigan - one as a senior at Oxford High School in 2021 and another 14 months later as a freshman at Michigan State University - Blaze stands as a source of comfort in a world other-

wise shattered by bullets. Ossege runs a brush along Blaze's broad forehead, then gives him a kiss between the eves.

"I feel very at home when I'm with him," Ossege says of the 13-year-old American Quarter Horse she has owned since 2019. "He's my best friend." (AP) 

NTSB focuses on 'design problem': Federal safety officials investigating a Chicago commuter train crash that injured nearly 40 people when it slammed into snow-removal equipment are focusing on a "design problem" with its braking system.

National Transportation Safety Board Chairperson Jennifer Homendy said the Chicago Transit Authority train was traveling at 26.9 mph (43.3 kpm) on Thursday when it struck the snow-removal equipment, which was on the tracks conducting training for the winter season.

She said that based on preliminary information she believes that equipment, with six CTA workers onboard, was stopped when the train crashed into it. (AP)

2 killed, 3 hurt in shooting: Two people were killed and three were wounded when shots were fired early Sunday during an argument at a gathering at an Oklahoma home, police said.



### **Trump picks up endorsement of Texas gov**

### Fears of political violence growing in US

WASHINGTON, Nov 20, (Agencies): The man who bludgeoned former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband with a hammer last year consumed a steady diet of right-wing contook place with the midterm elections less than two weeks away.

As the 2024 presidential campaign heats up, experts on extremism fear the threat of politically motivated violence will intensify. From "Pizzagate" to QAnon and to "Stop the Steal," conspiracy theories that demonized Donald Trump's enemies are morphing and spreading as the front-runner for the 2024 Republican nomination aims for a return to the White House.

"No longer are these conspiracy theories and very divisive and vicious ideologies separated at the fringes," said Jacob Ware, a research fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations who focuses on domestic terrorism. "They're now infiltrating American society on a massive scale.

A federal jury on Thursday convicted David DePape of attacking Paul Pelosi at his San Francisco home on Oct 28, 2022. Before the verdict, De-Pape testified that he had intended to hold Nancy Pelosi hostage and "break her kneecaps" if the Democratic lawmaker lied to him while he questioned her about what he viewed as government corruption. She was in Washington at the time of the assault. In online rants before the attack, De-

Pape echoed tenets of QAnon, a pro-Trump conspiracy theory that has been linked to killings and other crimes.

Tulsa police said officers were called to

the home at about 2 am. Police have not said

how many people fired weapons or whether

any suspects have been identified or arrested.

Trump has amplified social media accounts that promote QAnon, which grew from the far-right fringes of the internet to become a fixture of mainstream Republican politics.

tol on Jan 6, 2021, espoused QAnon's apocalyptic beliefs online before traveling to the nation's capital for Trump's "Stop the Steal" rally that day. A message board formerly known as The-Donald.win was buzzing with plans for violence days before the siege.

### **Prominent**

Before QAnon, many Trump supporters embraced the debunked "Pizzagate" conspiracy theory that prominent Democrats were running a child trafficking ring out of a Washington pizzeria's (nonexistent) basement. In 2017, a North Carolina man was sentenced to prison for firing a rifle inside the restaurant.

In his 2024 campaign, Trump has ramped up his combative rhetoric with talk of retribution against his enemies. He recently joked about the hammer attack on Paul Pelosi and suggested that retired Gen Mark Milley, a former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, should be executed for treason.

Threats against lawmakers and election officials are rampant, with targets spanning the nation's political divide: A California man awaits trial on charges that he plotted to kill Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, a Trump nominee, at his Maryland home.

Trump's loss to Democrat Joe Biden in the 2020 election did not end the

scene while four others were taken to hospi-

tals with critical injuries. (AP)

spread of QAnon-influenced conspiracy theories or its unrealized prophecies. The leaderless movement's everchanging ideology often adopts beliefs from other conspiracy theories.

with the times and current events, said Sheehan Kane, data collection manager for the University of Maryland-based Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, or START.

In a 2021 article, Kane and START senior researcher Michael Jensen examined OAnon-inspired crimes committed by 125 adherents since the conspiracy theory originated on the 4chan imageboard in 2017. They found that more "extremist offenders" were connected to QAnon than any other extremist group or movement in the United States.

### Also:

EDINBURG, Texas: Donald Trump picked up the Texas governor's endorsement Sunday during a visit to a U.S.-Mexico border town and promised that his hard-line immigration policies in a second presidential term would make Greg Abbott's "job much easier."

"You'll be able to focus on other things in Texas," Trump told Abbott as they each appeared before a crowd of about 150 at an airport hangar in Edin-

Abbott, a longtime ally and fellow

border hawk, said he was proud to endorse the former president, who is the Republican Party's front-runner for the 2024 nomination.

Motives probed: Investigators in New Police said one of the victims died at the

In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, Ukrainian teenager Bohdan Yermokhin, (right), holds the Ukraine flag on the Ukraine-Belarus border in Ukraine on Nov 19. The orphaned Ukrainian teenager was taken to Russia last year during the war in his country and has now returned home after being reunited with relatives in Belarus on his 18th birthday Sunday. (AP)

Hampshire were probing for answers Sunday as to why a man shot a security guard to death at a New Hampshire psychiatric hospital moments before being killed by a state police trooper. New Hampshire Attorney Gen-

eral John Formella said Saturday that 33-year-old John Madore entered New Hampshire Hospital on Friday afternoon and killed Bradley Haas, a state Department of Safety security officer who was working at the front lobby entrance of the facility.

Michael Garrity, a spokesperson for the attorney general's office, said Sunday that the investigation into the shooting "is ac-

tive and ongoing." (AP) 

'Dept policies violated': An Alabama police chief said he believes department policies were violated when officers shot and killed a man during a dispute with a tow truck driver, but did not elaborate on what those policies were.

Decatur Police Chief Todd Pinion wrote in a statement Friday that the department has completed an internal investigation into the Sept. 29 shooting of Steve Perkins. The fatal shooting of the Black man in front of his own home has drawn regular protests in the north Alabama city. Perkins, 39, was killed by a police officer as officers accompanied a tow truck driver trying to repossess Perkins' truck. (AP)

### Lat/Am

#### **Mexico accident kills 3**

### Milei wins Argentina presidential election

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Nov 20, (AP): What many deemed impossible just months ago is reality: Right-wing populist Javier Milei resoundingly won Argentina's presidency.

And with his victory Sunday night, the fiery freshman lawmaker has thrust the country into the unknown regarding just how extreme his policies will be, following a campaign that saw him revving a chainsaw to

symbolically cut the state down to size.

With almost all votes tallied, Milei handily beat Economy Minister Sergio Massa, 55.7% to 44.3%.

Milei won all but three of the nation's 24 provinces and Massa had conceded even before the electoral author-

ity began announcing preliminary results.
Milei, 53, a self-described anarcho-capitalis t with



a disheveled mop of hair, made his name by furiously denouncing the "political caste" on television programs. His pledge for abrupt, severe change resonated with Argentines weary of annual inflation soaring above 140% and a poverty rate that reached 40%. He will take power on Dec. 10.

Once in office, he has said he will slash government spending, dollarize the economy and eliminate the Central Bank as well as

key ministries, including those of health and education. An admirer of former U.S. President Donald Trump, he has likewise presented himself as a crusader against the sinister creep of global socialism with plans to purge the government of corrupt establishment politicians. In the weeks before the runoff, though, he walked back some of his more unpopular proposals, such as loosening gun controls and sweeping, indiscriminate privatization.

"Hang on to your hat," Benjamin Gedan, director of the Latin America Program at the Washington-based Wilson Center, told The Associated Press by phone. "Milei has toned down his anti-establishment rage lately and downplayed his more outlandish proposals, but it's going to be a wild ride, given his combative style, inexperience and the few allies he has in Congress.

#### Adopted

Supporters celebrated Sunday night outside Milei's headquarters in downtown Buenos Aires, chanting as fireworks went off overhead. They waved both Argentine flags and the yellow Gadsden flag, emblazoned with the words "Don't Tread On Me," which Milei's movement has adopted as its own.

"We no longer want the past; we are betting on the future," said Ezequiel Fanelli, 45, who works for an insurance company and had a Gadsden flag in hand.

"We believe it's a change. Clearly, it's not easy; it's doesn't happen overnight. It's a collective construction, not just his alone," Fanelli added

By wresting power from Massa's Peronist party that has dominated Argentine politics for decades, Milei's victory represents a political paradigm shift in the country. He is the first outsider to reach the presidency and considerably farther right-wing than anyone who has held the position before.

"I have a lot of faith in the policies that he can push forward, and I hope he can fulfill everything he proposed without obstacles in the middle," said Ayalen Abalos, a 22-year-old tourism student.

Indeed, implementing his agenda will be one of the main challenges, analysts say.

"Milei and his hardcore supporters will see his decisive victory as a mandate for radical change and an endorsement of his conservatism. That would be a mistake," Gedan said. "Many Argentines voted for him reluctantly, unwilling to support the economy minister of a collapsed economy.

And while the broad margin of victory reflects support from the people, he will need political allies, as well, said Mariel Fornoni of the political consulting firm Management & Fit. His fledgling Liberty Advances party, for example, has zero governors.

"Without political support, he won't be able to do what he said he was going to do," said Fornoni. Complicating his challenge further, "he has had little prior leadership experience - he has never led a legislative chamber, a province, or a company.

But the way in which voters proved willing to hand the country's reins to someone untested lays bare the deep discontent Argentines harbor for the ruling class and the status quo. It marks the culmination of an improbable rise to power. Milei parlayed his television stardom into a lawmaker seat in Argentina's lower house of Congress two years ago. Just months ago, his presidential bid was viewed as a mere sideshow - until he scored the most votes in August primary elections and sent shockwaves through the political landscape.

### **Successive**

Milei, a libertarian economist, focused much of his campaign on economic proposals, casting blame on successive administrations for printing money with abandon to fund state spending. Ahead of the first round, Milei sometimes carried a chainsaw at rallies, a symbol of his intention to cut state spending.

In the run-up to the vote, Massa and his allies had cautioned Argentines that his opponent's plan to eliminate key ministries and otherwise sharply curtail the state would threaten public services, including health and education, and welfare programs many rely on. Milei accused his opponent of running a "campaign of fear" and, in his final campaign spot, stared starkly into the camera and promised he would not privatize education, healthcare nor soccer clubs.

The wide margin of Milei's victory suggests voters agreed that the hype was overblown, and were turned off, said Andrei Roman, CEO of Brazil-based pollster Atlas Intel, one of the only pollsters to correctly call the election's first round. There was a virtually tie in the province of Buenos Aires, home to almost 37% of the national electorate and a key bastion of Peronism. Massa kicked his party's machine into overdrive there to bring in votes - but to little avail, representing "the total defeat of Peronism," Roman said.

### Also:

**MEXICO CITY:** The collapse in central Mexico of a 50foot (15-meter) tall section of scaffolding on a road project killed five workers and injured three, officials said Sunday.

The workers were pouring cement into a huge form on what appeared to be a highway retaining wall, when the form and the scaffolding gave way Saturday, plunging the workers to their deaths in a tangle of metal and wet cement.

The Transportation Department said the accident happened in the central state of Hidalgo, and that all personnel on the site had been pulled from the rubble.

The structure was being built by a private contractor, and investigations were underway into the cause

of the collapse. Work site safety is generally weak in Mexico.



Presidential candidate Javier Milei, (left), celebrates with his sister Karina Milei during his victory speech after winning a presidential runoff election in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Nov 19. (AP)



In this photo provided by the Korea Defense Daily and released by South Korea Defense Ministry, senior South Korean military officer Kang Hopil speaks at the Defense Ministry in Seoul, South Korea on Nov 20. (AP)



**Africa** 



### 32 killed in Abyei attack: Heavy fight-

ing Sunday in a disputed region claimed by both Sudan and South Sudan killed at least 32 people, including a UN peacekeeper, authorities said. The civilians and a Ghanaian soldier

serving with a peacekeeping force died

when unknown gunmen attacked two villages in the southern part of the Abyei administrative region, local media reported. A South Sudanese radio station, Eve Radio Juba, quoted Abvei information minister Bolis Kuoch as saying 32 people were killed and 20 others wounded, "but the clashes

have now stopped and the situation calmed Inter-communal and cross-border clashes have escalated since South Sudan deployed its troops to the contested territory in March. The peacekeeping mission there condemned the troop deployment, saying it would create "untold suffering and humanitarian con-

cerns" for civilians. International solders were sent to Aleel and Rum Ameer counties as part of the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei to help

quell the growing conflict. The Security Council last week voted unanimously to renew UNIFSA's mandate until Nov. 15, 2024.

Earlier this month, the UN special envoy for the Horn of Africa, Hanna Serwaa Tetteh warned that the "unprecedented" 7-month war between Sudan's army and a rival paramilitary force was getting closer to South Sudan and the Abyei region. (AP) 

Pastef sponsoring Faye: The party of jailed opposition leader Ousmane Sonko said Sunday it was sponsoring another candidate for the February presidential election, just days after Senegal's Supreme Court effectively blocked Sonko's own bid.

Election authorities have refused to provide Sonko with the sponsorship papers that need to be submitted by early December. On Sunday, the YouTube channel of Sonko's Pastef party said it now would sponsor the party's No. 2 politician, Bassirou Diomaye

In making the announcement, the party said Faye "is the candidate that Pastef will sponsor," but specified that Sonko's candidacy has been maintained.

'Sponsoring the candidate Bassirou Diomaye Faye in no way implies an abdication of the candidacy of President Ousmane Sonko," the party said in a communique released Sunday.
"Everyone knows him well enough to

know that to his last breath, he will fight without compromise. To sponsor the candidate Bassirou Diomaye Faye is to defeat

### Asia

### Taiwan VP Lai picks US envoy as running mate

### Seoul warns NKorea not to launch spy sat

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 20, (AP): South Korea's military warned North Korea not to go ahead with its planned spy satellite launch, suggesting Monday that Seoul could suspend an inter-Korean agreement to reduce tensions and resume front-line aerial surveillance in response

North Korea failed in its first two attempts to put a military spy satellite into orbit earlier this year and didn't follow through with a vow to make a third attempt in October. South Korean officials said the delay was likely because North Korea is receiving Russian technology assistance and that a launch could happen in coming days.

"Our military will come up with necessary measures to protect the lives and safety of the people, if North Korea pushes ahead with a military spy satellite launch despite our warning," a senior South Korean military officer, Kang Hopil, said in a televised statement.

### Monitoring

South Korean Defense Minister Shin Wonsik said in an interview with public broadcaster KBS on Sunday the launch was expected later this month and that South Korean and US authorities were monitoring North Korea's

The UN Security Council bans any satellite launches by North Korea because it views them as a disguised test of its missile technology. Kang said while North Korea needs a spy satellite to improve its monitoring of South Korea, the launch is also aimed at bolstering its long-range missile program.

Foreign governments and experts say North Korea is seeking Russian technologies to enhance its nuclear and other military capabilities in return for supplying conventional arms to support Russia's war in Ukraine. Both Moscow and Pyongyang have dismissed as groundless the alleged arms transfer deal, but both nations - locked in separate, protracted tensions with the United States - have been openly pushing to expand their cooperation in recent months.

In September, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin in Cosmodrome, Russia's most important domestic space launch center. When Putin was asked by Russia's state media whether his country would help the North build satellites, he said that "that's why we have come here. The (North Korean) leader shows keen interest in rocket technology.

Shin said that with the likely help of Russia, North Korea appeared to

the regime's strategy of rotting and launch

one of our project's many cards into the

Faye, a tax and property inspector, is the

### **Situation in S.China Sea 'has** become more dire' - Marcos

HONOLULU, Nov 20, (AP): Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr of the Philippines said the situation in the South China Sea "has become more dire" as China expands its presence in an area where multiple nations have competing territorial claims.

China has showed interest in atolls and shoals that are "closer and closer" to the coast of the Philippines, with the nearest atoll about 60 nautical miles (111 kilometers) away, Marcos said.

"Unfortunately, I cannot report that the situation is improving," Marcos said Sunday. "The situation has be-come more dire than it was before."

Marcos spoke during a question and answer session after he delivered a talk at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu. The pines president stopped in Hawaii to meet with U.S. military leaders and the local Filipino community on his way home from a regional summit meeting in San Francisco.

The visit held both geopolitical and personal significance for the leader. Marcos's father, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was forced into exile in Hawaii in 1986 after he was ousted in an armybacked "people power" uprising in the Philippines.

His trip comes at a time when the US and the Philippines have been deepening their long-standing alliance in a shift after Marcos' predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, nurtured cozy ties with China and Russia.

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea as its own territory and refuses to acknowledge claims from the Philippines and four other other governments to some or all of the waterway. Bei-jing has dismissed the findings of a UN-backed arbitration tribunal that invalidated China's sweeping historical claims under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

### Also:

CANBERRA, Australia: Prime Monday criticized China for a "dangerous" encounter between Chinese and Australian warships but declined to say whether he had raised the issue in recent talks with President Xi Jinping.

