



# STUDY ON CONSEQUENCES OF FAMILY VISA HALT GETS NOD PM emerges unscathed from grilling



His Highness Crown Prince receives an invitation from Qatar on behalf of His Highness the Amir.

## Crown Prince receives Qatar invitation

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday an invitation from Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to participate in the 44th GCC summit due in Doha on December 5.

The invitation, incorporated in a letter, was handed over by the Qatari Ambassador to the State of Kuwait Ali bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud to His Highness the Crown Prince during a reception at Bayan Palace. The audience was attended by senior officials from Amiri and Crown Prince Diwans. (KUNA)

## 70,000 attendees expected

## Dubai preps for COP28 amid int'l leaders' notable absence

DUBAI, Nov 28, (AP): Dubai prepared to host the COP28 climate talks Tuesday as world leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden signaled they would not be attending the negotiations that come during the ongoing Israel-Hamas war roiling the wider Middle East.

Workers under a still-scorching November sun staped up bunting and decorated Dubai Expo City's iconic Al Wasl Dome with trees and other green foliage ahead of the summit, scheduled to start Thursday in the United Arab Emirates.

Armed United Nations police patrolled about half the area of Expo City where the delegates will debate, while the other half will host other climate events. Airport-style security screenings greeted those coming into both areas.

The two-week meeting of international leaders aims to assess where the world stands when it comes to limiting emissions to slow global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared with pre-industrial times. Emirati officials said Tuesday they expect over 70,000 attendees at the talks, including heads of state.

Britain's King Charles and Pope Francis will be among the leaders to attend the talks, even as the 86-year-old Francis battles a lung inflammation. However, some have said or otherwise signaled they won't be attending the Conference of the Parties - where COP gets its name.

They include the 81-year-old Biden, who attended both COP26 in Scotland and COP27 in Egypt.

"The president has been very much focused on the conflict between Israel and Hamas over the last month or so," said John Kirby, a spokesman for the White House's National Security Council, on Monday. "He was working the phones over the course of Thanksgiving weekend. And I suspect that he'll continue to work the phones in coming days."

The White House has said it is sending a climate team, including Special Envoy John Kerry, climate adviser Ali Zaidi and clean energy adviser John Podesta.

It remains unclear if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will attend the talks, particularly as Arab nations have reacted with anger over the punishing bombardment and ground offensive in the Gaza Strip after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel. The UAE reached a diplomatic recognition deal with Israel in 2020, but public anger still seethes in this autocratic nation of seven sheikhdoms.

The Israeli government did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Meanwhile, Syrian President Bashar Assad won't be attending either, according to the pro-government newspaper Al-Watan, despite receiving an invitation from Emirati leader Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Instead, Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous will lead the country's delegation.

Assad has slowly reintegrated himself into Arab regional politics in the last year, despite his brutal crackdown on 2011 Arab Spring protesters that descended into a civil war and consequently became a regional conflict.

See Also Page 13

## MPs block Kuwait's entry to GCC tax accord on harmful goods

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has survived the grilling motion that MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf had filed against him.

No non-cooperation nor no-confidence motion was filed against the HH the Prime Minister. This came after the National Assembly discussed the motion during its ordinary session on Tuesday. The discussion started with the presentation of Al-Mudhaf on the three points of the grilling motion. He said "the people must know that we have already passed the era of corruption, yet we live in the era of loss."

The lawmaker then asked HH the Prime Minister if he is aware of the historic background of the Amiri Speech delivered by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in June 2022, which marked the end of corruption era to launch a new one. He added that since 2012, Kuwait has

## 30 citizens walk free in Amiri amnesty

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Ministry of Interior has released 30 citizens covered by the Amiri amnesty that the Council of Ministers announced recently, reports Al-Qabas daily.

A large number of family members warmly welcomed these citizens upon getting out of the Central Prison.

Earlier, the Ministry of Interior made all the necessary security preparations for the release of those who were pardoned. This came after the Council of Ministers approved a draft decree to lift the freedom-restricting punishment imposed on some persons and

submitted it to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

During its meeting chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; the Council of Ministers confirmed that this pardon is based on the directive of His Highness the Amir, stressing that this princely blessing is a consolidation of the values of tolerance and transcendence that the rulers of Kuwait have established.

Continued on Page 5

been witnessing the lack of vision of consequent governments, restricting freedom and using citizenship as political punishment until it reached the climax in 2020 when former HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid requested for postponement of deliberations on grilling motions for one and half year. He said HH the Prime Minister did not form a team to work on an integrated political reform to push for

parliament-government cooperation, considering the people reacted well to the Amiri speech when they rushed in long lines to vote for their representatives. He pointed out: "We dismissed a prime minister when he violated the Constitution and the same action will be taken against Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf for the same reason."

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On Tuesday, National Assembly members initiated discussions on the grilling motion presented by MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf against His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who has expressed his preparedness for the deliberation.

## NewsWatch

### India celebrates

## All 41 pulled out in successful rescue

UTTARKASHI, India, Nov 28, (AP): India's transportation minister said Tuesday that all 41 construction workers who were trapped in a collapsed mountain tunnel in the country's north for more than two weeks have been pulled out after rescuers reached them earlier in the day.

Nitin Gadkari, the minister of road transport and highways, said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that he was "completely relieved and happy" after all were rescued from the Silkyara Tunnel in Uttarkashi after an ordeal that lasted 17 days.

"I am very happy that all the 41 trapped workers have come out and their lives have been saved," he said in a video message posted on X. Gadkari added that "this was a well-coordinated effort by multiple agencies, marking one of the most significant rescue operations in recent years."

The workers were being pulled out through a passageway made of welded pipes which rescuers previously pushed through dirt and rocks. They will each go through an initial health checkup at a temporary medical camp set up inside the 13-meter (42.6 feet) wide tunnel.

After the first worker was pulled out, Pushkar Singh Dhami, the top elected official in the state of Uttarakhand, presented him with a garland and hung it around his neck as rescuers, other officials and relatives cheered.

A crowd of locals shouted slogans of "Bharat Mata ki Jai," or "Long live mother India," and set off firecrackers.

One of the rescuers, Devender, who only gave his first name, told the New Delhi Television channel that "the trapped workers were overjoyed when they spotted us in the tunnel."