He said one Australian diver was injured when a Chinese destroyer used sonar while near an Australian frigate in international waters last Tuesday.

have almost overcome an unspecified engine problem on a rocket needed to send a spy satellite into space. He said the North would likely launch the satellite before Nov. 30, when South Korea plans to launch its first military spy satellite from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Kang didn't explicitly say what retaliatory steps South Korea could take if North Korea makes a third launch. But he strongly hinted the steps could include a resumption of aerial surveillance activities and live-fire drills at border areas, in breach of the 2018 inter-Korean military agreement on easing front-line tensions.

Kang asserted that North Korea has already violated the agreement numerous times. He cited the North's destruction of an unoccupied inter-Korean liaison office in North Korea, flying of drones into South Korea and live-fire drills along the western maritime boundary.

defaming a constituted body" after making

"Despite the North's repeated violations of the agreement, our military has been patiently abiding by clauses in the military agreement, but that has caused considerable problems in our military's readiness," Kang said.

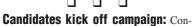
### Also:

TAIPEL. Taiwan: The front-runner in Taiwan's presidential race has picked the long-term de facto ambassador to the United States as his vice presidential candidate.

Vice President William Lai announced Monday on his Facebook page the nomination of Hsiao Bi-ki who was born in Japan to a Taiwanese father and an American mother - as his running mate in January's elections. His choice would likely bolster support among backers of his ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which has long defied Beijing's demands to return the island under the rule of the authoritarian Communist Party.

opposition party's Secretary General. In comments on social media. April he was arrested on charges of "spread-Like Sonko, he is also now facing a slew ing false news, insulting a magistrate and

of other criminal charges that the party believes are politically motivated. Those include calling for insurrection, undermining state security and plotting against the authority of the state among others. (AP) 



golese President Felix Tshisekedi and a politician hoping to unseat him next month launched their campaigns Sunday as the incumbent leader faces ongoing violence in eastern Congo and a divided field of opposi-

Opposition party representatives who met in South Africa in recent days failed to unite behind a single challenger to Tshisekedi for the country's Dec. 20 presidential election. The candidates represented at the talks included Martin Fayulu, a former oil executive who lost to Thisekedi five years ago; businessman Moise Katumbi; Nobel Peace Prize winner Denis Mukwege; former Prime Minister Matata Ponyo; and Kassai legislator Delly Sesanga.

In a speech to supporters at Martyrs' Stadium in Kinshasa on Sunday, the incumbent president accused Rwanda's leader, President Paul Kageme, of destabilizing Congo. Congo has alleged that Rwandan forces are backing M23 rebels in the country's east, a claim Rwanda denies. (AP)



Taiwan Vice President William Lai, (left), the candidate for presidential election of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), poses with his vice president candidate Hsiao Bi-kim, former Taiwanese representative to the United States, during a news conference in Taipei, Taiwan on Nov 20. (AP)

#### gold prices rise modestly on weakening dollar

Gold prices experienced a modest uptick on Monday, as the dollar continued to face losses following the release of recent economic data in the United States, reports Al-Seyassah

daily.

The data reinforced expectations that the US Federal Reserve might conclude its session of interest rate hikes. In spot transactions, gold saw a 0.1 percent increase, reaching \$1981.80 per ounce by 0537 GMT, marking a rise of 2.2 percent from the previous week. Simultaneously, US gold futures settled at \$1,984.20 per

The economic indicators, signaling a slowdown in the US labor market and lower-thananticipated consumer price inflation last week, fueled optimism among investors. This optimism is centered around the prospect that the Federal Reserve could embark on monetary policy eas-ing earlier than initially predicted. Lower interest rates tend to exert downward pressure on the dollar and bond yields, making gold, which does not yield returns, more attractive to investors.

The dollar, as a result, experienced a 0.2 percent dip to its lowest level in two and a half months against a basket of competing currencies.

#### Saudi Arabia announces new natural gas discoveries

Saudi Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz announced Sunday that the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) has discovered two natural gas fields in the Empty Quarter: Al-Hiran and Al-

Mahakik natural gas fields.

Minister Abdulaziz unveiled that the discovery of Al-Hiran natural gas field was confirmed after gas flowed from Hanifa reservoir in the Al-Hiran-1 well, at a rate of 30 Million standerd cubic feet (MMSCF), and 1,600 Barrel of Condensates daily (BCPD), and from the Al-'Arab - C reservoir in the same field at a rate of 3.1 MMSCFD.

He also confirmed the discovery of Al-Mahakik natural gas field after gas flowed from the Al-Mahakik-2 well, at a rate of 0.85 MMSCFD.

Furthermore, Natural gas was also discovered in five reservoirs in previously discovered fields.

It was discovered in the Jallah reservoir in the 'Usaikerak field in the Empty Quarter, after gas flowed at a rate of 46 MMSCFD, in addition to discovering an additional natural gas reservoir in Shadoun field, west of Haradh, gas flowed from 'Unayz-A reservoir, at a rate of 15.5 MMSCFD, with about 460 BCPD. (KUNA)

**Market** Movements 20-11-2023

**PAKISTAN** 

+49.03

Change Closing pts 57,065.99 4.002.44

SAUDI JAPAN **EGYPT PHILLIPINES** 

Change Closing pts -18.09 11,118.94 -197.17 33.388.03 -139.57 24,760.02 -28.26 6,183.63



### GCC national oil companies unlikely to fully offset 9 bcm loss

### Middle East conflict amplifies regional gas vulnerability over oil

#### **By S&P Global Ratings**

The war between Israel and Hamas has already taken a heavy toll on the population and damaged infrastructure. Gas production at the Tamar plant was halted due to its proximity to Gaza after the decades-long conflict escalated on Oct. 7. We understand production resumed Nov. 9, but the shutdown illustrates the potential repercussions of the war for Israel's gas projects and importers of Israeli gas. Since 2020, Israel has provided almost all of Jordan's natural gas supply and 5%-10% of Egypt's, according to S&P Commodity Insights data. Yet S&P Global Ratings believes Egypt's gas supply is more exposed than Jordan's because Jordan has an unused LNG plant and an offtake agreement with Israel.

Our current base case is that the war will largely be contained to Israel and Gaza and last no more than three to six months (see "Israel Outlook Revised To Negative On Geopolitical Risks; 'AA-' Ratings Affirmed," published Oct. 24, 2023). However, further escalation, also spreading beyond Israel's borders, could involve damage to pipelines or obstruction of shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

We believe if that were to happen, Israel's gas exports could stop completely. And we don't think many producers in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) would be able to fill that gap, since most of their gas production is already under contract. This could leave Egypt facing a long-term shortage at a time when supply is already tight.

#### An Impact On Oil Is Likely Less Immediate

We see the oil market as sensitive to physical risk in the Strait of Hormuz due to an escalation of the current conflict beyond Gaza and Israel. This is also due to the potential for increased U.S. sanctions on oil exports from Iran, the region's fourth largest oil producer. If Saudi Arabia would be prepared to make up for the related shortfall in oil supply, that should lessen the im-

In our view, risks to the region's gas industry are greater and more immediate. Across the region, we expect gas producers in Israel to see the most pressure on credit quality due to increased security risks and production shutdowns.

#### Israel's Gas Production Is Down Almost 50%

Israel produced about 22 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas in 2022, about 1% of the global total. It exported a combined 9 bcm to Egypt and Jordan, according to S&P Global Commodity Insights data. Most of Israel's gas production comes from offshore fields in the Mediterranean sea. Notably, last year, the Leviathan field produced about 11 bcm, Tamar about 10 bcm, and the Karish Main field about 0.3 bcm.

Operations at the Tamar gas field were stopped for about a month due to security issues, since it is close to Gaza, the epicenter of the war. The reduction in gas production and exports will be a further drain on economic activity in Israel (see Israel Outlook Revised To Negative On Geopolitical Risks; 'AA-' Ratings Affirmed," published Oct. 25, 2023). Also, in early November we revised our rating outlooks on the debt of three gas projects (Leviathan Bond, Energean Israel Finance, and Energean PLC) in Israel to negative due to increased geopolitical risks.

Production at the offshore Leviathan field has continued but with reduced exports to Egypt, according to media sources, and its output is being prioritized for domestic use. The export route to Egypt--the East Mediterranean Gas pipeline--ceased operations when operations at the Tamar field were suspended, with gas now being re-routed to Egypt through Jordan via the Arab Gas Pineline.

### The Gas Supply Cut Is Further Straining Egypt's Econ-

Israel's gas exports were disrupted after Oct. 7. But in recent years, Egypt has been largely self-sufficient in producing gas to fulfil domestic demand. About 60%-65% of Egypt's domestic gas production is consumed as fuel for power generation, and 20%-25% goes toward industrial use.

Although Egypt imports gas from Israel (about 6 bcm of in 2022), it converts some of it into LNG, which it then exports to Europe. About 92%-93% of Egypt's gas exports comprised LNG in 2021 and 2022.Insufficient supply will also curtail Egypt's exports of LNG to Europe. That said, Europe imports most of the LNG it needs from the U.S. and Qatar, with Egypt contributing less than 5%. The EU has also exceeded its 95% target inventory level and, barring an unusually cold winter, has sufficient gas supply without LNG from Egypt. Moreover, if, as we assume, the conflict does not extend beyond six months, the reduction of Israel's gas supply to Egypt should be temporary. However, even before the recent escalation in Israel, in-

creased demand for energy led to blackouts in Egypt. This came amid lower gas production in Egypt and a greater need for gas to fuel cooling units during this year's unseasonably hot summer. The situation will be exacerbated by the disruption to Israel's gas exports. Recent reports indicate that the Egyptian authorities are

Regional Gas Is More Exposed Than Oil To War In The Middle East rationing deliveries of gas to industrial companies, and limiting the use of gas by electricity companies, thereby extending daily blackouts by about 30 minutes from one hour

#### previously Jordan Can Manage Its Gas Needs In The Short Term

Jordan's state-owned power company NEPCO is treated as a domestic user under an off-take agreement with the Leviathan field. This meansIsrael's supply of gas to Jordan has a higher priority than its gas exports to other countries. The agreement has therefore allowed gas exports to Jordan to remain steady.

That said, there are risks to this arrangement should political pressure mount in either country, or if security risks to the pipeline increase. Some large industrial users in Jordan also import gas directly from Israel, and this smaller portion of non-NEPCO imports is likely to be more vulnerable to a supply disruption.

Jordan has relied on Israeli gas for practically all its needs since 2020. However, it currently has an unused LNG plant in Aqaba, which could be used as a backup should the pipeline supply be disrupted. We do not currently expect Israel to stop

#### **Key Takeaways**

Tadawul

Nikkei

EGX 30

■ TheIsrael-Hamas war is hampering Israel's gas exports, in particular to Egypt and Jordan, and could eventually hurt credit quality in the region if it escalates further.

■ We see limited flexibility for gas producers in the Gulf to divert shipments of liquefiednatural gas (LNG) to the Middle East in the short term, since a large share of production is already un-

■ We assume the war will remain centered in Gaza and have a low impact on Israel's neighbors, but if it spreads to important delivery channels, Egypt--which is already rationing gas--might struggle in the medium term, in our view.

#### or significantly reduce its gas exports to Jordan. Gulf Gas Can't Immediately Cover The Shortfall

If Israel stops exporting gas to Jordan and Egypt in the short term, which is not our baseline scenario, we assume national oil companies in the GCC might not divert all their available volumes to offset the loss of the combined 9 bcm of gas. More important, even if additional volumes are available, it is unlikely they will all be redirected to the Middle East at the same time, since gas producers can likely achieve more competitive prices in Europe or Asia.

That said, the 9 bcm figure is for 2022, and the actual volume of gas can vary with demand as well as the nature of supply contracts. What's more, Egypt's current approach seems to be to ration gas rather than diversify sources to make up for lower imports fromIsrael.

Of all the GCC gas producers, Qatar likely has the most spare capacity to fill a potential gap left by Israel's reduced supply. However, most of its production is already allocated under long-term contracts. Saudi Arabia consumes the gas it produces, and other GCC states have lower gas production capacity than Qatar. We calculate that the majority (about 90%) of QatarEnergy's LNG exports are contracted. Additionally, according to S&P Global Commodity Insights data, we calculate that contracts on 7 bcm-10 bcm of gas produced in Qatar will expire by the end of this year or in 2024.

QatarEnergy is planning to increase its LNG capacity to 173 bcm from 106 bcm currently by 2027, when the expansion of its North Field is scheduled to be completed. Other LNG exporters (such as Australia and the U.S.) could probably help bridge any otential supply gaps Egypt and Jordan may face. However, Qatar's relative proximity to both countries and low production costs suggest that QatarEnergy could be more likely to supply Egypt and Jordan than from other providers, in our view.

n particular, QatarEnergy has a leading position in the global LNG market, more than 20% by capacity (including foreign partners' joint venture stakes of). The company also derives about 60%-65% of its proportionately consolidated EBITDA and assets from LNG. For now, we see a modest monetary benefit to QatarEnergy if it diverts LNG exports from Asia to the Middle East, given the relatively small volumes it would need to supply

#### Regional Gas Is More Exposed Than Oil To War In The Middle East

In the United Arab Emirates, the majority of LNG sold by Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (ADNOC) is based on spot prices. The volumes are much smaller than those from QatarEnergy and not enough to meet Egypt's potential needs, however. Moreover, for ADNOC, contracts expiring in 2023 account for only about 1 bcm of gas. According to S&P Global Commodity Insights data, Oman has contracts for about 8 bcm of gas--mainly to Asia--that expire in 2024.

### Meanwhile Oil And Gas Prices Are Rising

The war is pushing up oil and gas prices, owing to an increased risk premium amid higher geopolitical uncertainty. TTF (Title Transfer Facility) gas prices climbed to \$59.8 per megawatt hour (MWh), after Oct. 7, 2023, from \$46.5 per MWh on average in September (see Credit Conditions: WarIn The Middle East Compounds Global Geopolitical Risks, published Oct. 18, 2023). However, having reached about \$91 per barrel (/bbl) after that date, the Brent oil price has come down

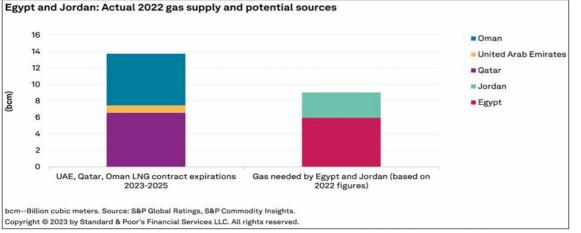
We expect both oil and gas prices to remain volatile, with potential for a sharp rise if the conflict escalates further. In our base case, we view the impact on the supply and demand of oil and gas to be manageable on a global scale. As such, our oil and gas price assumptions remain broadly unchanged (see S&P Global Ratings Has Raised Its Henry Hub Natural Gas Price Assumptions For 2024 And 2025, published November 7, 2023).

### Risks To Global Energy Security Depend On What Hap-

Although energy prices remain volatile amid conflict in the region, we do not foresee a meaningful gap in the supply of oil and gas globally. Risks for global energy relate more to the possibility of an impediment to supply through the Strait of Hormuz if there is further escalation, in our view. This is because about 30% of the world's seaborne oil and one-fifth of global LNG supplies (mostly from Qatar) flow through this channel.

#### Regional Gas Is More Exposed Than Oil To War In The Middle East

We also think mounting geopolitical tensions could lead countries to increase their focus on energy security. For example, after the supply of gas to Europe was disrupted in 2022 following the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, some countries diversified their energy supply away from Russia. Subsequent price volatility also prompted countries to secure more LNG agreements with the GCC. In the current situation, some countries could turn to producers outside the GCC to meet their oil and gas needs. But we assume those volumes will be minimal compared to GCC national oil companies overall production



### **Gulf Bank announces new venture 'Gulf Capital Investment Company'**

'Invest GB to start with managing assets over KD 1bn'

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20:** Following approval from the Capital Markets Authority, Gulf Bank has secured all required regulatory authorizations for the establishment of Gulf Capital Investment Company. Functioning as a closed joint stock enterprise specializing in securities activities, it now operates as the fully owned investment arm of the Bank, with a capital of KD 10 million.

After obtaining approvals from the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Gulf Bank has obtained the approval of the Capital Markets Authority to license Gulf Capital Investment Company, known as Invest GB. This entity is granted authorization to engage in securities activities, functioning as an investment portfolio manager, investment advisor, custodian, investment controller, collective investment scheme manager, subscription agent, and securities broker not registered in the stock exchange. The validity of this license is for a specified duration from the date of issuance by the Capital Markets Authority.

Gulf Bank's Chairman, Mr. Jassim Mustafa Boodai, conveyed his joy regarding the official launch of Gulf Invest ment Company, following the successful completion of all regulatory approvals. He highlighted the commencement of its operations in providing a comprehensive range of investment services to meet the aspirations of customers in both local and international markets. Mr. Boodai emphasized the expertise and professionalism of the distinguished team leading the company.

Mr. Jassim Mustafa Boodai noted that the new company will commence operations by managing assets exceeding one billion Kuwaiti dinars (equivalent to about 3.2 billion US dollars). Additionally, he pointed out that all investment services and products previously provided by the bank will now fall under the purview of the new investment arm.

Expressing gratitude, Mr. Boodai thanked all regulatory authorities for their cooperation in securing the necessary approvals for the company's launch, including the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Capital Markets Authority.

Mr. Waleed Khaled Mandani, Acting CEO of Gulf Bank and Chairman of Gulf Capital Investment Company



Jassim Mustafa Boodai



Hani AlAwadhi



Waleed Mandani

emphasized that the establishment of the new company is part of Gulf Bank's ongoing efforts to strengthen its pivotal role in activating the local capital market. He highlighted the company's commitment to offering distinguished investment opportunities, expanding its investor base, and providing thoughtful and diversified investment options to achieve the

highest returns with the lowest risks. Mr. Mandani emphasized Gulf Bank's meticulous approach to selecting human resources for Gulf Investment Company, adhering to standardized criteria, to guarantee the company's competitive efficiency on local, regional, and

global scales. He highlighted that more than 70% of the company's workforce consists of national talent, showcasing a substantial "Kuwaitization" rate in the Kuwaiti investment sector. Furthermore, the representation of women among the entire company staff is at 40%, aligning with Gulf Bank's strategic emphasis on job localization and the empowerment of women.

As of the end of September 2023, Gulf Bank stands as one of Kuwait's leading banks, with total assets amounting to KD 7 billion and an "A" rating from the three major credit rat-

ing agencies.
Gulf Bank continues to offer innovative investment solutions to its customers, including WISE, the first digital investment platform in the Kuwaiti market. This platform provides excellent investment opportunities for customers to initiate investments in various international markets, enabling easy access and performance tracking

from anywhere, and at any time.

Invest GB Overview:

■ Capital Size: KD 10 million ■ Assets Under Management: \$3.2

■ National Employment Percentage:

■ Women Workforce Representation:

Hani Al-Awadhi Appointed as

CEO of Invest GB In line with its commitment to foster national talents in leadership roles, the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has approvedthe appointment of Mr. Hani Al Awadhi as the CEO of Gulf Capital Investment Company (Invest GB). Currently serving as the General Manager of Investment at Gulf Bank, Mr. Al Awadhi brings over 20 years of experience in

both local and international investment.

Before joining Gulf Bank, Mr. Al-Awadhi held the positions of Head of Managed Funds and Acting Head of GCC Equities at Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC), overseeing global investments in hedge funds, private equity, real estate, infrastructure, and more. His career includes various roles in prominent institutions and companies, both domestically and internationally.

With a wealth of expertise in developing, implementing, and monitoring alternative investment portfolios, Al-Awadhi played a key role in establishing and maintaining one of the region's largest hedge fund investment programs. He also contributed to the successful listing of Shamal Az-Zour Company on Boursa Kuwait.

Actively involved in corporate governance, Mr. Al Awadhi holds multiple directorial positions on various boards. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Frank G. Zarb School of Business at Hofstra University.

### KFH earns multiple accolades

### KFH tops The Banker's rankings in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, 20 Nov: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has been ranked number one in Kuwait by The Banker, the world's most prestigious banking magazine owned by the Financial Times Group.

The ranking affirms the continuous progress of KFH, which is built on financial stability, robust operational performance, consistent growth in all indicators, in addition to its Shariacompliant innovative solutions that cater to the banking and financial needs of businesses and individuals according to the highest global standards.

On this occasion, Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa Al Rushood, said that KFH is dedicated to maintaining its exceptional standing as the foremost bank at all levelsand strengthening its outstanding position in the banking industry both locally and globally

He highlighted the numerous accolades KFH has recently earned from various financial organizations as a testament to its achievements, distinguished performance, and leadership. KFH has also consistently received solid ratings from major global rating agencies, earning the trust and confidence of shareholders

Al Rushoodadded that KFH gives



significant importance to increasing its market share, improving service quality, workforce efficiency and customer centricity. The Bank is also gearing its efforts towards enhancing its service and products to maintain its versatility and comprehensiveness to cater to customers' needs and demands.

He added that the estimable international recognitions, particularly those earned from reputable organizations like The Banker Group, serve as a motivation towards achieving further success, reaching higher levels of excellence to broaden its customer base and range of services and products. This, in turn, will strengthen KFH's position in the market to lead the competition.

'We continue our efforts towards achieving balanced growth with deliberate risks assessments and highquality assets, while focusing on core banking activities, raising the pace of operational performanceas well asconcentrating on digital transformation and innovation. Thus, enhancing KFH's role in serving its customers and the national economy, and developing the Islamic banking industry,'

As part of a forward-looking vision for the future of banking, AlRushood stressed the interest of KFH in keeping pace with modern banking technology, which is witnessing rapid and continuous development.

He pointed out that KFH is also focusing on digital transformation, modernization ofmobile banking services, as well as e-services and other means that enable customers to benefit from them around the clock.

He went on to say that KFH will continue enhancing its banking services by launching a package of distinctive services that give the customer an added value, in addition to a number of benefits tailored to each segment of customers, which consolidate the quality and distinction of the brand.

#### **HK's Disneyland opens 1st Frozen-themed attraction**

Hong Kong Disneyland opened its first Frozen-themed attraction on Monday, with thousands of eager visitors turning up to experience the new rides, some lining up for hours to get an early start.

Based on Disney's wildly popular Frozen animation film, the new section of the park features landscapes and characters from the movie and two new rides, a roller coaster and a boat ride that takes visitors through different scenes featured in the film. "Over the past decade, the film

has grown into one of the most successful franchises in Disney history," said Josh D'Amaro, chairman of Disney Experiences. "World of Frozen represents Hong Kong Disneyland's largest and boldest expansion since the park opened in 2005."

The opening comes after Disney announced in September a \$60 billion expansion of its parks and cruises over about a decade. Now that Chinese tourists are venturing abroad again after the pandemic the pandemic, the new attraction is meant to be a game changer for a theme park that has run losses for

Some of the hundreds of Disney fans who lined up hours ahead of time were dressed like characters from Frozen.

Disney enthusiast Bryan Darmanic, who had travelled from California with his wife and daughter, were among the first visitors to the Frozen-themed roller coaster and received limited edition souvenirs to commemorate the experience. (AP)

### **US labor board delays new employment rule**

The federal government is delaying a new rule that could make it easier for millions of workers to unionize after business groups chal-

lenged it in court.

The National Labor Relations
Board said Thursday that the rule
- which was scheduled to go into effect in December - will now be effective Feb. 26. The board said the delay will give it time to resolve

legal challenges.

The rule sets new standards for determining when two companies should be considered "joint employers" in labor negotiations. Under the current NLRB rule, which was passed by a Republican-dominated board in 2020, a company like McDonald's isn't considered a joint employer of most of its work-

plotte employer of most of its work-ers since they are directly em-ployed by franchisees.

But the new rule would expand that definition, saying companies may be considered joint employers if they have the ability to control -

directly or indirectly - at least one

condition of employment. Conditions include wages and benefits, hours and scheduling, the assignment of duties, work rules and hir-

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups including the American Hotel and Lodging Association, the International Franchise Association and the National Retail Federation sued the NLRB in federal court in Texas last week to block the rule.

## Why Americans feel gloomy about the economy

Falling inflation and low unemployment fail to lift up morale

### The US canned seafood industry is moving beyond tuna 'sandwiches'

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 20, (AP): Sardines swirling in preserved lemons. Mackerel basking in curry sauce. Chargrilled squid bathing in ink. All are culinary delicacies long popular in Europe that are now making their mark on U.S. menus.

The country's canned seafood industry is moving well beyond tuna sandwiches, a pandemic-era trend that began with Americans in lockdown demanding more of their cupboard staples.

Since then, the U.S. market has only expanded, fueled by social media influencers touting the benefits of the high-powered protein food in brightly colored metal containers. On the TikTok channel Tinned

- Fishionado, Kris Wilson posts recipes for quick meals, including one mixing leftover rice, soy sauce, avocado and a runny egg with a tin of smoked mussels from the Danish company Fangst.

Tinned fish, as it's called in Europe, is now a regular offering on menus at wine bars from San Francisco to Houston to New York, where patrons scoop the contents straight out of the can. There are even tinned fish clubs that mimic wine clubs by sending members monthly shipments of various seafood packed in various combinations of spices, oils and sauces. Videos on tinned fish, from tastings to how-to tips on cleaning the fishy smell from cans, have generated more than 30 million views on TikTok.

U.S. canned seafood industry sales have grown from \$2.3 billion in 2018 to more than \$2.7 billion so far this year, according to market research firm Circana.

Becca Millstein opened a Los Angeles-based tinned fish business in 2020 after eating more of it during coronavirus lockdowns.

"When we were all quarantining at home, preparing 100% of our meals

### **Vogt resigns as CEO of Cruise**

DETROIT, Nov 20, (AP): Kyle Vogt has resigned as CEO of Cruise, General Motors' autonomous vehicle unit, as questions build about

the safety of self-driving cars. Vogt's decision to step down, announced late Sunday, follows a recent recall of all 950 Cruise vehicles to update software after one of them dragged a pedestrian to the side of a San Francisco street in early October. The California Department of Motor Vehicles revoked the license for Cruise.

The company earlier announced it had paused operations for a review by independent experts.

"The results of our ongoing reviews will inform additional next steps as we work to build a better Cruise centered around safety, transparency and trust," the company said in a statement. "We will continue to advance AV technology in service of our mission to make transportation safer, cleaner and more accessible.

Cruise won approval to transport fare-paying passengers last year.

Since then, the autonomous vehicles have drawn complaints for making unexpected, traffic-clogging stops that critics say threaten to inconvenience other travelers and

imperil public safety.
Late last year, U.S. safety regulators said they were investigating reports that autonomous robotaxis run by Cruise can stop too quickly or unexpectedly quit moving, potentially stranding passengers.

Problems at Cruise could slow the deployment of fully autonomous vehicles that carry passengers without human drivers on board. It also could bring stronger federal regulation of the vehicles, which are carrying passengers in more cities nationwide.

Cruise had been testing 300 robotaxis during the day when it could only give rides for free, and 100 robotaxis at night when it was allowed to charge for rides in less congested parts of San Francisco. Vogt earlier said most collisions were caused by inattentive or impaired human drivers, not the AVs.

day in and day out, it was very time consuming to create satiating meals,' she said. "I just found myself eating so much canned fish, and at the same time, the options that I found when strolling up and down the aisles of my local grocery store just were not great.'

Millstein lived in Spain in college and spent time in Portugal, both countries where tinned fish has long been a part of people's diets, so she knew there were better options to be had.

"I was eating the same canned fish that my great grandmother Rose in Brooklyn was eating in the 1930s," she said. "I thought that was just insane." Her company, Fishwife Tinned Seafood Co., set out to offer high-quality, sustainably sourced seafood.

Millstein said she sought out canneries in Spain and Portugal and contacted fishers along the West Coast who connected her to canneries in Oregon and Washington.

"Our mission is really to just galvanize the canned fish industry and transform and make it what we think it can be," Millstein said, adding that means offering much more "than tuna fish sandwiches.

WASHINGTON, Nov 20, (AP): Inflation has reached its lowest point in 2 1/2 years. The unemployment rate has stayed below 4% for the longest stretch since the 1960s. And the U.S. economy has repeatedly defied predictions of a coming recession. Yet according to a raft of polls and surveys, most Americans hold a glum view of the

The disparity has led to befuddlement, exasperation and curiosity on social media and in opinion columns.

Last week, the government reported that consumer prices didn't rise at all from September to October, the latest sign that inflation is steadily cooling from the heights of last year. A separate report showed that while Americans slowed their retail purchases in October from the previous month's brisk pace, they're still spending enough to drive economic

Even so, according to a poll last month by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, about three-quarters of respondents described the economy as poor. Two-thirds said their expenses have risen. Only onequarter said their income has.

The disconnect poses a political challenge for President Joe Biden as he gears up for his re-election campaign. Polls consistently show that most Americans disapprove of Biden's handling of the economy

Many factors lie behind the disconnect, but economists increasingly point to one in particular: The lingering financial and psychological effects of the worst bout of inflation in four decades. Despite the steady cooling of inflation over the past year, many goods and services are still far pricier than they were just three years ago. Inflation - the rate at which costs are increasing - is slowing. But most prices are high and still rising

Lisa Cook, a member of the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors, captured this dynamic in recent remarks at Duke

"Most Americans," Cook said, "are not just looking for disinflation" - a slowdown in price increases. "They're looking for deflation. They want these prices to be back where they were before the pandemic. ... I hear that from my fam-

ily."

That's particularly true for some of the goods and services

That's particularly true for some of the goods and services

That's particularly true for some of the goods and services

That's particularly true for some of the goods and services that Americans pay for most frequently: Bread, beef and other groceries, apartment rents and utilities. Every week or month, consumers are reminded of how far those prices have

Deflation - a widespread drop in prices - typically makes people and companies reluctant to spend and therefore isn't desirable. Instead, economists say, the goal is for wages to rise faster than prices so that consumers still come out ahead

How inflation-adjusted incomes have fared since the pandemic is a complicated question, because it's difficult for just one metric to capture the experiences of roughly 160 million



Workers apply sheathing to the exterior of a new multifamily residential building, Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, in the East Boston neighborhood of Boston. According to a raft of polls and surveys, most Americans hold a glum view of the economy. (AP)

Adjusted for inflation, median weekly earnings - those in the middle of the income distribution - have risen at just a 0.2% annual rate from the final three months of 2019 through the second quarter of this year, according to calculations by Wendy Edelberg, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. That meager gain has left many Americans feeling that they have made little financial progress.

For Katherine Charles, a 40-year old single mother in Tampa, Florida, inflation's slowdown hasn't made it easier to make ends meet. Her rent jumped 15% in May. Over the summer, to keep her electricity bill down, Charles kept the air conditioning off during the day despite Tampa's blister-She has felt the need to cut back on groceries, even though,

she said, her 16-year old son and 10-year old daughter "are at the age they are eating everything in front of them. "My son loves red meat," Charles said. "We cannot any

longer afford it the way we used to. The economy's not getting better for nobody, especially not for me.' Charles, a call center representative with a company that

handles customer service for the Medicare and Affordable Care Act health plans, received a raise to \$18.21 an hour two years ago. But it wasn't much of an increase. She doesn't even remember how large it was. This month, Charles took part in a one-day strike against

her employer, Maximus. She and her co-workers are seeking higher wages and more affordable health insurance. Charles two children are on Medicaid, she said, because Maximus' health insurance is too expensive.

Eileen Cassidy Rivera, a spokeswoman for Maximus, said that a recent survey of its 40,000 employees found that threequarters of those who responded said "they would recommend Maximus as a great place to work."

"During the past five years, we have increased compensation, reduced out-of-pocket health care expenses and improved the work environment." Rivera added.

'If there's no tourism, nothing happens'

### Ford, Stellantis workers roped in

### Acapulco races to restart its tourism engine UAW overwhelmingly

ACAPULCO, Mexico, Nov 20, (AP): The keyboard and drums from a musical show thump just yards from a mountain of storm debris and fractured hotels left by Hurricane Otis three weeks ago. On the northern end of Acapulco Bay, hairdressers and masseuses sweep branches from a beach.

Across the Pacific resort of Acapulco, residents work with a singular purpose: restart the tourism engine of this city of 1 million people as soon as possible.

"If there's no tourism, nothing happens," said Juan Carlos Díaz, a 59-yearold laborer waiting for food distributed by soldiers. "It's like a little chain, it generates (money) for everyone.' Otis, a Category 5 hurricane that

smacked Acapulco on Oct. 25, damaged 80% of its hotels and 95% of its business, as well as leaving at least 48 people dead, 26 missing and impacting about 250,000 families, according to government data. Residents are striving to ensure the devastation is not a knockout blow to the once-legendary

Since Acapulco's golden era during the latter half of the 20th century when Jackie and John F. Kennedy honeymooned here and Elvis Presley and other stars visited - the rise of other destinations like Cancun combined with organized crime to drive away international visitors.

But the city still had a devoted following of Mexican tourists who came for its beaches and nightlife. It had been hosting sporting events and major business gatherings, including an international mining conference that was in town when Otis hit. The resort boasted 20,000 hotel rooms, 377 hotels and a bevy of other vacation accommoda-

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has promised that Acapulco will be ready to receive visitors this holiday season, if in reduced numbers, but not everyone believes it. Most think it will take the city a year or two to come back from Otis' devastation.

Yair Guevara, head waiter at the Dreams hotel, one of the tall towers hollowed out by Otis' 165 mph winds, showed up for work the day after the storm and began coordinating cleaning shifts for 20 workers. During those early days they were paid in food and basic necessities, he said.