This handout photo provided by the Uttarakhand State Department of Information and Public Relations shows Pushkar Singh Dhami (right), Chief Minister of the state of Uttarakhand, greeting a worker rescued from the site of an under-construction road tunnel that collapsed in Silkyara in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, India, Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023. (AP)

## CIA director in Qatar

## Israel-Hamas truce enters 5th day with more planned swaps

TEL AVIV, Nov 28, (AP): A truce between Israel and Hamas entered its fifth day on Tuesday, with the militant group promising to release more hostages to delay the expected resumption of the war and Israel under growing pressure to spare Palestinian civilians when it renews its offensive.

The sides agreed to extend their truce through Wednesday, with another two planned exchanges of militant-held hostages for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. But Israel has vowed to resume the war with "full force" to destroy Hamas once it's clear that no more hostages will be freed under the deal.

The Biden administration has told Israel it must avoid "significant further displacement" and mass casualties among Palestinian civilians if it resumes the offensive, and that it must operate with more precision in southern Gaza than it has in the north, according to U.S. officials. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House.

CIA director William Burns and David Barnea, who heads Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, were in Qatar, a key mediator with Hamas, to discuss extending the cease-fire and releasing more hostages, a diplomat said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks. A U.S. official confirmed Burns was in Qatar, speaking anonymously because the director's travel plans are not publicized for security reasons.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is set to visit the region this week, also with an eye to extending the truce.

Hamas and other militants are still holding about 160 people, out of the 240 seized in their Oct. 7 assault into southern Israel that ignited the war. That's enough to potentially extend the truce for another two weeks under the existing framework brokered by the Qatar, Egypt and the U.S., but Hamas is expected to make much higher demands for the release of captive soldiers.

Israel has vowed to end Hamas' 16-year rule in Gaza and crush its military capabilities. That would almost certainly require expanding the ground offensive from northern Gaza - where entire residential areas have been pounded into rubble - to the south, where hundreds of thousands of displaced people have packed into overcrowded United Nations shelters.

Israel blames the soaring casualty toll on Hamas, accusing the militants of using civilians as human shields while operating in dense, residential areas. Monday's release brought to 51 the number of Israelis freed under the initial four-day truce, along with 19 hostages of other nationalities. So far, 150 Palestinians have been released from Israeli prisons. Israel has said it would extend the cease-fire by one day for every 10 additional hostages released.

## Kuwait and San Marino fortify ties with air transport accord

ROME, Nov 28, (KUNA): Kuwait civil aviation authorities and the Republic of San Marino agreed on Tuesday on clauses of a treaty to regulate air operations between the two countries and increase cooperation in the field of civil aviation.

Kuwait embassy in Rome told KUNA today that officials from the two countries met in the embassy late Monday and officially signed an approving terms of the agreement regulating air transport.

The two countries also signed a memorandum of understanding that regulates operating rules and transport rights between the two countries, which will be signed in its final form after the completion of the internal constitutional procedures in both countries.

On this occasion, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy Nasser Al-Qahtani said

that this agreement "is a step towards strengthening relations between the two countries in various fields and expanding areas of cooperation with other countries."

Abdullah AL-Rajhi, an official at the department of civil transportation in Kuwait Airport, said that the outcome of the meeting are consistent with the policy of the General Administration of Civil Aviation to open the skies and encourage international airlines to increase their flights to and from Kuwait International Airport.

He added that such an agreement will help link Kuwait International Airport to the largest number of airports around the world through a global network of airlines, which enhances the quest to provide new and diverse options to serve the traveling public.

## Google to delete 'inactive' accounts beginning Friday

NEW YORK, Nov 28, (AP): Have a Google account you haven't used in a while? If you want to keep it from disappearing, you should sign in before the end of the week.

Under Google's updated inactive-account policy, which the tech giant announced back in May, accounts that haven't been used in at least two years could be deleted. Accounts deemed inactive will be erased in a phased-approach beginning Friday.

If you have an account that's at risk for deletion, you should receive multiple notices from Google sent to the email affiliated with that account and its recovery address (if one exists). But if you're still catching up on this new policy - and want to ensure that your content on Google Drive, Docs, Gmail and

more is saved - here's what you need to know.

In May's announcement, Google attributed its inactive-account update to security issues.

Accounts that haven't been used for a long time are more likely to be compromised, the company said, noting that "forgotten or unattended accounts" typically have old passwords, often lack two-factor authentication and receive fewer security checks.

As a result, these accounts could be hijacked and used for spam or other malicious content, as well as identity theft.

The easiest way to keep your Google account active (and thus prevent it from being deleted) is to sign in at least once every two years.



Prayer Timings	
Fajr	04:58
Asr	14:30
Sunrise	06:22
Sunset	16:49
Zuhr	11:36
Isha	18:11

# Local

**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours**  
**By Day:** Mild and partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times north-westerly wind, with speed of 12-40 km/h.  
**By Night:** Rather cold to cold with light to

## Weather

moderate freshening over coastal areas northwesterly wind, with speed of 12-42 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.  
**Station** Max Exp Min Rec  
 Kuwait City 25 20

Kuwait Airport	25	15
Abdaly	25	14
Jahra	26	17
Salmiyah	23	20
Nuwaisib	25	18
Wafra	26	17

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

## Audit Bureau points to admin., financial violations

# 'EPA has not taken action to curb pollution'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) has warned about the worsening environmental pollution and waste, while the Environment Public Authority (EPA) has not taken any action in this regard, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The bureau unveiled a number of financial and administrative violations found in the authority; including the failure to collect revenues estimated at more than KD8 million, as a result of not offering the contract for examining, matching and auditing chemicals through the ports in a public bidding.

SAB said the violations at EPA have been continuing for years without any solution; citing some of its remarks that have not been resolved for more than a fiscal year like the failure to conclude a contract to implement a survey project and prepare a comprehensive database for the marine environment in Kuwait despite

the passage of seven years since the documents were prepared.

The authority reported that the contract was not concluded due to the fact that the updates to the project were not approved from a technical standpoint, and that the matter was presented to the former oversight unit at SAB for approval. Many items related to the project were scrutinized, but the response came through several letters, which delayed and disrupted the project, it added.

The bureau also criticized the authority's failure to maintain the floating monitoring stations for marine pollutants. It revealed that the contract for establishing, supplying and maintaining floating monitoring stations for marine pollutants was signed on June 10, 2015 with one of the companies and work began on July 1, 2015. The value of the contract is KD1.1 million and duration is 36 months;

including the supply of devices, installation, operation and maintenance of floating stations in the locations specified by the authority. The contract ended on June 30, 2016, the bureau stated.