On a recent morning, about 30 members of a collective of masseuses and hairdressers unearthed pieces of wrecked boats as they cleaned a beach on northern Acapulco Bay.

"We want the tourists to come soon," Linda Vidal said, explaining why they



Residents remove a boat damaged by Hurricane Otis, in Acapulco, Mexico, Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023. Nearly three weeks after the Category 5 hurricane devastated this Pacific port, leaving at least 48 people dead and the city's infrastructure in tatters, the cleanup continues. (AP)

were sweeping the beach.

The famous La Quebrada cliff divers who have left tourists breathless for decades have been cleaning the ocean floor of debris in the area where they end their more than 100-foot swan dives into the Pacific.

"There was a lot of debris, glass and metal," said Eligio Álvarez, who at 50 years old still launches himself into the roiling water. He and others are rushing to set up virtual shows like they did during the pandemic to earn money until the tourists can return. Getting steady internet restored is their current

Jesús Zamora, a member of the state tourism council in Guerrero, where Acapulco is located, rebuilt part of his restaurant with fallen limbs and in four days had a section of it reopened. Last weekend, he hosted dozens of

diners, among them officials who were taking a census of the damage to the tourism sector. Zamora and others still don't know how much aid that census will bring them or when it will come. "We're just hoping" that it comes,

López Obrador has met multiple times with business leaders from Acapulco's tourism sector. While they've

kept their comments discreet, they believe the support offered so far - loans and tax extensions - are positive but

The president has prioritized direct aid to the poorest families, though much of that assistance too has not yet materialized.

At the Flamingos Hotel - once host to Hollywood legends John Wayne, Errol Flynn and Cary Grant - a handful of the owners' friends recently were picking up branches and debris around the place where the most famous Tarzan, Johnny Weissmuller, spent the last years of his life. The lush trees, including a century-old ceiba, are stripped of their branches.

Diana Santiago, the owner's daughter, thinks rebuilding the pink hotel's spartan 40 rooms will be slow because they don't yet know where the money will come from.

"We are going to open an account (for donations) to survive these months," Santiago said. They also plan to fall back on a survival strategy from the pandemic: selling take-out food until they can reopen the restaurant with its spectacular views. The hotel rooms will come last.

The big hotel chains also doubt they

will be able to open as soon as López Obrador would like even though they swarm with workers, many who have arrived from out of state.

And even though the president has assured people that the Mexican Open tennis tournament - Acapulco's most emblematic sporting event -- will continue its uninterrupted run since 2001 in February with champions like Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, the organizers have yet to confirm that.

The Princess hotel, the enormous glass and balconied pyramid where the tennis players stay, has not said when it will reopen. Otis left it in skeletal form.

The government declared an end to the emergency in Acapulco last week, but many in the city still lack the basic necessities and mountains of garbage and debris continue to clog streets.

Gregorio García, a cab driver who was back to work after the storm as soon as he could patch a tire and find gasoline, conceded there are residents who complain that the tourism sector is prioritized in recovery efforts. He still doesn't have electricity or water at home, but he doesn't agree with the

"If there aren't tourists there's nothing," he said.

## 'ratifies' new contracts

DETROIT, Nov 20, (AP): The United Auto Workers union overwhelmingly ratified new contracts with Ford and Stellantis, that along with a similar deal with General Motors will raise pay across the industry, force automakers to absorb higher costs and help reshape the auto business as it shifts away from gasoline-fueled vehicles.

Workers at Stellantis, the maker of Jeep, Dodge and Ram vehicles, voted 68.8% in favor of the deal. Their approval brought to a close a contentious labor dispute that included name-calling and a series of punishing strikes that imposed high costs on the companies and led to significant gains in pay and benefits for UAW workers.

The deal at Stellantis passed by a roughly 10,000 vote margin, with ballot counts ending Saturday afternoon.

Workers at Ford voted 69.3% in favor of the pact, which passed with nearly a 15,000-vote margin in balloting that ended early Saturday. Earlier this week, GM workers narrowly approved a similar contract.

The agreements, which run through April 2028, will end contentious talks that began last summer and led to sixweek-long strikes at all three automakers. Shawn Fain, the pugnacious new UAW leader, had branded the companies enemies of the UAW who were led by overpaid CEOs, declaring the days of union cooperation with the au-

tomakers were over. After summerlong negotiations failed to produce a deal, Fain kicked off strikes on Sept. 15 at one assembly plant at each company. The union later extended the strike to parts warehouses and other factories to try to intensify pressure on the automakers until tentative agreements were reached late in October.

The new contract agreements were widely seen as a victory for the UAW. The companies agreed to dramatically raise pay for top-scale assembly plant workers, with increases and cost-ofliving adjustments that would translate into 33% wage gains. Top assembly plant workers are to receive immediate 11% raises and will earn roughly \$42 an hour when the contracts expire in April of 2028.

Under the agreements, the automakers also ended many of the multiple tiers of wages they had used to pay different workers. They also agreed in principle to bring new electric-vehicle battery plants into the national union contract. This provision will give the UAW an opportunity to unionize the EV battery plants plants, which will represent a rising share of industry jobs in the years ahead.

"I think this is a huge win for the UAW that they got all three contracts ratified," said Art Wheaton, director of labor studies at Cornell University. "It's lifting the boats of all or many autoworkers.'

Three non-union, foreign automakers in the United States - Honda, Toyota and Hyundai - quickly responded to the UAW contract by raising wages for their factory workers. They did so after Fain said the UAW would mount an aggressive effort to unionize their plants. He also said the union would try to recruit workers at Tesla.

Foreign automakers have argued in the past that their workers earn about the same as UAW members, thereby negating the need for a union. They also have accused the UAW of forcing GM and the former Chrysler into bankruptcy in 2009 and of engaging in corruption after federal prosecutors broke up a wide-ranging bribery and embezzlement scandal starting in 2017.

But with Fain's election and the new contracts, the union has "cured or readjusted all of that rhetoric," Wheaton

While wages at nonunion factories may be nearly equal, he said, UAW workers receive far better health care and retirement benefits, which is likely to be attractive to workers at nonunion plants as they age.

Contracts with the auto companies should also lead to higher wages at auto-parts supply companies and in other industries, Wheaton said.

"The union's got way more pow-er" because of the deals, said Mark McGill, a 67-year-old worker at Ford's assembly plant in Wayne, Michigan, where employees went on strike for the entire six weeks. "Look at everybody now. People want to unionize.'

McGill, a 28-year Ford veteran who helps assemble Ford Bronco SUVs and Ranger pickup trucks, said he is pleased he'll be earning \$42 an hour by the contract's end. He also is happy Fain's negotiators were able to persuade Ford to pay workers about \$100 a day for the time they were on

But under the settlement, new hires and temporary workers will receive much larger raises than longtime assembly plant workers, with some more than doubling their pay.

## What's On



### **EPA** joins hands in keeping environment clean and sustainable

### Al Mulla Group employees volunteer to keep Kuwait's waterfront clean

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: In collaboration with Kuwait's Environment Public Authority, and as part of our CSR and Corporate Governance Policies that encourage Group employees to participate in community activities in support of a good cause, such as environmental initiatives aimed at achieving a sustainable clean environment in Kuwait, over 100 employees from across Al Mulla Group have recently participated in the annual Beach Cleaning initiative, which took place on Saturday November 18th 2023 at the Shuwaikh Beach.

The voluntary activity was wellattended by many of our colleagues from across the Group's divisions including: Automotive Group, Al Mulla Engineering, Al Mulla Finance, Al Mulla Exchange, Al Mulla Rental & Leasing, as well as several members of Kuwait's Environment Public Authority. In ad-







Volunteers during the Beach Clean-up Day initiative by Al Mulla Group in collaboration with Kuwait's Environment Public Authority.

dition to the interactive activity of tinuously committed to support the beach cleaning, our employees community voluntary initiatives have also enjoyed a special complimentary breakfast and coffee at the end of the day.

At Al Mulla Group, we are con-

that aim at reinforcing positive community engagement among our employees in support of a good public cause and help maintaining a sustainable clean environment in Kuwait. Furthermore and at previous community initiatives, Al Mulla Group has organized several CSR campaigns this year such as: Breast Cancer Awareness, Blood

Donation, Food Baskets Distribution and many others.

Guided by our Core Values of Innovation, Excellence and Professionalism, Al Mulla Group is committed to excelling in everything that we do and especially when it comes to giving back to the communities where we operate.

For more information about Al Mulla Group please visit www.almullagroup.com

Employees shared STEM expertise with Giftedness Academy students

## **Zain's Innovation Campus hosts Science Month initiative**

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: Under their strategic partnership to empower gifted young people, Zain and Sabah Al Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) – a center of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) have jointly hosted a special open day event for students from SACGC's Joint Academy School for Giftedness. During the event, some of Zain's outstanding employees shared their personal and professional journeys in STEM areas with the bright young students.

This special program came under the umbrella of Zain's

Innovation Nation initiative and KFAS's cience Month where the Foundatio and its centers celebrate Kuwait's scientific community and encourage young people to pursue STEM degrees and ca-This event is one of the successful

outcomes of the two agreements Zain recently signed with KFAS and SACGC, both of which focus on a number of strategic pillars and sustainable goals like fostering innovation in the community, investing in young people's digital skills, supporting entrepreneurs and startups,

The open day, held at Zain's Innovation Campus (ZINC), welcomed a number of talented young students from SACGC's Giftedness Academy, where various inspiring sessions were held to encourage the students to pursue their passions to drive their future careers.

In addition, a number of outstanding Zain employees joined the open day to share their life experiences and professional successes with the students. The employees represented some of the company's core STEM-related departments like business intelligence, data office, drones division, and more. They also showcased Zain's success stories in embracing tech innovation to drive digital transformation in the community.

The event also witnessed a hands-on session where certified trainers from SACGC introduced the students to the fundamentals of 3D printing. The session aimed at developing the students' digital and technical skills to prepare them for the career market.

This program came in line with Zain's Innovation Nation initiative, under which all of Zain's innovation and entrepreneurship programs fall, especially within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) areas. The initiative mainly targets the youth, and centers around a number of pillars, including entrepreneurship, investment, startup acceleration, supporting inventors, fostering innovation, and more.

















Classrooms buzzed with excitement as tiny hands transform recyclables into masterpieces.

Students with Zain and SACGC officials.

Event developed young people's technical skills.



Zain employees shared their experiences with the students.

### **'Looking after Planet Earth'**

### Students explore wonders of art

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: At Royal Britannia, the classrooms buzzed with excitement as tiny hands transform recyclables into masterpieces. In line with our theme of "Looking after Planet Earth" the nursery has woven creativity activities into the daily routine, turning learning into an adventure focused on environmental steward-

From vibrant collages crafted from recycled material to imaginative paintings and glue-sticking galore, students explored the wonders of art while understanding the value of reusing and recycling. Each masterpiece tells a unique story, not just of creativity, but a deeper understanding of the planet's precious resources. RB commitment to fostering a love for learning extends outdoors, where children explore the garden, discovering natural materials to incorporate into their art work.

These hands-on experiences are more than just fun and games, they are building blocks for a future generation that values and protect the environment.

with Spanish authorities on the first day of a tax fraud trial in Barcelona

Under the deal, Shakira is to receive a suspended three-year sentence and a fine of 7 million euros (\$7.6 million).

The trial, which would have included more than 100 witnesses over

the following weeks, was instead called off after just eight minutes. Prosecutors said in July that they would seek a prison sentence of eight years and two months and a fine of 24 million euros (\$26 million) for the singer, who has won over fans worldwide for her hits in Spanish and English in different musical genres.

The case hinges on where Shakira, now 46, lived during that period. Prosecutors in Barcelona have alleged that the Colombian singer spent more than half of that period in Spain and therefore should have paid taxes on her worldwide income in the country even though her official residence was still in the Bahamas. Tax rates are much lower in the Bahamas than in Spain.

Shakira's public relations firm said she had already paid all that she owed and an additional 3 million euros (about \$3.2 million) in interest.

The multiple Grammy and Latin Grammy winner waved and blew a kiss to a small crowd of bystanders before entering the courthouse.

Shakira turned down a deal offered to her by prosecutors to settle her case in July 2022, saying, via her Spanish public relations firm Llorente v Cuenca, that she "believes in her innocence and chooses to leave the issue in the hands of the law." The details of that potential deal were not made public.

#### Defense

Shakira was named in the "Paradise Papers" leaks that detailed the offshore tax arrangements of numerous high-profile individuals, including musical celebrities such as Madonna and U2's Bono.

The defense team for Shakira, the Barcelona firm Molins Defensa Penal, said in November 2022 that she had not spent more than 60 days a year inside the country during the period in question, adding she would have needed to have spent half the year in Spain to be considered a fiscal resident. Her defense argued that she was away from Barcelona for long stretches on a world tour in 2011 and then spent a lot of time in the United States as part of a jury for the NBC television music talent show The Voice.

Spanish prosecutors disagreed, and the investigating judge, Marco Juberías, wrote in 2021 on the conclusion of a three-year probe into the charges that he found there existed "sufficient evidence of criminality" for the case to go to trial. Shakira defended her innocence when she

was questioned by Juberías in 2019.

She lost an appeal to have the case thrown out last year.

Shakira established her fiscal residency in Spain in 2014 at the same time her oldest child was enrolled in school in Barcelona, according to her defense team, as she was going to spend more time in the country with her family.

In Spain, an investigative judge carries out an initial probe and decides either to throw the case out or send it to trial. A court can waive prison time for first-time offenders if they are sentenced to less than two years behind bars.

In a separate investigation, Spanish state prosecutors charged Shakira in September with alleged evasion of 6.7 million euros in tax on her 2018 income. They accused her of using an offshore company based in a tax haven to avoid paying the tax. Spain has cracked down on soccer stars such as Lionel Messi and

Cristiano Ronaldo over the past decade for not paying their full taxes. The former Barcelona and Real Madrid stars were found guilty of evasion but both avoided prison time after their sentences were suspended.

Shakira, whose full name is Shakira Isabel Mebarak Ripoll, has two children, Milan and Sasha, with Barcelona soccer star Gerard Piqué. The couple lived together in Barcelona before ending their 11-year relationship last year. Since then, she has resided in Miami. After triumphing at the Latin Grammy Awards gala in Seville on Thursday, Shakira thanked her fans in Spain for "being with me in the good times and the bad."

### **Variety**



This image released by Netflix shows Julianne Moore, (left), and Natalie Portman in a scene from 'May December.' (AP)

Film

Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes" topped the North American box office in its first weekend in theaters with \$44 mil-

multiplex, leading into the often lucrative Thanksgiving corridor. And while there was plenty to choose from at the buffet, not everything could be a hit. Audiences had "The Marvels," which plummeted a record 78% in its second weekend, as well as the nationwide debuts of the family-friendly "Trolls World Tour," Taika Waititi's soccer comedy "Next Goal Wins" and the R-rated slasher "Thanksgiving" all

"The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes" is an interesting case study for a franchise that's been dormant for 8 years and is testing the waters for a new era. Its \$44 million from 3,776 locations, including 1,610 premium screens, marks a low for films carrying "The Hunger Games" in the title. The four **Jennifer Lawrence** films all broke \$100 million in their first weekends (the high point was the first with \$158 million in 2013, the low was the last one with \$102.7 million in 2015).

But it's a more nuanced story for Lionsgate, which operates differently from legacy studios by licensing its titles to international distributors which helps cover a significant portion of the film's budget. The filmmakers kept this around \$100 million, which was also offset by tax credits for filming in Germany.

from 87 international markets, the film has already earned \$98.5 million out of the gates. The studio considers it a strong start for the prequel, set 64 years before Katniss Everdeen entered the picture with a new cast led by Tom Blyth

"Historically attempting to do prequels, especially with no **Fogelson**, the vice chair of the weekend around the world is, I the movie, the quality of the talent

LOS ANGELES: "The Hunger

in wide release

With an added \$54.5 million and Rachel Zegler.

returning cast, can be a very challenging proposition," said Adam Lionsgate Motion Picture Group. "The fact that we're sitting here at basically \$100 million on opening think, a testament to the quality of

lion in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. It was a busy weekend at the

There is hardly a false note in "May December," an audaciously self-aware, mischievously funny and emotionally complex drama that defies simple categorization. Filmmaker Todd Haynes, working from a script by newcomer Samy Burch, deftly mixes cheesy movie

of the week tropes with the psychological depths of Bergman to make this wholly singular piece that never quite lets the viewer relax on solid ground. The set up involves an actor, Elizabeth Barry, played by Natalie Portman, who is spending some time with the real person she's decided to play in a film. That subject is Gracie Atherton-Yoo (Julianne Moore), who, when she was 36, was arrested and

imprisoned for starting a physical relationship with a

12-year-old boy. Two decades later Gracie and that

By Lindsey Bahr

boy, Joe (Charles Melton), are married with three kids, one in college and twins about to go. There have been cheap, seemingly exploitative movies made about them before, which we get brief glimpses of. Gracie tells Elizabeth, on their first meeting, that she just wants her to tell the story right. Elizabeth responds that she wants her to "feel seen and known." Both Moore and Portman are smiling sweetly, on perfectly polite stranger behavior, but it is also deeply uncomfortable. Is one lying? Are both?

Who can we trust? Who do we like? Does it matter? We already knew that Haynes was a master of melodrama, with films like "Carol" and "Far From Heaven," but in "May December" he gestures to the aesthetics of ripped-from-the-tabloids Lifetime fare. He layers that with a boldly dramatic score, borrowed from the past (the late French composer Michel Legrand's theme from "The Go-Between") and brilliantly deployed in both comedic and serious ways. Early in the film, Gracie is preparing for Elizabeth's arrival and opens her refrigerator when the score dips. We brace for something serious and dramatic as the camera zooms in on Moore: "I don't think we have enough hot dogs," she says.

Elizabeth isn't just there to watch them eat dinner

**Emotional complexity in 'May December'** and ask some questions. She is wildly driven to get to some sort of truth about Gracie, running around town like an investigative journalist interviewing everyone

Moore, Portman are electric in their scenes

she can. Portman plays Elizabeth as impishly manipulative, utilizing the full power of her character's celebrity and its effect on people to get intimate confessions. It is a deliriously fun and unnerving send-up of both stardom and an actor's process. Late in the film, she calls it a story. Joe reminds her that it's their actual life. You can almost imagine Elizabeth Barry's

deeply untruthful press tour for the film. Gracie is harder to grasp, but she will keep the audience, and Elizabeth, on their toes for the duration. Just when you think you have a handle on something, she subverts it. We are, however, treated to some of her private moments that only Joe sees — her fragility, her delusions, her naivete. And Moore and Portman are electric in their scenes together, masterful performers whose characters are similarly performing for one another.

### **Conversation**

It's wonderfully fun to watch what they do, how they can make even the most basic of interactions slyly subversive and catty and how both try to maintain control over every conversation. But that they are great is not the big surprise of the film: Melton is. He will break your heart and not because of any huge Oscar-reel moment, but all the small ones leading up to the very earned tears. He's the sobering remind that behind all the intrigue and scandal and fun of the quest for truth, if we accept the reality of "May December" as some sort of reality, then we have to accept the tragedy of Joe.

Melton plays this 36-year-old father of three college age kids quietly. His first scenes with Gracie show a relationship that reads more mother-son than wife-husband, and not even just because of the age difference. At times he seems like a shadow of a person, playing the role of beer-drinking, hot dog grilling contented dad with an almost empty nest. He is, in this movie, still becoming, and maybe just now starting to grapple with the truth, as he raises his monarch butterflies and attempts to flirt over text with another person.

In fact, Joe, and Melton, might be the biggest masterstroke of "May December." Scandalous fun and camp are, you imagine, relatively easy with performers like this. But to give it a soul, too? It makes it

"May December," a Netflix release in theaters Nov. 17 and streaming Dec. 1, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "some sexual content, graphic nudity, drug use and language." Running time: 117 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

**NEW YORK:** The Golden Globes have found a new broadcast home at CBS after the troubled awards show lost its longtime home at NBC and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association was dissolved after

years of scandal. The 81st Golden Globes will air live on CBS and stream on Paramount+ on Sunday, Jan. 7, CBS and the Globes announced Friday. The show will also be

available on the CBS app. The network declined to comment on the terms of

the deal, including how long the agreement runs for. NBC broadcast the 2023 Globes on a one-year basis after the 2022 edition was essentially canceled. After a 2021 report revealed the Hollywood Foreign Press Association had no Black members, stars and studios boycotted the Globes before returning for this vear's awards.

After the 2023 broadcast, held on a Tuesday evening, NBC opted not to renew its contract. A near-record low of 6.3 million viewers tuned in, according to Nielsen.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has since been reorganized and no longer exists in name. Earlier this year, Dick Clark Production, a property of Penske Media, and Eldridge Industries, a holding company owned by the billionaire investor Todd Boehly, acquired rights and properties to the Globes. A newly

formed, for-profit organization will vote on the awards. CBS, which also broadcasts the Grammys, aired the Globes in 1981 and 1982 before the award show ran for years on NBC. (AP)

that worked on the movie and a campaign that was both successful and efficient.'

For Fogelson and the filmmakers, "The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes" represents something completely new, darker and more dramatic that opens up new possibilities, provided author Suzanne **Collins** wants to tell more stories.





Lawrence

To judge it against the Jennifer Lawrence movies at the height of Collins' books popularity, he said, would be "a complete disservice to this movie as a standalone."

Also, he noted, "From a pure crass business perspective, it's going to end up being an incredibly successful proposition for

However, critics were mixed on this one, which is an origin story about future Panem President Coriolanus Snow. It currently carries a 61% on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences were more positive and moviegoing behavior around holidays can be skewed. Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore, said that some

audiences might also be waiting to watch it with their families during days off around Thanksgiving.

Unlike many of its big-budget peers, "The Hunger Games" prequel also had the benefit of having its stars promote the film in its lead-up, having secured an interim agreement before the SAG-AF-TRA strike ended. (AP)



### People & Places

#### **Books**

#### 'Absolution' gripping

## Graff's 'UFO' explores the unexplained truth

 $\mathbf{T}$  he truth may be out there, but making sense out of it isn't easy.

Discussion about unidentified flying objects has moved over the years from fodder for science fiction movies or jokes to the subject of congressional hearings. **Garrett M. Graff**'s "UFO: The Inside Story of the US Government's Search for Alien Life Here – and Out There" is the perfect guide for readers interested in learning how that discussion has evolved.

Graff offers an authoritative and objective look at the history of UFO sightings and research into the possibility of extraterrestrial life over the past 75 years.

It's a narrative as compelling as Graff's other works, including his history of Watergate, and requires the same skill that he's demonstrated in navigating government documents.



Ound

The deeply researched history traces the ways the government has struggled to wrap its arms around the questions raised by UFOs – or, as they're now known, "unidentified aerial phenomena" – sightings going back to the 1940s.

"It's not that the government

knows something it doesn't want to tell us," Graff writes at the outset of the book. "It's that the government is uncomfort-

able telling us it doesn't know anything at all."
Graff profiles a sprawling cast of characters who have played a role in the search for UFOs and alien life over the years, from amateur ufologists to famed astronomer Carl Sagan to Blink-182 frontman Tom DeLonge.

They're all battling hoaxes and public skepticism and trying to overcome the lingering question first posed by physicist Enrico Fermi: if extraterrestrial life is prevalent, why don't we see more of it?

Graff highlights the advances in science that are made over the years in trying to answer that question, but also in showing just how vast and unknown the universe is.

The book shows how attitudes toward UFOs have changed over the years, not just by scientists and the government but also in popular culture. Those shifting attitudes have led to more openness about discussing sightings, and the national security implications of not knowing what they could be.

Graff is unlikely to convert firm skeptics, but he may at least convince them to keep an open mind the next time they read about UFOs or UAPs.

Living in Western diplomatic privilege with cooks and maids and drivers, the women in the new novel "Absolution" spend their days attending luncheons, lectures and cocktail parties as the Vietnam War rumbles in the background.

It's 1963 Saigon, but the wives of ambitious American attorneys and engineers are focused on writing clever letters with French phrases to be slipped into light blue airmail envelopes and the daily dressing rituals that include girdles, stockings and white dress shields fastened with tiny gold safety pins.

Alice McDermott's ninth novel perfectly captures the manner and mood of that era and the constricted lives that women led as "helpmeets" for their husbands. McDermott won the National Book Award for her novel "Charming Billy."

In "Absolution," Irish American newlywed Tricia is just 23, proud of her handsome engineer husband who is on loan to the Navy and hoping they can quickly start a family during their time in southeast Asia.

Tricia soon meets Charlene, who is slightly older and has three children. Charlene is dedicated to doing good by raising money to stuff baskets with toys and candy that she and the other ladies deliver to hospitals and later a leper colony. Tricia is pulled into the group of women right away.

Barbie dolls are a new trend and Charlene comes up with an idea for a doll outfit that the other Americans can't resist: a traditional Vietnamese ensemble of slim white pants and overdress, topped off with a conical hat.

Barbie's Vietnamese-style getup made by a talented local seamstress is huge success and Charlene raises ever more cash for her charitable deeds.

The words "absolution" and "absolved" pop up repeatedly in the book that serves as a nod to "The Quiet American," another look at early US involvement in the Vietnam War. Its author, English writer Graham Greene, was a Catholic convert who used his own novels to study the moral questions of modern times.

Tricia, raised a devout Catholic in the years before Vatican II, learns during her year in Vietnam about obligation, grace and sacrifice even as everything seems to collapse around her. She's looking for absolution — a forgiveness of sins — in an imperfect world she can't control and she doesn't always understand.

Tricia finally has some questions answered 60 years later, when Charlene's daughter, **Rainey**, finds her living as a widow in Washington and they relive their memories of that time.

Just like America's involvement in Vietnam, Tricia looks back to see that even good intentions can have terrible consequences, but absolution is possible in the end.

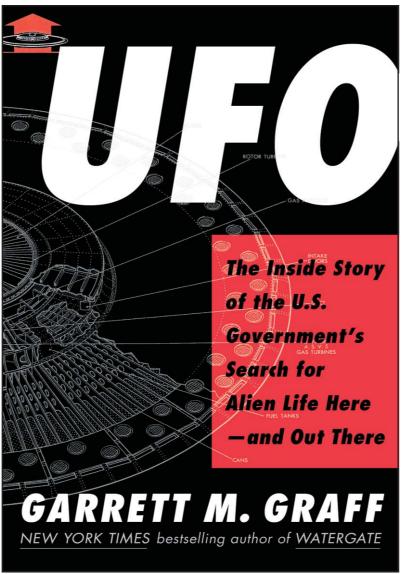
### Also:

**NEW YORK:** Justin Torres' novel "Blackouts," a daring and illustrated narrative that blends history and imagination in its recounting of a censored study of gay sexuality, has won the National Book Award for fiction

On Wednesday night, the nonfiction prize was awarded to Ned Blackhawk's "The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History" and young people's literature was won by Dan Santat's "A First Time for Everything." Craig Santos Perez's "from incorporated territory (åmot)," the fifth work in his series about his native Guam, was cited for best poetry, and Stênio Gardel's "The Words That Remain," translated from Portuguese by Bruna Dantas Lobato, won for literature in translation.

Torres, whose book imagines a conversation between a dying man and the young friend he educates about a real history called "... Variants," gave a brief acceptance speech before he was joined by more than a dozen nominees who gathered to present a statement about the Israel-Hamas war. Read by fiction nominee Aaliyah Bilal, the statement condemned the "ongoing bombardment of Gaza," antisemitism, anti-Palestinian sentiments and Islamophobia and called for a humanitarian cease-fire. The authors received a standing ovation after Bilal finished.

One sponsor, Zibby Media, had withdrawn support out of concerns the statement might be antisemitic and anti-Israel. (AP)



This cover image released by Avid Reader Press shows 'UFO: The Inside Story of the US Government's Search for Alien Life Here - and Out There' by Garrett M. Graff. (AP)

Director Taika Waititi poses for a por-

trait to promote his latest film during

the Toronto International Film Festiva

on Sept. 11, 2023, in Toronto. (AP)

A\$AP

Hollywood hotel.

pleaded not guilty.

**Variety** 

LOS ANGELES: A\$AP Rocky could learn

trial on allegations that he fired a gun at a

former friend and collaborator outside a

A Los Angeles judge is set to hear

evidence Monday against the 35-year-old rap star and father of two children with

Rihanna as he decides whether he should

stand trial on two felony counts of assault

Prosecutors allege that outside the W

Ephron, then in a confrontation soon after

At the first day of the hearing earlier this

fired shots that grazed Ephron's knuckles

month, Ephron, who once went by A\$AP Relli, testified that he and Rocky were

close friends as teens along with the other

members of the A\$AP collective, a group of

New York high school students who sought

He said their friendship lasted until well

after Rocky became a star, but began to fray

after he felt that Rocky had failed to follow

through on promised business ventures and

had neglected the other members of their high

school collective, who were having difficult

lives. The tension came to a head when the

**PARIS:** A faded and cracked felt bicorne

\$2.1 million at an auction Sunday of the

French emperor's belongings.

Yes, \$2.1 million.

alist who died last year.

designated the winner.

hat worn by Napoléon Bonaparte sold for

The signature broad, black hat - one of

a handful still in existence that Napoléon

wore when he ruled 19th-century France

(\$650,000-870,000). It was the centerpiece

memorabilia collected by a French industri-

of Sunday's auction in Fontainebleau of

But the bidding quickly jumped higher and higher until **Jean Pierre Osenat**,

'We are at 1.5 million (euros) for

Napoleon's hat ... for this major symbol of the Napoleonic epoch," he said, as

buyer, whose identity was not released

applause rang out in the auction hall. The

president of the Osenat auction house,

and waged war in **Europe** - was initially valued at 600,000 to 800,000 euros

shots were fired in 2021, he said. (AP)

to make music and pursue other art forms.

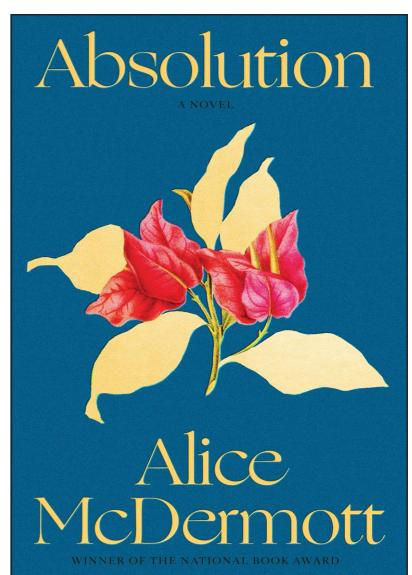
with a semiautomatic firearm. He has

Hotel in Hollywood on Nov. 6, 2021,

Rocky pointed a handgun at Terell

and left him with minor injuries.

Monday whether he will be ordered to



This cover image released by Farrar, Straus and Giroux shows 'Absolution' by Alice McDermott. (AP)



### 'We like to laugh at ourselves'

### Waititi on his quest to quit Hollywood

TORONTO, Nov 20, (AP): Sports movies typically culminate, after stirring locker-room speeches, in a dramatic bid for athletic glory. Taika Waititi's "Next Goal Wins" concerns the quest of a historically bad national soccer team, the 2011 American Samoa men's squad, in their struggle to qualify for the FIFA World Cup after an infamous 31-0 drubbing against Australia.

The 48-year-old Maori filmmaker of 2019's Oscar-winning "Jojo Rabbit" and 2022's "Thor: Love and Thunder" met a reporter the morning after "Next Goal Wins" premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. He was speaking while the writers and actors strikes were ongoing, which, for him, was a welcome hiatus after a whirlwind stretch of work, with plenty of projects (including a "Star Wars" film in development) still in the wings.

Waititi, himself, doesn't know much about soccer and professes to know even less after making "Next Goal Wins," which opened in theaters Friday. He's also, as he said in the interview, less and less interested in Hollywood, a game he's already tempted to walk away from.

AP: Are you a fan of any sports

movies?

Waititi: I don't know. I don't really watch that many sports movies. I'd say

I like them but I can't really remember many of them.

AP: Not "Any Given Sunday"? You quote from it in the film.

Waititi: I just remember that being so long. So long and so many zoom shots. No, I like that film. I think "Cool Runnings" is probably the closest to this.

AP: Your last "Thor" movie took

apart masculinity and superhero convention, and "Next Goal Wins" seems just as disinterested in sports movie traditions.

Waitit: Yeah. Well, my second film ("Boy") is a sort of deconstruct-

traditions.

Waititi: Yeah. Well, my second film ("Boy") is a sort of deconstructed anti-feelgood family film. It's just a comedy about child abuse. I guess "What We Do in the Shadows" is the same. Just trying to fight against what the normal filmmaking would be or what the normal idea of what that film

should be. I'm interested in soccer but I'm not passionate about it. I don't care about it like I care about stories about people, stories about family.

**AP:** Your films return often to the idea of family. You've said your notion of family isn't defined by blood.

Waititi: I have a big family but a couple friends are way closer to me than any of my family. For me, this idea of blood family being so important, it comes from when villages were tiny and people in Europe were obsessed with keeping the bloodline alive. I just don't think it's such an important thing anymore. Adoption is such a great thing because it's not who you come from, it's who raises you. You adopt a kid, they become a version of you because of the things you teach them and how you raise them.

AP: Along with "Reservation

Dogs," which you helped create, "Next Goal Wins" captures Indigenous people in a celebratory, less self-serious way than we often see in film.