EPA indicated that the stations were repeatedly exposed to drift, chain cuts, destruction, damage, loss of parts and data interruption; in addition to the stations' navigational lighting stopping operation, which causes a navigational hazard if exposed to drift.

EPA then explained that due to the lack of budget for the removal of the stations, suspension of maintenance works and failure to contract directly with the local agent, in addition to many obstacles that halted operations; it has coordinated with the Marine Operations Group at Kuwait Oil Company, so all the stations were removed in 2020 and transferred to a storage temporarily.



KUNA photo  
 His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the Army Chief of Staff of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Lieutenant-General Syed Asim Munir.

## PM Kakar here on two-day visit

# HH CP receives Pakistani officials

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Tuesday Chief of Staff of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Lieutenant-General Syed Asim Munir and Minister for Law and Justice and Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Ahmad Irfan Aslam and the accompanying delegation.

The meeting was also attended by Pakistan Ambassador to Kuwait Malik Mohammad Farooq.

Earlier, the Pakistani Chief of Staff arrived in Kuwait, along with his accompanying delegation, for an official visit.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar arrives to Kuwait on Tuesday for a two-day visit, after concluding his visit to the UAE.

According to Pakistan's Foreign Office, Kakar is scheduled during the visit to meet

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Sabah.

"The visit will include signing of various MoUs in the field of manpower, information technology, mineral exploration, food security, energy and defense," said the foreign office.

Kakar previously visited the UAE and met with the president Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, where they signed MoUs relating to investment cooperation in various sectors.



Kakar

## 'Ministry nod secured'

# KHFS donates \$100K for Gaza

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Kuwaiti Humanitarian Friendship Society (KHFS) has initiated a charitable drive aimed at providing assistance to the distressed Gaza Strip. Approval from the Ministry of Social Affairs has been secured to solicit donations for relief efforts. Although the society traditionally focused on projects within Kuwait, the prevailing circumstances of war, destruction, and displacement in Gaza prompted the organization to extend its aid beyond national borders, reports Al-Rai daily.

Khaled Bin Sabt, the Director General of the Society, stressed that the campaign represents a humanitarian initiative aligned with the society's fundamental objectives. Despite its historical focus on aiding those in need within Kuwait, the society recognized the pressing need to extend support to Gaza due to the ongoing challenges faced

by thousands of displaced individuals.

To initiate the campaign, the Kuwaiti Humanitarian Friendship Society will contribute \$100,000 in financial and relief aid. Additionally, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Ahmad Abdullah Al-Sarraf, and several society founders and members, including Yaqoub Al-Jawaan, have collectively donated another \$100,000 in the form of medical supplies through the Kuwaiti Red Crescent.

Bin Sabt clarified that all cash and in-kind donations gathered during the campaign would be handed over to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society without any deductions. The society adheres to a policy of not subtracting any percentage from received donations, and the Kuwait Red Crescent Society is a reputable organization both locally and internationally for efficient relief and aid distribution.

Bin Sabt has appealed to the charitable citizens and residents of Kuwait to actively participate in the humanitarian campaign. Those interested in contributing or seeking information on how to donate can reach out to the association's administration through their website [www.khf-kwt.com](http://www.khf-kwt.com) or contact them at 90056080 for inquiries.



Al-Sarraf

## Upto KD 10,000 fines for violations

# New rules for telecom towers

## By Enas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: During its regular session yesterday headed by Abdullah Al-Mahri, the Municipal Council approved the new regulations within the construction schedules that include special requirements and specifications for establishing public communications towers in all areas of Kuwait.

The regulations included limiting the distance between the fences of the communications towers and private housing buildings, schools, kindergartens, centers for people with disabilities, nurseries, chalets, farms, broths, and other buildings by 20 meters.

According to the Deputy Director General of Kuwait Municipality Thamer Al-Mutairi, the Council of Ministers has set a deadline of February 2024 to address the randomness of the locations of the existing communications towers and stations in the country. The remedy for this begins with issuing a new communications regulation and requiring violators to follow the technical conditions contained therein.

Meanwhile, the Municipal Council approved the request of member Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader to address the General Secretariat of the Municipal Council to coordinate with the Legal Department of Kuwait Municipality for determining and explaining the conditions and controls for the administrative deportation of the non-Kuwaiti violators within the penalties of the new telecommunications regulations, indicating that its amendments are technical, thoughtful, and not random.

In this context, the Municipal Council approved to add an article to the new communications regulation No. 39 (bis) related to penalties, and stipulating the imposition of a fine ranging between KD 9,000 and KD 10,000. In addition to the fines, the engineering office's license will be withdrawn, the contractor's classification will be suspended, and the non-Kuwaiti violator will be administratively deported from the country if he commits one of the following violations:

■ Implementing telecommunications stations and towers without a license or supervising their implementation

■ Exceeding the area of 300 square meters designated for the establishment of telecommunications stations and towers

■ Placing unstable vehicles in locations for which no decision has been issued by the Director General of the Municipality or his authorized representative

■ Erecting communications stations, towers, or antennas in locations other than the permitted locations

■ Failing to adhere to the required 20-meter distance between the border of the station or tower fence and private residential

buildings, schools, kindergartens, centers for people with disabilities, and nurseries.

The article imposes a fine ranging between KD 100 and KD 500 for using materials other than iron mesh that does not obscure the view of the site of communications stations and towers, or for not adhering to the specified height of the fence of the site of communications stations and towers, or for not placing advisory and warning signs on buildings and sites containing communications stations and towers.

The penalties include a fine ranging between KD 3,000 and KD 5,000 for placing advertisement or promotional boards within a site or on the buildings of communications stations or towers. Likewise, a fine ranging between KD 4,000 and KD 5,000 will be imposed in case of not fencing a site containing communications stations and towers.

Article 39 stipulates that "In all cases, a ruling shall be made to remove the violation and restore to its original state. It is permissible to add to these penalties the penalty of suspension of the license for a specific period or withdrawal of it.



Al-Mahri



Al-Rai photo  
 One of the MPs speaks to the press in front of the Central Prison.

## Former inmates families felicitated

# MPs thank leadership for pardon

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Several deputies have expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince for their generous act of amnesty, reports Al-Rai daily.

MP Muhammad Haif commended the Amiri generosity in pardoning cases of opinion. He thanked His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, and His Highness the Prime Minister, noting that such acts of honor are not uncommon for the wise leadership, always seeking to bring joy to the Kuwaiti people.