Waititi: For good reason, there needs

to be respect. But I think Polynesian, Pasifika people, we're very self-deprecating. We like to laugh at ourselves. If this was made by a Westerner or was a white-led film, it would be just too respectful and the kind of saccharine bulls--. That's the reason Native Americans have been misrepresented for so long in film. It's not because it's not an authentic portrayal of what they look like. They're always portrayed as stoic, mysterious, quiet, wise characters who speak in sage advice passed down by ancestors. It's like, god, what a boring existence if that's the way you live. And it's not the way we live. This is why I really believe films about cultures need be made by people from that culture or who have at least lived amongst that culture.

**AP:** What was it like assembling a cast of largely Indigenous actors for a production shot in Hawaii?

Waititi: To be able to swim while you're shooting and go to the beach before work and after work when the sun is going down and you're losing light, go home, play with the kids,

have dinner. I understand now why Adam Sandler did all those films in Hawaii. A lot of people like to torture themselves in filmmaking. They want to go and live in the snow and eat carcasses and live the experience. I don't. I grew up super poor and I don't want to do that again. I basically hate working and want to retire, but if I have to work, I'll make it as pleasant as I can.

AP: But you work all the time.
Waititi: Yeah, but do I? People say I work all the time. Only I know the truth. Listen, your name can be a lot of headlines about work that apparently you're doing. Doesn't mean you're doing it. Having some press release about me being attached to a project, that's someone else doing the work. It's not me doing the work.

AP: Is this you saying you're not doing a "Star Wars" film?

Waititi: I'm not saying anything about anything. I'm not having any of these conversations because I'm not allowed to. I can't wait for the strike to be over but, selfishly, this has probably been the best thing for me, in terms of me getting to take a break. I needed to be forced to stop working for a bit.

**AP:** How have you been spending our time?

Waititi: Now and then I'll think about ideas I might want to do. And then very quickly I get very tired just thinking about them and I fall asleep or find anything else in the world to do that's not a job. This summer I was in Europe, enjoying the sun, back on beaches. It's all I want to do for the rest of my life. Go to the beach. I grew up on beaches and then I worked for so long without getting a chance to go back to the beach until this film. This is probably what reminded me - just like Michael's character learning there's more to life than football - there's more to life than film. There's more to life than being in the entertainment industry. You think it's going to be so cool - what a great life it's going to be in show business. Hollywood is just sad people eating lukewarm food out of cardboard boxes in offices with windows looking on other offices.

must pay 28.8% in commissions according to Osenat, bringing the overall cost to 1.9 million euros (\$2.1 million). (AP)

**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador:** Miss **Nicaragua Sheynnis Palacios** won the Miss Universe competition late Saturday night in El Salvador, the first to wear the



Colombian performer Shakira, right, leaves court in Barcelona, Spain, Monday, Nov. 20. Global pop star Shakira is summoned on Monday to a Barcelona courthouse for the opening day of her trial for allegedly defrauding Spanish tax officials of millions of euros. Shakira faces six counts of failing to pay the Spanish government 14.5 million euros (now \$15.8 million) in taxes between 2012 and 2014. (AP) — **Details Page 11** 

crown from her country.

Palacios is a 23-year-old communicologist, who said she wants to work to promote mental health after suffering debilitating bouts of anxiety herself.

Miss Thailand, Anntonia Porsild, was first runner-up and Miss Australia, Moraya Wilson, the second runner-up.

Eighty-four women competed for the crown in the 72nd edition of the competition.

Palacios appeared to secure the win when she confidently answered the question of which woman's shoes would she like to spend a year in by saying Mary Wollstonecraft, the 18th-century English writer and philosopher. Wollstonecraft was an advocate of women's rights and is considered one of the forerunners of feminism. (AP)

**LONDON:** Comedian **Russell Brand** has been interviewed by British police over

three alleged sexual offenses, **UK** media reported Sunday.

The Sunday Times and BBC said Brand,

48, was interviewed last week at a London police station.

Without naming Brand, the Metropolitan Police force said that "a man in his 40s.

Without naming Brand, the Metropolitan Police force said that "a man in his 40s attended a police station in south London on Thursday November 16, 2023. He was interviewed under caution by detectives in relation to three non-recent sexual offenses. Inquiries continue." (AP)

### **Telco committed to digital transformation and enrich customers' lifestyle**

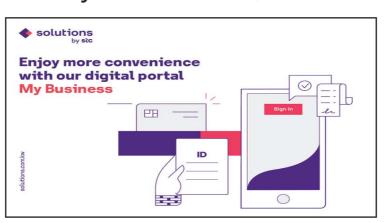
### solutions by stc upgrades 'My Business,' self-care portal for B2B clients

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: solutions by stc, the specialized business arm of Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, announced the launch of its upgraded self-care portal offered to its B2B customers called 'My Business'. The redefined portal falls in line with solutions by stc's application of modern technologies to enable digital transformation and enrich the lifestyle of its customers.

Offering a range of added new features, the revamped experience provides B2B customers with more flexibility in managing their accounts and subscriptions. solutions by stc now enables admin and super admin users to perform multiple actions on the subscribers' lines, such as subscribing to new services, activating lines, suspending lines, changing SIMs, and

They can also directly pay through the portal by selecting one or multiple numbers under the account, whether they are fixed or mobility services, including the ability to pay on contract level.

The portal will also allow users to manage their profiles by changing their names, profile picture, resetting their password, or even viewing their PIN/PUK codes. Additionally, the portal is highly



secure with a built -in security system that allows managers to

designate the type of access given to the users.

solutions by stc released a statement on how the revamped portal and its added features complement the Company's one-stop business solution mindset and its own digital transformation strategy, while focusing on enhancing customer experiences.

The Company progressively evolved and expanded its offering line within the past couple of years to emerge as a world-class digital services provider, and has since grown into a powerful one-stop shop for business and wholesale solutions, catering to the needs of government and corporate entities nationwide and across the region.

solutions by stc now offers a range of connectivity solutions such as fixed or wireless services, 5G technology led by stc, as well as ICT, IoT, AI, and other IT products and services.

The Company will continue to introduce pioneering technology enabled solutions based on the latest innovations in this digital era, serving as the preferred gateway to its customers through digital transformation.

To find out more about solutions bystc, visit www.solutions.com. kw, send an email to business@solutions.com.kw with your inquiry or contact solutions by stc at 155.

No more Thanksgiving 'gastronomic delight'?

New obesity medications change

# 1Single-dose 0.5-mLVi IEASLES, MUMPS, AN RUBELLA VIRUS VACCI MERCK & CO., INC.

A vial of a measles, mumps and rubella vaccine is seen in Mount Vernon, Ohio, Friday, May 17, 2019. (AP)

### Flu soaring across US

### Measles deaths worldwide jumped 40% last year: WHO

LONDON, Nov 20, (AP): Measles deaths globally spiked by more than 40% last year and cases rose after vaccination levels dramatically dropped during the pandemic, leading health agencies said Thursday.

The highly infectious disease triggered epidemics in 37 countries last year, versus 22 countries in 2021. It sickened 9 million children and killed 136,00, mostly in poorer countries, the World Health Organization and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a new report.

The number of measles cases also rose by nearly 20% after immunization levels dropped to their lowest in 15 years during the pandemic, the agencies said.

"The increase in measles outbreaks and deaths is staggering, but unfortunately, not unexpected given the declining vaccination rates we've seen in the past few years," said CDC's John Vertefeuille, said in a statement.

### **Vaccine**

Two doses of the measles vaccine are highly protective against the disren in developing countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, Latin America and India are at highest risk. WHO and CDC said that immunization rates in poorer countries are about 66%, "a rate that shows no recovery at all from the backsliding during the pandemic.'

Measles is among the most infectious diseases known and spreads in the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It is most common in children under 5. Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose and a distinctive rash.

Most deaths are due to complications like encephalitis, severe dehydration, serious breathing problems and pneumonia. Complications are most likely in young children and adults over 30.

The disease has also surged in some rich countries in recent years. British health authorities warned in July that there was an extremely high risk of

outbreaks in London, with some areas of the capital reporting that only 40% of children were vaccinated.

Immunization rates against measles in the UK have never fully recovered since spurious claims that linked the vaccine to autism were made by discredited British doctor Andrew Wakefield more than two decades ago. No scientific studies have ever confirmed the link, but Wakefield's research led to millions of parents worldwide abandoning the shot.

Flu: The US flu season is underway, with at least seven states reporting high levels of illnesses and cases rising in other parts of the country, health officials say.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted new flu data on Friday, showing very high activity last week in Louisiana, and high activity in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, New Mexico and South Carolina. It was also high in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the US territory where health officials declared an influenza epidemic earlier this month.

"We're off to the races," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt Uni-

versity infectious diseases expert Traditionally, the winter flu season ramps up in December or January. But it took off in October last year, and is making a November entrance this year.

Flu activity was moderate but rising in New York City, Arkansas, California, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. And while flu activity has been high in Alaska for weeks, the state did not report data last week, so it wasn't part of the latest count.

Tracking during flu season relies in part on reports of people with flu-like symptoms who go to doctor's offices or hospitals; many people with the flu are not tested, so their infections aren't lab-confirmed. COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses can sometimes muddy the picture.

#### how users think of holiday meals NEW YORK, Nov 20, (AP): For most of her life, Claudia Stearns dreaded Thanksgiving. As a person who struggled with obesity since childhood, Stearns hated the annual turmoil of obsessing about what she ate - and the guilt of overindulging on a holiday built around food. Now, after losing nearly 100 pounds

using medications including Wegovy, a powerful new anti-obesity drug, Stearns says the "food noise" in her head has gone very, very quiet. "Last year, it felt so lovely to just be

able to enjoy my meal, to focus on being with friends and family, to focus on the joy of the day," says Stearns, 65, of Somerville, Massachusetts. "That was a whole new experience."

As millions of Americans struggling with obesity gain access to a new generation of weight-loss drugs, Stearns' experience is becoming more common – and more noticeable at the times of year when cooking, eating and a sense of abundance can define and heighten gatherings of loved ones and friends. Medical experts and consumers say the drugs are shifting not only what users eat, but also the way they think about food.

#### **Diabetes**

Others say it saps the enjoyment from social situations, including traditionally food-centric holidays like Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

"It's something that really changes a lot of things in their life," says Dr. Daniel Bessesen, chief of endocrinology at Denver Health, who treats patients with obesity. "They go from food being a central focus to it's just not."

The new obesity drugs, originally designed to treat diabetes, include semaglutide, used in Ozempic and Wegovy, and tirzepatide, used in Mounjaro and recently approved as Zepbound. Now aimed at weight loss, too, the drugs delivered as weekly injections work far



Cookies cool on a table on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013, in Enid, Okla. Holiday meals may be changing for millions of Americans struggling with obesity and taking a new generation of weight-loss drugs in 2023. (AP)

differently than any diet. They mimic powerful hormones that kick in after people eat to regulate appetite and the feeling of fullness communicated between the gut and the brain. Users can lose as much as 15% to 25% of their body weight, studies show.

"That's how it works — it reduces the rewarding aspects of food," explains Dr. Michael Schwartz, an expert in metabolism, diabetes and obesity at the University of Washington in Seattle. For Stearns, who started treatment in

2020, using the weight-loss medications means she can take a few bites of her favorite Thanksgiving pies - and then stop.
"I would not feel full," she says,

'but I would feel satisfied."

Yet such a shift can have broader implications, both religious and cultural, because it alters the experience of festive and religious holidays that are often built around interactions with food — and lots of it. "I'm Italian. For us, it's like going

to church, going to a table," says Joe Sapone, 64, a retiree from Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, who lost about 100 pounds with dieting and Mounjaro. He no longer needs what he called "culinary extravaganza" of a holiday, but he acknowledges it was an adjustment. "Part of succeeding at this is discon-

necting a good time with what you eat," he says, "Am I still going to have fun if I don't eat that much?" Many users welcome what they say is greater control over what they eat, even during the emotionally charged holiday season. "I may be more selective of the items

I put on my plate," says Tara Rothenhoefer, 48, of Trinity, Florida. She lost more than 200 pounds after joining a clinical trial testing Mounjaro for weight loss in 2020. "I don't care about the bread

But others on the drugs lose their

appetites entirely or suffer side effects nausea, vomiting, diarrhea — that

undermine the pleasure of any food. 'I've had a handful of patients over the years who were really miserable because they didn't enjoy food in the same way," says Dr. Katherine Saunders, an obesity expert at Weill Cornell Medicine and co-founder of Intellihealth, a clinical and software company that focuses on obesity treatment.

#### Weight

But, she added, most people who have turned to weight-loss medications have spent years struggling with the physical and mental burdens of chronic obesity and are relieved to discover a decreased desire for food and grateful to shed pounds. When people stop taking the drugs,

their appetites return and they regain weight, often faster than they lost it, studies show. One early analysis found that two-thirds of patients who started taking weight-loss drugs were no longer using them a year later.

Part of that may be due to high cost and ongoing supply shortages. But the larger question of what it means to alter a basic human drive like appetite needs to be considered as well, says Dr. Jens Juul Holst of the University of Copenhagen. He is one of the researchers who first identified the gut hormone GLP-1, or glucagon-like peptide 1, which eventually led to the new class of obesity drugs.

Speaking at an international diabetes conference this fall, Holst offered a philosophical critique of the new medications' real-world impact.

"Why is it that you've lost weight? That's because you've lost your appetite. That's because you've lost the pleasure of eating and the reward of having a beautiful meal," Holst told his colleagues. "And how long can you stand that? That is the real, real gues

### Consumers warned of risk of vision loss or blindness

### Indian manufacturer recalls eyedrops cited in FDA warning

WASHINGTON, Nov 20, (AP): The Indian manufacturer of more than two dozen varieties of eyedrops subject to a US safety warning has officially recalled the products, which were sold by CVS Health, Target, Rite Aid and other national retailers.

Kilitch Healthcare India issued the recall recently and the Food and Drug Administration published the notice. The recall is something of a formality, since the FDA had already alerted US stores last month to stop selling the over-the-counter drops.

Consumers should not use the products due to the risk of vision loss or blindness, the FDA said. FDA officials don't have the legal authority to force manufacturers to recall their products, and instead rely on companies to "voluntarily" do so. The FDA previously stated it recommended the manufacturer recall the eyedrops on

Mumbai-based Kilitch Healthcare

adverse events" related to its products. The lubricating drops were distributed in the US by Velocity Pharma, based in Farmingdale, N.Y., and carry expiration dates between November 2023 and September 2025. The FDA said in its initial warning that agency inspectors found unsanitary conditions and bacterial contamination at the factory

where the drops were manufactured. Agency records show no prior inspec-

tions for Kilitch Healthcare. FDA only publishes inspections to its online database after they have been completed and processed. That suggests agency officials may still be finalizing documentation from the inspection that triggered the latest recall. The FDA is responsible for assuring the safety of foreign products shipped to the US, though it has long struggled to keep pace with international pharmaceutical supply chains that increasingly begin in India.



Take care of your health



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





## Aberg caps off amazing 6 months with another win

Yang cashes in at LPGA finale

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga., Nov 20, (AP): Ludvig Aberg added to his astonishing second half of the year when he closed with a second straight 9-under 61 on Sunday to win the RSM Classic, his first PGA Tour title to go along with a European tour victory and a winning debut in the Ryder Cup.

And to think the 24-year-old Swede was still at Texas Tech six

Not only did he win the final event of the PGA Tour season, he did it in record fashion. His final birdie allowed Aberg to tie the 72-hole scoring record on the PGA Tour, matching the 253 of Justin Thomas at the 2017 Sony Open.
His 61-61 finish set the tour record

for lowest closing 36 holes, beating by one the mark shared by Matt Jones at Kapalua in 2022 and Patrick Rodgers at Sea Island in 2019.

#### **GOLF**

Aberg seized control with three straight birdies, one of them when he fearlessly drove over the marsh on the 407-yard fifth hole to 30 feet, and then held off Mackenzie Hughes, who shot 60-63 on the weekend and finished four shots behind.

The victory at Sea Island moves him to No. 32 in the world. He earned a spot at the Masters, along with a spot at Kapalua in The Sentry to start the year. He also would appear to be a shoo-in for PGA Tour rookie of the year. The other top candidate, Eric Cole, played in the final group with Aberg and shot 67 to tie for third with Tyler Dun-

In Naples, Florida, Amy Yang birdied her last two holes for a 6-under 66 to win the CME Group Tour Championship and claim the \$2 million prize, matching the largest in women's golf.

The victory was her fifth on the LPGA Tour, the previous four coming in Asia



Amy Yang, of South Korea, poses with the trophy after winning the LPGA CME Group Tour Championship golf tournament, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, in Naples, Florida. (AP)



Nicolai Hojgaard of Denmark kisses his trophy after he won the final round of the DP World Tour Championship golf tournament, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023. (AP)

Yang holed out for eagle on the 13th fairway to overcome an early three-shot deficit, and then she let Nasa Hataoka make the mistakes in crucial moments down the stretch. Hataoka closed with a 69 and Alison Lee had a 66 to tie for second. Lee was never closer than two shots along the back nine at Tiburon Golf Club. Lee, still winless on the LPGA Tour, closed out her season with three runner-up finishes on the LPGA and a victory in Saudi Arabia on the Ladies European Tour.