In front of the Central Prison, Haif also expressed satisfaction with the government's collaboration with the parliament in addressing various issues, particularly the amnesty file.

MP Majid Al-Mutairi shared his overwhelming joy at the Amiri pardon and praised the political leadership's unsurprising honor toward the people. He expressed hope for continued collaboration between the parliamentary and governmental sectors to address additional issues.

Al-Mutairi extended congratulations to the families of those pardoned, emphasizing the successful cooperation with fellow MPs.

He also thanked the Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and Minister of Defense for their assistance in resolving challenging files, describing it as an accomplishment achieved through collective effort.



Dr. Al-Ostad

to find solutions that contributes to achieving energy goals.

He stated that KISR paid attention regarding energy research and development, especially renewable energy, noting that their ninth strategic plan includes various researches in this field.

Acting Director of Kuwait's University Mishari Al-Harbi said in his speech that the conference aims to encourage scientific research and studies, which provides opportunities for local engineers and researchers to benefit from this field.

Chairman of Kuwait Society of Engineers, Faisal Al-Attal said that they held a two-day training workshop, in cooperation with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), affirming the society's keenness on pushing Kuwaiti engineers towards technological progress in various engineering fields.

# GCC chief tackles issues regarding FTA in London

## By Nosaiba bin Shaibah

LONDON, Nov 28, (KUNA): The Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jasem Al-Budaiwi said Tuesday that he discussed with heads of the GCC diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom, the overall Gulf-British relations, mainly the ongoing negotiations on a free trade agreement between the two sides.

Al-Budaiwi made his remarks in a statement exclusively to KUNA and Kuwait TV, at the headquarters of Kuwait Embassy in the British capital, London.

Al-Budaiwi added that the GCC countries rely greatly on their relations with the United Kingdom, as it is an important strategic partner.

"We believe that concluding a free trade agreement would consolidate and strengthen relations and push them to broader horizons, especially economic, trade and investment relations."

Al-Budaiwi stressed that GCC countries have concluded five rounds of negotiations with the British side, and that the Gulf negotiating team is making unremitting efforts to remove all obstacles that prevent reaching such agreement.

The GCC chief expressed hopes to reach a mechanism to increase and protect investments, in addition to obtaining multiple outlets to enter British markets at a time when the GCC countries also provide outlets for British goods in their markets.

Al-Budaiwi said that he is scheduled to hold an expanded meeting with British Secretary of State for Trade and Business Affairs Kimmi Badenoch to consider the possibility of resolving remaining obstacles to the free trade agreement.

## Kuwaitis preferred

# 'No vacancies in MEW'

## By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy and the Acting Minister of Public Works Dr. Jassem Al-Ostad highlighted the presence of employment self-sufficiency and the absence of vacant positions in the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy.

In a memorandum issued in response to a parliamentary question submitted by the National Assembly member MP Shuaib Sha'aban, Dr. Al-Ostad said the ministry spares no effort in appointing Kuwaiti graduates according to the needs of its sectors.

He explained that the number of Kuwaiti appointees from 2020 until November 2023 is 13,229. In the event of a shortage in any position, the Civil Service Commission is contacted accordingly, as it is responsible for nominating employees.

He cited the continuation of field tours by the supervisory team at the department, indicating the team is not complacent in taking legal measures against those violating the public cleanliness and road works regulations.

## Top officials, doctor involved

# Travel ban on money-launderers

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Criminal Court has imposed a travel ban on a Ministry of Interior official, secretaries of former MPs and a doctor involved in money laundering and bribery — a case revealed by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled who decided to refer it to the Public Prosecution., reports Al-Qabas daily.

During the first trial of the defendants, the court decided to postpone the trial until Jan 27, 2024 for a thorough review of the case files.

According to a reliable source, the prosecution charged three secretaries of former MPs and expatriates with bribery after discovering their participation in obtaining a suspended visa in exchange for KD2,000.

**80 cars impounded:** Director of the Public Sanitation and Road Works Department at the Kuwait Municipality branch in the Capital Governorate Saad Al-Kharing has announced that 80 abandoned cars were impounded and 15 citations for space and road works violations in Shuwaikh Industrial Area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, Al-Kharing asserted: "The aim of the intensive field tours is to monitor violators and take legal measures against them." He affirmed the supervisory team pays attention to raising the level of cleanliness in areas under its responsibility, as well as removing everything that distorts the aesthetic view and road works in all areas. This is done through field tours that the team carries out to preserve the cultural landscape of the governorate, he added.



## Other Voices

## Reputation of KRCS is very well-known

By Ahmad alsarraf

The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) was established 58 years ago by a group of statesmen. Like other relief and aid societies, its objectives are to provide social and health care to needy groups, contribute to disaster rescue operations, provide first aid, provide assistance and protection to the wounded, prisoners, and those afflicted by wars, deliver aid to victims and their families, and other important social and humanitarian work.

When it was founded, the association was headed by the late Abdulaziz Al-Saqr, then he was succeeded by Uncle Barjas Hamoud Al-Barjas, before Dr. Al-Aziz Hilal Al-Sayer became Chairman of the Association's Board of Directors, which currently consists of him, Anwar Al-Hasawi, Vice President; Maha Al-Barjas, Secretary-General; Abdullah Al-Humaidhi, Hamad Al-Bahr, and Muhammad Al-Nakhilan. Khaled Al-Subaih, and Walid Al-Nisf, as members, and the association's work is supported by a small army of workers and volunteers, whom we always find on the front lines, and there is not enough space to mention their names.



My acquaintance with Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer and the wonderful human being Maha Al-Barjas does not exceed a few beautiful social meetings, but their reputation as activists in social service, as Dr. Hilal's previous experience as a doctor, and what the Kuwait Red Crescent Society has come to mean under their management, make me feel proud as a Kuwaiti, of what I have gained.

The association enjoys local and international respect and confidence in its capabilities. This is what prompted us, when establishing the Kuwaiti Humanitarian Friendship Society, to specify in the association's bylaws that the association's funds, if dissolved for any reason, would go to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, and this came out of our confidence in the association and in those who handle its affairs.

The Red Crescent is perhaps the only entity that can be relied upon to deliver cash and relief materials, especially outside Kuwait, "without suspicion," due to the near impossibility of knowing where and how financial aid is spent abroad.

My confidence in the association is due to the following reasons:

It refuses to deduct a high percentage of the donation money it receives, as all "charitable" organizations do, other than the Kuwaiti Humanitarian Friendship Society. Rather, the "Red Crescent" is satisfied with deducting a very small percentage to cover its huge financial burden, which is represented in delivering urgent aid to those in need at its expense, with what this requires that the association's representatives accompany each shipment, and supervise its delivery to its beneficiaries in the best possible way.

Therefore, we, our friend Yaqoub Al-Jawaan, and other friends chose the "Red Crescent" to donate nearly 100 thousand dollars of medical supplies to the people of Gaza and the Red Crescent's supervisors did not ask us, for example, to cover the cost of shipping and distributing them, nor even to cover the cost of the risks to which its representatives are exposed during the operation while delivering and distributing it to those in need in a dangerous area such as the Gaza Strip.

Moreover, the Red Crescent Society, even sixty years after its founding, has maintained a good reputation and a bright record of achievement, free of involvement in any unacceptable cases, and the theft scandals that have affected many similar societies have not caused it any goals!

Also, the Red Crescent Society is voluntary organization and does not aim for profit, and therefore it has never resorted to what has been rumored about some charity societies, which announced sending relief materials here and there, to buy aid from "certain parties", especially since the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs often does not last long during this period.

Within days, the Kuwaiti Humanitarian Friendship Society will announce the start of its campaign to collect donations for the victims of Gaza, and will deliver all of what will be collected, without any deductions, and under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs, to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

□ □ □

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## Drug dealer dodges, flees cops in high-speed chase

Ex-MP jailed for vote-buying

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Jahra Highway Patrol failed to take into custody an unidentified person for driving a four-wheel drive at insane speed, reports Al-Anba daily.**

After the suspect was ordered to pull over on the Salmi Road, he refused and continued driving until he drove out of sight.

During the chase, he threw out of the car window a bag containing 1,587 narcotic pills.

The daily added, the GTD has circulated the suspect's car plate number to all police patrols with orders to bring the man in for interrogation.

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**Ex-MP jailed:** The Criminal Court has issued a verdict to put behind bars former MP Mubarak Al-Aro and others for two years, and several other people for one year imprisonment with hard labor and ordered the fourth and fifth defendants to pay 2,000 dinars fine in the vote-buying case during the National Assembly elections, reports Al-Rai daily.

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**Reckless motorists held:** The Ahmadi Security Directorate's support patrols during a security and traffic campaign against reckless motorists and violators of the traffic law has arrested 12 reckless people, including 5 juveniles who were referred to the juvenile prosecution for reckless driving and without a license, reports Al-Anba daily.

During the campaign the GTD has also issued 24 traffic citations, includ-

ing driving without license, reckless driving and installing exhausts that make annoying sounds.

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**2,000 liters alcohol seized:** Officers from the Ministry of Interior have seized more than 2,000 liters of imported alcohol at the Shuwaikh Port, in cooperation with the customs authorities.

A security source said after information was received by the Interior Ministry that a shipment of cast iron would arrive at the Shuwaikh port with cartons of imported alcohol neatly hidden in the shipment, CID officers in coordination with the Shuwaikh Port customs personnel seized the suspicious shipment and found hidden inside imported alcohol.

The source added that preliminary information indicates that the shipment came from one of the Gulf countries. The contraband has been confiscated and referred to the General Department of Drugs and Alcohol Control.

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**Expat caught with drugs:** Task Force Security personnel referred an expatriate to the General Administration for Narcotics Control after he was caught in Salmiya area, in possession of two bags of Shabu, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source said that the task force patrols suspected a person of trying to get away from the patrol as soon as he saw it, which prompted the Interior Ministry men to follow him.

When they confronted him, a small bag fell from him, which turned out to contain Shabu. When they searched him before the patrol took him, another bag was found with him. It turned out to be He also had a bag of Shabu, so he was referred to the competent authority.



Seekh kebab and tikka barbecue in an unidentified garden area.

## No decision issued yet: official

## 'Barbecues along coastline not allowed'

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28:** The Director of the Cleaning and Road Occupancy Department in the Hawalli Governorate Municipality Branch and Chairman of the Spring Camps Committee, Faisal Al-Otaibi, has cautioned coastal strip visitors against unauthorized barbecues. He emphasized that no official decision permitting barbecues has been issued, and therefore, municipal approval is not currently in effect, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Otaibi clarified the municipality has submitted its approval for barbecues to the legal department. However, the decision is pending, and as of now, barbecuing remains prohibited.

Addressing camp licenses for cooperative societies, Al-Otaibi affirmed, "The committee has granted licenses to every cooperative society that has submitted a request." Currently, several societies await approval from the Ministry of Social Affairs regarding their budget.

He highlighted the allocation of 1,000 square meters for each association's headquarters and an additional entertainment site for shareholders. Al-Otaibi stated, "The number of licenses issued until last Sunday for spring camp was 700."

## Judiciary insulted

## Ashour, two charged

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28:** The president of Al-Arabi Club, Abdulaziz Ashour, and a journalist, and a photographer have been charged with insulting an advisor in the court of first instance and insulting the judicial authority, reports Al-Rai daily.

When the suspects were produced before the Counselor Nasser Al-Badr in the Criminal Court, they denied the charges against them.

The judge then set another date to look into the lawsuit.

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**657 get jobs:** The Civil Service Commission has announced the nomination of 657 Kuwaitis to take up employment in government institutions and ministries, reports Al-Anba daily.

The daily added, these male and female Kuwaitis had registered with the CSC. Meanwhile, the bureau said it continues to receive job requests from government institutions.

## diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Govt must take steps to curb rise in divorce rate'

"NO matter how much we discuss the topic of divorce in Kuwait every day, we feel that we will not do justice to the issue by talking about it and its effects that interfere with every small and large thing in our lives and our society, and therefore the topic needs to be discussed in detail to shed more light on it. The topic of divorce is old and new, and in our estimation, it is always worth talking about. In order to explain our vision of the repercussions of the issue of divorce in our Kuwaiti society, and its effects and repercussions at the current level and in the long term," columnist **Dr. Issa Muhammad Al-Amiri**, wrote for **Al-Anba** daily.



Dr. Issa Al-Amiri

"Thus, what can be remedied must be remedied, because this is undoubtedly considered a step in the right direction by the state towards reducing this negative phenomenon, since the future effects of divorce are devastating in all respects, as divorce destroys the family. In fact, its destructive effects harm the society.

"On the other hand, in another perspective and from a different angle, it affects the formation of the personalities of individuals who are directly affected by the divorce, especially children.