Lilia Vu, a two-time major champion this year and No. 1 in the women's world ranking, closed with a 65 to finish alone in fourth and picked up a valuable prize of her own. She won the points-based LPGA player of the year for the first time.

In Ďubai, United Arab Emirates, Nicolai Hojgaard claimed the biggest title of his career Sunday after running off five straight birdies down the stretch for an 8-under 64 to win the season-ending World Tour Championship by two strokes.

The 22-year-old Dane delivered a clinic in iron play to set up closerange birdies start on the 13th holes. He finished at 21-under 261 to hold off Tommy Fleetwood, Viktor Hovland and Matt Wallace.

Hojgaard has now won a tournament for three consecutive years on the European tour but this was easily his biggest, earning him \$3 million.

Fleetwood closed with a 68. Hovland, already a winner in the PGA Tour finale, had also shot 68, while Wallace had a 69.

Hojgaard's twin brother, Rasmus, was on course to claim one of the 10 PGA Tour cards from the Race to Dubai rankings. He hit his second shot into the water guarding the green and only made par. Matthieu Pavon followed him and hit a wedge inside 2 feet for a birdie that lifted him above Rasmus Hojgaard, who missed out on PGA Tour status by less than 27 points.

Other Tours: Yuta Sugiura became the seventh amateur to win on the Japan Golf Tour, closing with an even-par 71 at the Dunlop Phoenix for three-shot victory over Keita Nakajima and Taiga Semikawa, two of Japan's leading players who also won as amateurs. ... Gaganjeet Bhullar of India shot a 4-under 67 to complete a wire-to-wire win at the BNI Indonesian Masters on the Asian Tour. He won by five shots over Karandeep Kochhar. ... Alexandra Forsterling of Germany closed with a 5-under 67 for a five-shot victory in the Mallorca Ladies Open on the Ladies European Tour. ... David Micheluzzi closed with a 4-under 68 for a one-shot victory over Ben Eccles in the Victorian PGA Championship on the PGA Tour of Australasia. ... Serena Aoki held off Mao Saigo with a 4-under 67 for a oneshot victory in the Daio Paper Elleair Ladies Open on the Japan LPGA. Saigo closed with a 65.

ARAB (\*) TIMES



Ludvig Aberg, of Sweden, watches his drive off the seventh tee during the final round of the RSM Classic golf tournament, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, in St. Simons Island, Ga. (AP)

### Esports superstar Faker's team wins trophy at League of Legends World Championship

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 20, (AP): South Korea's esports powerhouse T1 won the League of Legends World Championship by defeating Chinabased Weibo Gaming.

South Korea's Lee "Faker" Sanghyeok - arguably the most well-known face in the esports world -- jumped out of his seat to celebrate with fellow team members Zeus, Oner, Gumayusi, and Keria as they outperformed Weibo Gaming by winning three consecutive rounds in Seoul on Sunday.

It was the team's record fourth win in one of the most popular esports tournaments in the world

Thousands of fans, many in League of Legends costumes, filled a baseball stadium in Seoul for the championship which has became a mainstay for the billion-dollar global esports industry.

#### **ESPORTS**

Wacharakorn Maneechote, 25-year-old fan, said he flew in from Thailand to watch the final game and to cheer his favorite player Faker.
"God of our time," he said, referring

to T1's leading player.

League of Legends is one of the most popular video games, where two teams of five powerful champions face each other in a bid to destroy the other's base. "Everyone plays League of Legends these days," said Jung Byeong-il, a South Korean fan.

Lee, who won gold with South Korea at the Asian Games this year, is a rock star in South Korea where gaming culture is prevalent.



Members of team T1 celebrate with winners' trophy after winning the finals stage of the 2023 League of Legends World Championship between team T1 and team Weibo Gaming in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023. (AP)

Esports players are known to retire young, usually logging off before the age of 25. Lee said he will make a retirement plan "later" after "working hard for the remaining years.'

Lee said one of the challenges he'd given himself was to keep his composure regardless of what was happening in the game.

"My personal goal in this final was actually to imagine an instance when we'd lose 3-0 but I'd still be smiling, and I tried to play with such a mindset," Lee said.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol made note of T1's victory on Monday, congratulating the team on his official Facebook page.

"In Hangzhou Asian Games, for which esports was selected as an official sport for the first time, South Korea won four medals. In continuation of this success, (T1) has won (the League of Legends Championship) and with this win, our country's reputation as a front-runner in esports has once again been announced to the world," Yoon said.

The championship attracted six million concurrent viewers at its peak according to the tracking and analytics service Esports Charts.

The statistics don't include Chinese live-streaming platform views due to "the unreliability of the data they provide" according to the company.

Boswell propels Arizona to win over UT-Arlington

### **Abmas stars as Texas outlasts Louisville**

NEW YORK, Nov 20, (AP): Max Abmas hit a fallaway jumper at the buzzer as No. 19 Texas outlasted a stiff challenge from Louisville to earn an 81-80 victory Sunday in the Empire Classic.

In a game with 21 lead changes and 14 ties, Abmas gave the Longhorns (4-0) the dramatic win off a successful in-

bounds play. Kadin Shedrick scored a career-high 27 points for Texas. Abmas added 14 as the Longhorns shot 46.3%. Skyy Clark and Tre White scored 20 apiece for the Cardinals (2-2), who were unable to finish off their first win against a ranked team since

#### beating Virginia Tech on Jan. 6, 2021. Arizona 101, UT-Arlington 56

In Tucson, Arizona, Kylan Boswell scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half and Arizona scored 20 straight points spanning the end of the first half and start of the second in a rout of UT-

The Wildcats (5-0) had seven players score in double figures and have had five with 10 or more points in every game this season while averaging 99.6

### UConn 77, Indiana 57

In New York, Tristen Newton had 23 points and 11 rebounds and UConn pulled away in the second half to beat Indiana in the Empire Classic at Madison Square Garden. After winning their first three games by an average of 39 points, the Huskies (4-0) got their fourth double-digit win thanks largely to Newton, who also had six assists.

Cam Spencer added 18 points for the defending national champions, who led for the final 33:21 in their first meeting against Indiana since 2019. Alex Kara-

### **BASKETBALL**

ban scored 13 and Donavan Clingan grabbed nine rebounds as UConn shot 44.6% and outrebounded Indiana 44-22.

### Houston 69, Dayton 55

In Charleston, S.C., LJ Cryer had 18 points and Jamal Shead had 16 as Houston ran past Dayton to win the Charleston Classic tournament title. Shead scored his season high and had seven of the Cougars first nine points as they opened a 14-4 lead less than six minutes in. They are 6-0 to open for a second straight season.

Shead, the senior who started his 66th straight game for Houston, also added six rebounds, four assists and two steals.

### Miami 91, Kansas State 83

In Nassau, Bahamas, tournament MVP Nijel Pack scored 20 of his 28 points in the first half against his former school, and Miami topped Kansas State to win the Baha Mar Hoops Bahamas championship.

Norchad Omier scored 23 for the Hurricanes (5-0), who are essentially assured of tying a school record by being

### **Utah bags Great Alaska Shootout title**

### Iowa women bounce back from first loss with a win over Drake

IOWA CITY, Iowa, Nov 20, (AP): Caitlin Clark had 35 points and 10 assists and Kate Martin had a career-high 25 points as No. 2 lowa responded from its first loss of the season, beating

Drake 113-90 on Sunday. Hawkeyes 1), coming off a 65-58 loss to State

Kansas Thursday night, scored a program-record 64 points in the first half, shooting 75% in the first quarter and

65% in the first half.

Sharon Goodman had 15 points and Molly Davis added 10 points for the Hawkeyes. The Hawkeyes shot 64% for the game.

Clark

Utah 117, E. Kentucky 72 In Anchorage, Alaska, Alissa Pili scored 28 points, Gianna KneepAlaska Shootout championship.
Pili, a native of Anchorage playing in front of dozens of friends and family, made 11 of 18 from the field and finished with eight rebounds, six assists, two steals and two blocks. Keenpkens was 8-of-10 shooting, made 5 of 7 from 3-point

kens 23 and Ines Vieira added 20

to help No. 4 Utah beat Eastern Kentucky 117-72 to win the Great

### **BASKETBALL**

range and grabbed eight rebounds and Vieira hit 7 of 8 from the field, made 6 of 6 from behind the arc and had seven assists.

### UConn 62, Minnesota 44

In Minneapolis, Paige Bueckers had 12 points, eight rebounds and four assists for eighth-ranked Connecticut in her hometown, and the Huskies stifled Minnesota's outside shooters on the way to a 62-44 victory over the Gophers.

lead USC to victory over Brown. It wasn't easy. Ellis scored 16 points in the first half for the Trojans (3-1) and was pivotal late

in holding off the pesky Bears.

Bronny James warmed up with his

teammates before the game, which was believed to be the first time he's done so this season. He has yet to make his col-

lege debut after he suffered cardiac ar-

Michigan State 81, Alcorn State 49

loman scored 17 points and Jaden Akins added 13 to help Michigan State roll

In East Lansing, Michigan, Tre Hol-

Jeremiah Gambrell led Alcorn State

(1-4) with 12 points and Jeremiah Ken-

Illinois 88, Southern 50

rest at a workout at USC in July.

over Alcorn State.

dall added 11.



Texas's Max Abmas, left, puts up the winning shot over Louisville's Skyy Clark during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, in New York. (AP)

in the AP Top 25 for the 17th consecutive week when the new poll comes out Monday. Wooga Poplar and Matthew

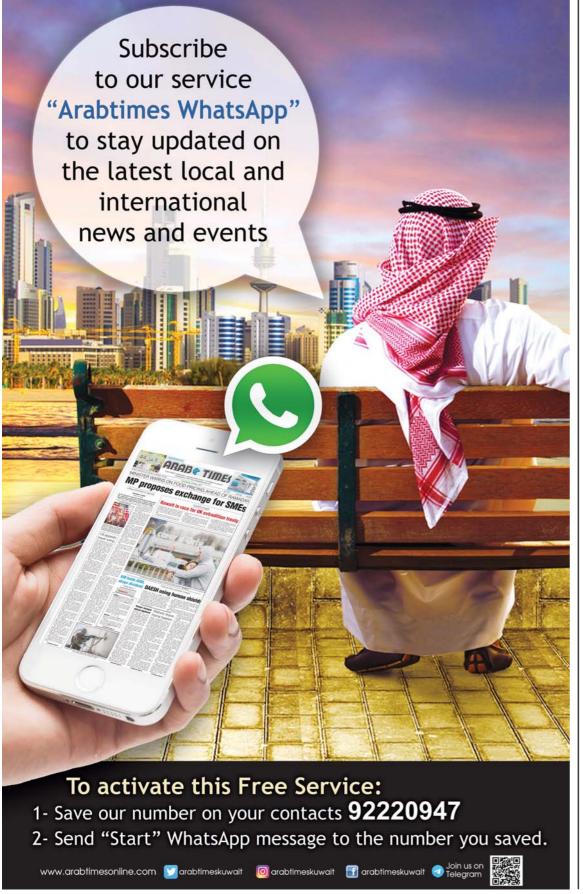
Cleveland each scored 15 for Miami. **USC 81. Brown 70** 

In Los Angeles, Boggie Ellis scored

28 points and Isaiah Collier added 24 to

In Champaign, Ill., Terrence Shannon Jr. scored 17 of his 24 points in the first half, Dain Dainja added 12 points and Quincy Guerrier had 10 to lead Illinois over Southern. A 17-point run in the final five minutes of the first half gave Illinois a 45-27 lead at the break. The Illini (4-1) weren't threated by the Jaguars in the second half, extending their lead to as many as 34 points.

Nine of the 10 players who dressed for Southern (1-4) scored. Tai'Reon Joseph led the way with 16 points, and Jordan Mitchell added 13 points.



### **Anticipation high for more spirited performance**

### Kuwait aim for redemption in crucial clash against Afghanistan

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

RIYADH, Nov 20: In a decisive encounter at Prince Muhammad bin Fahd Stadium in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait is set to face the Afghanistan at 8:00 pm. This match marks the second round of the first group competitions in the joint Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup and the 2027 Asian Cup.

#### SOCCER

Kuwait needs a win to keep their hopes alive of advancing to the next round of the World Cup. In the previous week, the team faced a setback with a narrow defeat against India, failing to meet fan expectations. Anticipation is high for a more spirited performance in this crucial match.

Portuguese coach Rui Pinto, in recent training sessions, focused on rectifying mistakes made by some players that proved costly in the previous match. Expectations are that the lineup may witness significant changes, particularly addressing the underperformance of certain players in the first



Kuwait coaches issue instructions to the players.

The Kuwait delegation arrived in Dammam on Friday and underwent their first training session on the same day. To bolster the team, coach Rui Pinto decided to summon Kuwait club striker Ibrahim Kamil to fill the void left by the absence of Faisal Zayed (suspended), Ahmed Al-Zenki (enrolled in a military course), and Salman Al-Awadhi (injured).

Despite a lackluster performance in

the first match, Kuwait has a favorable opportunity to secure three points today, given Afghanistan's loss by a significant margin of eight goals to one against the Qatari team in the opening

The Asian Football Confederation has appointed a team of referees from Jordan to officiate the match, with the assessment task assigned to Syrian Zakaria Kanal and Thai Tanperi Pairit as the match observer.

### **Emotional Palestine play Australia in Kuwait**

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 20, (AP): An emotional Palestinian team will play Australia on Tuesday at the neutral venue of Kuwait after its World Cup qualifier was moved from the West Bank due to continuing conflict in

Authorities in Kuwait are expecting a big crowd at the Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium with passionate support for the Palestinians, a team that has never appeared at the World Cup.

"We're very sympathetic for everyone with what's going on," Australia coach Graham Arnold said of the Gaza conflict. "But again, it's a game of football and that brings a lot of joy to everybody.

Australia can take a big step towards the final round of qualification for soccer's 2026 World Cup if it defeats the Palestinians. After beating Bangladesh 7-0 in the opening game, the Socceroos would take control of Group I with another victory against a Palestinian team that drew 0-0 against Lebanon.

Palestinian coach Makram Daboub has been unable to call all his usual squad as three of his players were unable to get out of Gaza to report for a training camp in Jordan. Those that have made it are, the Tunisian said, struggling

"The players are in the hotel or on the bus most of the

time following the news on their phones and communicating with their families," Daboub said. "They are in a constant state of anxiety with the continued aggression and war in Palestine."

Despite the concerns, Daboub was happy with the performance against Lebanon. "We should have won the game but it is a good point for us. We know that Australia is a strong team and we need to focus on that as

#### **SOCCER**

South Korea has a much shorter journey to take on rival China in Shenzhen. Both teams won opening games in Group C with South Korea, aiming for an 11th successive World Cup appearance, beating Singapore 5-0 and China, going for a second, winning 2-1 in Thailand.

Coach Aleksandar Jankovic is expecting a tough test against South Korea, a team that China has only defeated twice in 36 past meetings. "We will be facing a worldclass team. South Korea is a top team, not only in terms of Asian football, but in terms of world football, in terms of individual quality, team stability and confidence," the Serbian said.

## Al-Kuwait rout Golden Angel Abu Al-Hassan takes on key role in aquatics advisory committee



Al-Shammari penetrates the Indian team's defense to score.

Al-Qadsia eye semis at Asian Club Championship

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: The International Aquatics Federation has appointed Faisal Abu Al-Hassan, a distinguished member of the Kuwaiti Federation, to its executive office's advisory committee. Comprising renowned experts, the committee aims to enhance and contribute to the development of the federation's six major competitions, as outlined in a statement released by the Kuwaiti Federa-

Abu Al-Hassan earned this role due to his extensive expertise across all facets of the federation's competitions, encompassing swimming, diving, water polo, artistic swimming (ballet), open water swimming, and high diving, as stated in the official announce-

Expressing his enthusiasm, Abu Al-Hassan shared that he is now a proud member of the federation's advisory committee, led by Christopher Burton, the President of the American Aquatics Federation. He looks forward to actively participating in the refinement of regulations for the International Federation, as well as continental and national federations, with the overarching goal of benefiting all sports



Faisal Abu Al-Hassan

and athletes.

It's noteworthy that the International Aquatics Federation, under the leadership of Kuwaiti Hussein Al-Musallam, has been a pivotal organization since its founding in 1908. Recognized by the International Olympic Committee, it oversees the management of water sports competitions globally.

### Nigeria stumble to 2nd consecutive draw

BUTARE, Rwanda, Nov 20 (AP): Kelechi Iheanacho equalized to salvage a 1-1 draw for Nigeria against Zimbabwe as both sides opened their World Cup qualifying campaigns with two consecutive draws.

Zimbabwe, hosting games in Rwanda because of a lack of suitable stadiums at home, took the lead in the 26th minute through a free kick by forward Walter Musona, who hammered the ball into

the top corner from 30 yards out. The better side in the first half, Zimbabwe appeared unfazed by the opposition's pedigree, knocking the ball around confidently and defending solidly when out of possession.

Nigeria came into the game in the second half, though Zimbabwe also had chances to win. Leicester forward Iheanacho, a sec-

ond-half substitute for the Super Eagles, scored the equalizer in the 67th with a clinical finish inside the box after he was set up by captain Moses Simon.

In their opening matches, Zimbabwe drew 0-0 away to Rwanda on Wednesday while Nigeria was surprisingly held to a 1-1 at home draw by Lesotho on Thursday.

The result leaves both teams on two points in Group C, one point behind leader South Africa, which has a game

### 'Samba Boys' try to avert crisis in Rio

### Messi seeks 1st goal against Brazil in World Cup qualifying

cured a resounding 43-19 victory over India's Golden Angel in the 26th edition of the Asian Club Championship at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex, known as "Al-Kuwait now boasts 4 points from two wins. Conversely, it marked the third consecutive loss for the Indian team, which has yet to secure any points in the

qualifying match.

archrival, all in friendly matches.

vious round; the locals lost 2-1 at Co-

lombia and the World Cup champion

was defeated at home 2-0 by Uruguay.

watch Messi in a match that could be

his last in Rio de Janeiro playing for Argentina. In the same arena, the star

lost the 2014 World Cup final to Ger-

many, and beat the host in the decider

Many Brazilian fans are keen to

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20:** 

Kuwait Handball Club se-

tournament. As the competition enters its fifth day, today's schedule includes five matches in the fourth round of the group stage. Among these, the clash between Kuwait and Al-Khaleej Saudi Arabia holds significant importance, as it will determine the two teams qualify-

### HANDBALL

ing for the semi-finals in the first group. A similar high-stakes situation applies to the match between Al-Qadsia and Al-Arabi of Qatar, where the host team aims to secure a victory and solidify its spot in the tournament's semi-finals.

Expressing gratitude, Hassan Kamel Saleh, the head of the Lebanese Youth Sports Club delegation (Haret Sidon), extended sincere thanks to Al-Qadsia Club and the organizing committee for hosting the 26th Asian Club Handball Championship. He emphasized the significance of the club's participation in the tournament amid challenging circumstances in Lebanon. Additionally, Hassan Farhan, head of the Iraqi army delegation, highlighted their participation in the continental tournament, emphasizing the importance of such events for Iraqi teams after a prolonged

absence from major tournaments. The competition remains a platform for teams to showcase their skills and determination, contributing to the growth and recognition of handball in the Asian region.



Endrick of Brazil's Palmeiras controls the ball during a Copa Libertadores quarterfinal second leg soccer match against Colombia's Deportivo Pereira in Sao Paulo, Brazil. (AP)

Argentina leads the 10-team South American qualifying group with 12 points from five matches. Uruguay is



Argentina's Lionel Messi controls the ball during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 against Uruguay at La Bombonera stadium in Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP)

second with 10 points. Colombia has nine and Venezuela eight. Brazil will host the World Cup champions in fifth position, with seven points.

Ecuador, Paraguay and Chile have five points each. Bolivia has three and

The 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada will include 48 teams, meaning direct entry

### **SOCCER**

for the top six teams from South America. The seventh-place team can earn a berth in an intercontinental playoff.

Optimism is in short supply in Brazil, which lost its two latest matches and is struggling under new coach Fernando Diniz. A defeat to Argentina could be the team's first ever in a home match of World Cup qualifying, and the hosts will have several absences for that encounter.

Carlos Augusto is likely to start as left-back for the first time, Jesus will take the role of injured Vinicius Júnior up front and teenage sensation Endrick is likely to play in the second half.

The 17-year-old Endrick, who will join Real Madrid next year, spoke in a press conference about his expectations of playing against Messi for the first time.

"For me, Pelé is the king and no one will get near him. Messi is phenomenal, the best in the world again, and I want to enjoy playing against him, a man I only saw in the videogames,' the striker said. "I am more of a Cristiano Ronaldo fan, but it will be wonderful to see Messi up close.

Argentina will arrive in Brazil late

on Monday and have its final training session for the clash in Buenos Aires. Coach Lionel Scaloni did not speak after Sunday's training, and had most of the practice behind closed doors, but gave hints of where his doubts are.

Ángel di Maria, Nicolás González and Leandro Paredes are in contention for a place in the midfield and Lautaro Martínez, who did not score for the national team in his previous 14 matches, could replace Julián Álvarez up front.

Also on Tuesday, Paraguay will host Colombia; Uruguay will take on Bolivia; Ecuador welcomes Chile; and Peru plays host against Venezuela. The seventh and eighth rounds of South American qualifying will take place in September after the next edition of Copa America in the United

### Dr. Al-Sharji participates in European Handball Conference



Former technical director of the Kuwaiti Handball Federation Dr. Khaled Al-Sharji addressing participants.

PORTO, Nov 20: Dr. Khaled Al-Sharji, the former technical director of the Kuwaiti Handball Federation, international lecturer, and member of the coaches committee of the Asian Handball Federation, is actively participating in the seventh scientific conference organized by the European Handball Federation in Porto, Portugal.

Presenting a scientific paper

### **HANDBALL**

alongside a distinguished group of handball experts and academics, Dr. Al-Sharji stands as the sole Arab and Asian representative in this esteemed conference. With over 200 researchers and a substantial audience in attendance, the conference serves as a platform for the dissemination of the latest scientific studies and findings in the field of handball.



Pakistan's Haris Rauf reacts after bowling during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Pakistan and England in Kolkata, India. (AP)

# SOCKS

### Latest sports scores at — http://sports.arabtimesonline.com

Al-Arabi considering constructing new stadium in different location

## Al-Baidan calls for club privatization and accountability

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 20: Youssef Al-Baidan, Director of the General Authority for Sports, emphasized the responsibility of general assemblies in sports federations for evaluating their performance. Whether their tenure spans a year or completes an electoral cycle, Al-Baidan stated that if a federation fails, it is essential to reward successful initiatives and hold those accountable for failures.

In a recent television interview, Al-Baidan clarified that he is not blaming the Football Association for Kuwait's loss to India, emphasizing that any federation's failure to work or produce results should prompt a change. He highlighted that changing an unsuccessful union is not a mistake, and the authority, as a financial regulatory body, can cease support for any underperforming union according to the law.

Addressing club privatization, Al-Baidan emphasized the need for implementation as part of upcoming professionalism laws. He stated that club allocation should be based on institutional merit rather than random selection, adhering to legal frameworks.



Youssef Al-Baidan, Director of the General Authority for Sports.

Regarding stadium development, Al-Baidan mentioned that design tenders have been signed for Kuwait, Al-Qadsia, and Kazma stadiums. He also noted that Al-Arabi is considering constructing a new stadium in a different location.

Al-Baidan highlighted the importance of transparency in candidate selection, advocating for the availability of CVs

Messi World Cup shirts to be auctioned

LONDON, Nov 20, (AP): Sotheby's is to auction six shirts worn by Lionel Messi during Argentina's winning run at last year's soccer World Cup in Qatar and thinks they could become the most valuable collection of sports memorabilia ever sold at potentially more than \$10 million.

The auction house said Monday that it will put up for sale in New York six of the seven first-half shirts the Argentina captain wore in Qatar, including the one he donned in the dramatic win in the final against France.

Argentina won the final, and its third World Cup, in a penalty shootout after a 3-3 draw at the

for all club and federation members to address challenges to the authenticity of

some candidates' credentials. Regarding investment opportunities, Lusail Stadium, in which Messi had scored two goals.

### SOCCER

Sotheby's, which was founded in London in 1744, will offer Messi's shirts in New York between Nov. 30 and Dec. 14. The shirts will be on view at its New York headquarters in a free, public exhibition during the bidding dates.

It is working with U.S.-based tech startup AC Momento, which partners with high-profile athletes to help manage their match-worn memorabilia.

Al-Baidan affirmed that all clubs have the right to invest, but active participation from boards of directors is crucial for successful outcomes in this aspect.

### Al-Kharafi 'emerges' victorious at **Jahiz International Show Jumping**



Ali Jassim Al-Kharafi receives trophy from Mohammed Al-Barrak

worldwide.

RIYADH, Nov 20: Kuwait Club and National Equestrian Team rider, Ali

Jassim Al-Kharafi, secured victory in the prestigious "Jahiz" International Show Jumping Championship, competing in the "three-star" category. Hosted by the Saudi Equestrian Fed-

eration, the event saw the participation of 135 skilled riders from 17 countries

**EQUESTRIAN** 

In the Grand Prix race, a challenging 150 cm course featuring 24 male and

female riders, Ali Al-Kharafi exhib-

ited exceptional skill aboard his horse

"I." In a fierce competition, he emerged triumphant, claiming the coveted first

place and the gold medal. The Saudi

rider, Kamal Bahamdan, secured second place, followed by Khalid Al-Mubti from Saudi Arabia and Thai rider Jingbahun

Kramidage. The crowning ceremony for

the champions was conducted by Mohammed Al-Barrak, CEO of Information

Maintaining his stellar performance,

Al-Kharafi continued to shine by

clinching the top spot in the middle-

class race at a height of 135 cm, riding

his horse "Karat." In this race, which featured 40 male and female riders,

his compatriot Anaz Al-Anaz secured

the seventh position riding "Crownie." The awards were presented by Afnan Al-Khader, representing the actor Ready company. Abdullah Al-Awadi

achieved a commendable fifth place in the 130 cm race riding his horse "Dee Dee," further adding to Kuwait's suc-

Rauf pulls out of

tour of Australia

ISLAMABAD, Nov 20, (AP):

Fast bowler Haris Rauf pulled out of the Pakistan team and three un-

capped players were named Mon-

day in an 18-member squad for the

Left-handed opening batter Saim Ayub, fast bowler Khur-

ram Shahzad and allrounder

Amir Jamal got their maiden

call-ups after an impressive run

Newly appointed chief selec-

tor Wahab Riaz said Rauf was

in the plans for Pakistan's three

test matches in Australia, but the

express fast bowler pulled out on

Sunday night despite confirming

his availability two days ago.

in recent cricket tournaments.

cess in the championship.

test tour of Australia.

Technology at Jahez Company.

## Serbia lock up spot at Euro 2024

Belgium's Lukaku sets record; Spain's Gavi injured

BRUSSELS, Nov 20, (AP): Belgium striker Romelu Lukaku scored four firsthalf goals to lead a 5-0 rout of 10-man Azerbaijan in their final European Championship qualifying game, and Serbia locked up their spot at Euro 2024 after drawing 2-2 with Bulgaria.

Spain's 3-1 win over Georgia was overshadowed by Barcelona midfielder Gavi suffering what appeared to be a serious injury to his right knee.

Lukaku leads scoring in the qualifiers with 14 goals, four more than Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and five ahead of France's Kylian Mbappe.

### SOCCER

Lukaku's haul is a record for a European Championship qualifying campaign, beating the previous mark of 13 goals held by Poland's Robert Lewandowski (in Euro 2016 qualifying) and Northern Ireland's David Healy (in Euro 2008 qualifying).

The Roma striker took all four of his goals between the 17th and 37th minutes in an awesome display of clinical

Following Lukaku's opener to make it 1-0, Azerbajian went down to 10 players in the 24th after Eddy Pascual got his second yellow card.

Belgium had already qualified along with Austria from Group F before the game in Brussels, but the victory meant it finished in first place with 20 points from eight games, one point more than Austria. Sweden beat Estonia 2-0 and ended up third in the group.

Lukaku, who was also celebrating

his son's birthday, said that his team was poised to "go far" in Germany.

Lukaku started qualifying by scoring a hat trick against Sweden in March. The 30-year-old striker only failed to score in one of the eight qualifying games. Azerbaijan frustrated him in September in a 1-0 win for Belgium.

He has also scored nine goals in 14 games for Roma since he was loaned to the Italian club from Chelsea in the offseason.

Serbia needed a draw or for Montenegro to not beat Hungary to advance to next year's tournament in Germany There was a moment when Serbia

appeared to be in trouble after Montenegro went ahead 1-0 against Hungary while Bulgaria led Serbia 2-1. But Serbia defender Srdan Babic's

equalizer in the 82nd ensured that they needed no help. The already-qualified Hungary ral-

lied to beat Montenegro 3-1, led by midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai's Hungary finished Group G with 18 points from eight games. Serbia are

second with 14, and Montenegro third with 11. Hungary secured their place on Thursday when they won at Bulgaria.

The match was marred by violence when local fans clashed with police on the streets of Sofia during a protest over the management of the national soccer union.

Only the top two finishers from each



Serbia's Stefan Mitrovic (left), challenges for the ball with Bulgaria's Viktor Popov during the Euro 2024 group G qualifying soccer match between Serbia and Bulgaria at the Dubocica stadium in Leskovac, Serbia. (AP)



Norway's Jorgen Larsen (left), and Scotland's Jack Hendry battle for the ball during the Euro 2024 Qualifying Group A soccer match between Scotland and Norway at Hampden Park, in Glasgow, Scot-land. (AP)

of the 10 groups advance. Another three spots will be determined in a playoff linked to performances in the Nations League. Hosts Germany automatically qualify.

Ferran Torres scored one goal after setting up Robin Le Normand's opener in Spain's win to finish atop Group A. Gavi was in tears when he limped

off the field in the 24th minute in Val-Gavi's goal for Spain in a 1-0 win at Norway in October had already secured spots for both Spain and Scot-

land at next year's tournament in Ger-The 19-year-old Barcelona player took a hard hit to the side of his right Serb beats Sinner in straight sets

### **Djokovic wins record 7th ATP Finals title**

TURIN, Italy, Nov 20 (AP): Novak Djokovic ended the year just as he started it - by setting records. The top-ranked Djokovic won a record-breaking seventh ATP Finals title on Sunday with a straight-set victory over home favorite Jannik Sinner.

Djokovic took 1 hour, 43 minutes to win 6-3, 6-3 as the Serbian continues to reach new heights at the age of 36.

He started 2023 with a record-extending 10th Australian Open title and went on to claim his 23rd Grand Slam singles trophy at the French Open, breaking Rafael Nadal's mark. Djokovic, who lost the Wimbledon final to Carlos Alcaraz, also won the U.S. Open.

"One of the best seasons I've had in my life, no doubt," Djokovic said. "To crown it with a win against a hometown hero in Jannik, who has played amazing tennis this week, is phenomenal." Djoković entered Sunday's final tied with

knee when he and a Georgia player

collided a few minutes before he had

to come off. He kept playing and ap-

peared to hurt the same leg while try-

ing to control a ball. After that he im-

mediately signaled to the team that he

after they drew 3-3 with Norway in a

Scotland are second with 17 points

Bruno Fernándes and Ricardo Horta

scored in Portugal's 2-0 win over Ice-

land in Lisbon to make it a clean sweep

of 10 wins in as many qualifiers for

Slovakia beat Bosnia and Herzegov-

Portugal and Slovakia had already

ina 2-1 also in Group J, and Luxembourg beat Liechtenstein 1-0.

Roberto Martínez's team.

could not continue.

Glasgow thriller.

Roger Federer on six titles at the season-ending tournament for the year's top eight players.

And he stretched out his arms and beamed broadly after clinching his seventh when Sinner double-faulted. The victory had echoes of the clinical way Djokovic dispatched secondranked Carlos Alcaraz in Saturday's semifinal encounter.

### **TENNIS**

"I'm very proud of the performances these last two days against Alcaraz and Sinner, probably the best two players in the world next to me and (Daniil) Medvedev at the moment, and the way they have been playing I had to step it up," Djokovic said.



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates with the trophy after winning the singles final tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Pala Alpitour, in Turin, Italy. (AP)

**CRICKET** Riaz said the medical panel of the Pakistan Cricket Board informed him that there were no fitness issues with Rauf and he could play test matches. The chief selector and team director Mohammad Hafeez later sat together with Rauf, but the fast bowler pulled out at the last moment. Three front-line fast bowlers -

Naseem Shah, Ihsanullah and Mohammad Hasnain - all were ruled out of the tour because of injuries.

The selectors have named Shahzad, a 23-year-old fast bowler, alongside experienced bowlers Shaheen Afridi and Hasan Ali. Jamal, who has represented Pakistan in T20s against England, is in the squad as a seam-bowling allrounder.

Squad: Shan Masood (captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Saud Shakeel and Shaheen Afridi.

### ARAB® TIMES

**Editor-in-Chief Editorial Office:** Airport Road, Shuwaikh **AHMED AL JARALLAH** 

Fax: 24818267

qualified.

Advertising: Tel: 24813815 Telephone: 24813566 & 24849144 Fax: 24845708 P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

Annual Subscriptions:

Individuals KD 45/- Companies and Official Departments KD 75 Airmail charges extra for Fax: 24839487

Tel: 24849144