"We recall here what we had said before about the need to apply effective and serious measures on the ground to reduce the number of divorce cases, and we say that our demands on the state are to implement an important package of guidelines called for by Islamic law in this case, the first of which is the establishment of an office or a specialized administration to which anyone who wants a divorce can approach.

"The task of this office or administration is to carry out many actions that will delay the implementation of this step as much as possible. Going to this office is very necessary and the divorce process cannot be completed without it. There is no doubt that this matter will have great benefits and good positives in reducing the phenomenon of divorce and help disturbed families to move in the right direction.

"Thus, for further confirmation, and because the issue of divorce must not be taken lightly by the state and divorce cases must not go unnoticed, it is necessary to take every possible measure so that the number of divorce cases is reduced, even if it is necessary to adopt a method of procrastination and delay to implement the procedure.

"This treatment may be given as long as possible, perhaps for the best, on the basis that delay and procrastination in this matter may have a positive effect in deterring those who opt for divorce."

## Also:

"Finally, indications of a ceasefire are emerging on the horizon, offering a brief respite to halt the relentless onslaught of the Israeli war machine upon the vulnerable Palestinian population," columnist **Dr. Masouma Ahmad Ibrahim** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"These resilient people, in their struggle to reclaim their legitimate rights from an unjust occupation that has burdened them for decades, find themselves under the indifferent gaze of the governments of the so-called "developed world," champions of "human rights." Palestinian children and women bravely face the Israeli "defense" army, their homes collapsing around them, blood flowing as a sacrifice for their just cause.

"It prompts us to question: How long will Arab and Islamic gatherings, accustomed to mere denunciations and appeals for restraint, continue in a world dominated by brute force? When will Palestinians realize that internal discord only strengthens their enemy, serving as a powerful

weapon for the Israeli machinery of oppression?"

"Israel's leaders must awaken to the reality that decades of unjust oppression cannot silence the Palestinian voice of resistance. A shift from violence to the logic of peaceful coexistence is essential for their stability, security, and well-being.

"The most pressing question is directed at self-proclaimed "human rights sponsors" worldwide. How long will human rights remain a selectively applied concept, limited to Western interests?"

"Why does the Security Council turn a blind eye to the rights of the Palestinian people in their occupied homeland? The unjust use of veto power distorts the Council's purpose, turning it into a tool in the hands of the powerful against the rights of the weak.

"The West's bias towards Israel and support for the brutal massacre against the Palestinians reveals the double standards of Western governments. This bias extends beyond policy to deceptive media and human rights organizations that fail to speak the truth, contributing to the injustice inflicted upon the Palestinians.

"Arabs must cease waiting for solutions from hypocritical Western governments and instead engage with deceived Western populations, exposing them to the realities obscured by their leaders. The key to a genuine solution lies in Arabs empowering themselves, ensuring their voices are heard in the Security Council, challenging its apparent belief in the ironic notion of "creating principles only to abandon them later."

□ □ □

"Make profits! It is customary that the profit-making season starts at the beginning of the new year, but thanks to our wise government, profits are now reaped one month and several days before the end of the year!" columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Of course, this is what some representatives announced about the fulfillment of popular demands, such as the issue of amnesty, without going into details. The amnesty is not on the occasion of the end of the year, but on the occasion of the interrogation. All of this is in order for the number of signatories to the 'non-cooperation' motion not to reach 10 members!"

"The worthy question is: All these gains that have been achieved, and will be achieved overnight, will they be credited to the rational government, or to the representatives who compromised their position on supporting the interpellation, in exchange for agreeing to their populist demands, or will they be credited to MP **Muhalhal Al-Mudhaf**, who made the government inspect its supporters, and thus concede? Is this the position to gain the loyalty of members who are interested in restoring the lost trust between them and their popular bases, under the slogan: 'You won't do anything to us?'"

"The interrogation may not succeed with all these concessions, but the real loser is the government of employees, which conceded faster than expected, after it reviewed its position on the interrogation, and knew with certainty that the numbers of its advisors and their expectations were all incorrect, and that the numbers could increase unexpectedly, unless ... the representatives are achieving some of their popular demands, which are much more important than the interests of the country and its people.

"Our rational government must know that it will be subjected to the same bargaining tool whenever an interrogation looms on the horizon, followed by a vote of confidence or 'non-cooperation'. Therefore, the government must change its policy, which relies on reactions and initiatives to calculate the government's achievements, and get rid of ... the 'arm-twisting' policy, the price of which will be very high later.

"However, if it is difficult for the government and its advisors to understand the truth of the matter, or they underestimate the demands that have been achieved, or that they promised to achieve, then peace be upon our country ... Good."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukay

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## Come and get it in Farwaniya

## Motorcycles for auction on Dec 4

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28, (Agencies):** In a recent announcement by the Ministry of Interior, the General Traffic Department's Vehicle and Bicycle Auction Committee has said motorcycles were impounded and are parked inside the Vehicle Impounding Department in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, within the Farwaniya Governorate will be sold during public auction.

This information was disclosed in the Kuwait Al-Youm newspaper on Nov 12, 2023. Owners of the auctioned bicycles are requested to promptly visit the General Traffic Department, specifically the Traffic Violations Investigation Department's Vehicle and Bicycle Sale Committee at Public Auction, located at the Vehicle Immigration Department in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area of the Farwaniya Governorate.

The Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior provided additional details, stating that the bicycles will be

made available for public auction at 2:00 pm on Monday, Dec 4, 2023. The auction will take place at the Vehicle Impoundment Department in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Farwaniya Governorate, situated next to the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh slaughterhouse.

Prospective auction participants are urged to note the following important details: To visit the Vehicle Impoundment Department in the Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh area on Friday and Saturday, specifically on Dec 1 and 2, 2023.

Additionally, auction entry fees are to be paid in cash, including the deposit amount from the bike's value and any other associated costs, facilitated via the electronic payment system (Knet).

In the event of technical issues with (Knet), financial fees will be collected in cash. Interested parties are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to acquire these seized motorcycles through the public auction process.

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HH Crown Prince and Prime Minister send similar cables

HH the Amir congratulates Mauritania, Albania on national days

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations to Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished President Ghazouani good health and wellbeing, and wished for the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and its people prosperity and progress.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a congratulatory cable to President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince included his sincere congratulations and wished President Ghazouani good health and wellness.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also sent a cable of congratulations to President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani on his country's National Day.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad sent on Tuesday a cable to President of Albania Bajram Begaj, congratulating him on the National Day of his country.



Left: Ambassador of Bangladesh Maj-Gen Md Ashikuzzaman (center) with other ambassadors and members of the diplomatic and civil societies of Kuwait.



MEW preps as power crisis expected

Ministry working on expediting power station projects

By Mohammed Ghanem Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff  
 KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: According to informed sources from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, the ministry has developed a set of scenarios in anticipation of an electricity crisis in 2025, including seeking assistance from the Gulf countries through the Gulf

Electricity Interconnection Authority to secure 600 megawatts during the peak summer period and when needed, as well as using temporary stations in the form of containers or using electricity production ships during the summer period to provide 470 megawatts.

The sources explained that the need for electrical energy represents a global crisis resulting from the growing demand and consumption annually, in addition to the huge housing projects being executed in the country.

The ministry is sparing no effort to work to provide electrical energy to the country safely on a permanent basis. It is currently working on expediting the power station projects to avoid any delays, via international developers and investors who have the material and technical capacity to expedite the establishment and operation of power stations through the independent energy provider.



Photos by Iehab Qurtal

The ceremonial cake being cut.

B'desh Embassy marks 52nd Armed Forces Day

'Relation & bond between Kuwait and Bangladesh are inseparable'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: "Relation and bond between Kuwait and Bangladesh are inseparable and historically connected," mentioned H.E. Ambassador of Bangladesh during his speech delivered in the reception arranged by the Defence Wing of Bangladesh Embassy. The reception on the occasion of 52nd Anniversary of 'Armed Forces Day' of Bangladesh was organized on 27th November at the Al Taj Ballroom of Hotel Millennium.

Brigadier General Lafi Malfi Almutari, Director of Junior Commissioned Officer and Non-Commissioned Officer Affairs Branch, Kuwait Armed Forces graced the reception as Guest of Honour and as representative of Chief of Staff of Kuwait Armed Forces. The reception was attended by a large number of ambassadors of different countries, members of the diplomatic and civil societies of Kuwait, Defence Attaches resident in Kuwait, officers of Bangladesh Military Contingent to Kuwait and members of Bangladesh community.

Reception

The colourful reception began with the welcome speech of Brigadier General Md Hasan Uz Zaman, Defence Attache of Bangladesh in Kuwait. He thanked the Guest of Honour Brigadier General Lafi Malfi Almutari for attending the reception. He also thanked all the distinguished guests and highlighted to them that the "Armed Forces Day of 21 November holds special importance not only for the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces but also for the people of Bangladesh. It signifies the paramount importance of comradeship, togetherness and jointness in arms to fight collectively against enemy. He said "on this day, we pay homage to our 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 mother land Bangladesh".

Further highlighting on the professional development of Bangladesh Armed Forces, Brigadier Hasan mentioned that following the dream of Father of the Nation, Bangladesh Armed Forces is being modernized under "Forces Goal-2030". As professional Armed Forces, Bangladesh proudly holds the top position among all troops contrib-

Partners

uting countries under the banner of United Nations for world peace. Under bilateral agreement Bangladesh Military Contingent is deployed in Kuwait since 1991 and supporting Kuwait Armed Forces by engaging deeply in constructive and development works of Kuwait. He proudly stated that "Our Armed Forces are symbol of pride, symbol of trust and confidence. Its contribution in nation building activities, disaster management and internal security duties are proudly acknowledged by every citizen of Bangladesh."

H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh Major General Md Ashikuzzaman said in his speech that "Kuwait has special place in the hearts and minds of the people of Bangladesh." Kuwait and Bangladesh are strategic partners in different fields including military. The ambassador thanked and expressed his deep gratitude to H.H. the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his government on the occasion of 52nd Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh. The ambassador further expressed with great respect and honour, the contribution of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and valiant soldiers, men and women in the war of Independence of Bangladesh. The ambassador and the defence attache wished for continuing high level of harmonious relation between Bangladesh and Kuwait and hoped to raise it to a new height in the days to come. Guest of honour praised the contribution of Bangladesh Military Contingent to Kuwait and wished for more engagement in defence sector in future between those two friendly nations. The celebration ended wishing "Long Live Bangladesh Armed Forces" "Long Live Kuwait- Bangladesh friendship".

'Each employee must choose time of leave'

'Awqaf employees under acting capacity must take full month leave without pay'

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs obligated those working under the "acting capacity" clause to take a full month's leave without pay during the current fiscal year of 2023/2024. If not, it will consider them administratively furloughed "based on what the interest of the work requires" according to a decision issued by the ministry's Undersecretary Bader Al-Mutairi, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the decision, each concerned employee must choose the time during which he wishes to obtain leave and submit the application to his administrative authority. The leave can either be continuous or in two periods of no less than 15 days in each period.

In the event that the application is not submitted, the employee's leave will be automatically recorded, and all depart-

ments must take into account the size of the workforce during those periods in a way that ensures its regularity and good conduct therein.

The decision stipulated that all groups enjoying the summer and spring holidays in the relevant centers and registrars would be excluded from the above decision and that this circular would be implemented and communicated to all sectors.

The Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs and Chairman of the Central Committee for Assignment System Management Ibrahim Al-Khaza circulated to the directors of the ministry's sectors and departments regarding the leave of workers under the "acting capacity" item.

It was noted that there were a number of assignees who did not submit leave on the SAP system.

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# November

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## LOCAL

## PM emerges

Continued from Page 1

He went on to say that the speech of the government delivered by Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf during the inaugural session of the second round of the 17th parliamentary term was devoid of procedures to implement political reform. He clarified that there is a big difference between the programs of the government for 2022 and 2023, indicating most of the political reform steps included in the 2020 program disappeared from the 2023 program.

He stated that Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf did not attend the session on Jan 12, 2023 despite having majority support; then he decided to resign and disrupt parliamentary work for more than two months, and another two months he spent on the formation of the new government. He pointed out the course adopted by Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf is similar to that of his predecessor; including procrastination in dealing with public demands, while prices keep on increasing and inflation is getting higher.

He added the premier could increase the minimum pension amount for retirees through the issuance of a decision, which would have been faster than waiting for the issuance of legislation. He said Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf increased the ministers' salaries and distributed many plots without the issuance of legislation; but when it comes to the citizens' interest, nothing can be achieved without legislation.

He asserted that since 2014, the strategic salary alternative has been discussed; but the government has yet to submit any bill in this regard. He pointed out the government is adamant in its claim that salaries and subsidies eat up a large percentage of the State budget. He inquired if the government intends to impose tax in order to get back whatever will be spent on the expected salary increment. He highlighted the squandering of public funds in various ways like using the Amir aircraft for personal trips, while the new chairman of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) was appointed according to the whim of Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf in spite of the warnings of relevant ministers against such action.

On the basic services like health, education, housing and infrastructure; Al-Mudhaf asked what the government has provided to the citizens. He said the law on establishing new residential areas was ratified and published in Kuwait Gazette more than three months ago, yet the executive regulations have not been issued until now. He added most citizens resort to private clinics due to the deteriorating service in public hospitals. "Since 2018, we have been hearing about solutions for maintaining the roads, but nothing has been achieved till date. If the public works ministers failed, the prime minister must be held accountable because he appointed them," he stressed.

On the confusing decisions he stressed that Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf formed the worst government in the history of Kuwait, citing the appointment of the deputy prime minister and state minister for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs although the latter was accused of buying votes in the last election. He was quick to clarify it is true that the minister's case was dismissed later, but it does not change the fact that he was appointed at a time the accusation has yet to be cleared. He thinks Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf found no other MP to appoint as minister, because most of the MPs declined since they no longer trust him. He pointed out the current ministers are very fragile and weak, up to the extent that they resigned even before facing grilling motions like the ministers of finance, education and public works.

He also highlighted the contradictory statements of ministers on the same issue like Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil Saad Al-Barrak who said there was no negotiation with Iran regarding Durrah offshore oilfield before the demarcation of maritime borders, while the foreign affairs minister stressed that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia own all the natural resources in the zone; hence, Iran has nothing to do with the issue.

He added the defense minister replied to a parliamentary inquiry, disclosing military secrets when he said the country has no defense forces to deal with encroachers. Under such circumstances, the minister must be dismissed for betrayal. Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf was on personal vacation for almost one and half months while such things were happening, he added.

On the confusion over the filling up of vacant senior positions vacancies, Al-Mudhaf pointed out that the number of vacancies increased to 500; then the government filled some of these positions with officials who were part of the previous era and some of them are ministers who supported the unconstitutional request of the former prime minister to postpone deliberations on grilling motions for one and half year. He said the government program has no measures combating corruption, while the term of the chairman of the Government Performance Follow-up Agency was renewed even if he had no achievements. He added Kuwait's rank in the international index on democracy even if the country has a constitution and parliament, but the problem is that it has no fair elections system, no political freedom or organized political action. He concluded that the premier position must not be a place for members of the Sabah family to learn how to lead.

On not responding to parliamentary queries under the pretext that they are unconstitutional, Al-Mudhaf cited the Constitutional Court's ruling to explain Article 99 of the Constitution; which stressed the importance of such queries for the MPs to obtain the information or to highlight shortcomings and get the attention of the concerned ministers. He added the court specified the conditions that the answer should not reveal State secrets or that of the judicial authority. He cited examples of the prime ministers since the first government who responded to most of the queries until 2012 when former HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak did not respond to parliamentary queries.

On the other hand, Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf affirmed that he respects the Constitution and the right of the MPs to grill him and the ministers. He also stressed that he is committed to the Amiri directives, pointing out these directives have been included in the program of the government.

He repeatedly emphasized that the government is only five months old, yet it has achieved a lot in the interest of citizens in cooperation with the Parliament.

He said he agreed on discussing the grilling motion without using his right to postpone it or refer it to the Constitutional Court

or Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee, stating he does not want to discuss the grilling in a close session.

He also cited the National Assembly Law, which specifies the conditions for grilling the prime minister -- that the points should be related to the general strategy of the government, not the executive issues concerning ministers. He said Al-Mudhaf should have chosen the right time to file his grilling motion.

He quoted Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun as saying it is his first time to witness such a strong coordination between the executive and legislative authorities.

He added the lawmaker had comments on the government program, which he should have forwarded to the Council of Ministers in writing; but he decided to put them in a grilling motion. He said the MPs, except Al-Mudhaf, praised the performance of the government, adding that Al-Mudhaf announced from the beginning that he will not cooperate with the government because of its program. He explained that he could have issued a decree of necessity to pass the State budget when there was no Parliament, but he decided to wait to discuss this with the latter.

He denied the accusation of Al-Mudhaf that the government has not submitted any bill to execute the directives included in the Amiri speech. He pointed out the government submitted a bill on reforming constituencies, adding that the law on the establishment of the Higher Elections Commission was ratified due to the parliament-government cooperation.

He went on to say that even if the government is new, it has had remarkable achievements in the interest of citizens. He asserted the government and the Parliament ratified important laws like increasing the minimum pension amount and developing the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) through granting it three large plots for investment in the interest of retirees. He said decisions were issued to postpone the collection of loan installments from the owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and those who obtained loans from Kuwait Credit Bank for one year, in addition to increasing the cost of living allowance for citizens before the end of 2023.

Talking in support of the grilling motion, MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri addressed Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf pointing out there are many problems in ministries which require his interference. He added it is not acceptable that a consultant controls the Ministry of Education.

Deputy National Assembly Speaker MP Muhammad Al-Mutair, who spoke in support of HH the Prime Minister, argued it is inappropriate to grill the latter after the issuance of the Amnesty Decree. If ever the premier is asked on the podium, he will be praised and rewarded; not grilled, the lawmaker asserted.

Meanwhile, Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun called for voting on appointment of the new chairman of State Audit Bureau -- Essam Al-Roumi -- as per Article 34 of law number 30/1964 on the establishment of the bureau.

In addition, the Assembly approved the following incoming letters in its ordinary session on Tuesday:

■ Request of MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf to assign the Human Resources Development Committee to investigate the manipulation of procedures for hiring national workers in private companies to waive off obligating the private sector to recruit a certain number of national workers;

■ Request of the Business Environment Improvement Committee to assign it to conduct a study on the consequences of the decision of the Ministry of Interior to suspend the issuance of family visa for expatriates working in the private sector;

■ Request of a number of MPs to assign the Public Funds Protection Committee to follow up the cases of Kuwait Army Fund and overseas military offices, as well as to conduct field investigations in and outside Kuwait if necessary.

On the other hand, the Assembly rejected the request of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari for the Parliament to approve the joining of Kuwait to the GCC agreement to impose tax on harmful commodities.

The government then decided to withdraw the request, because MPs rejected all kinds of taxes.

Moreover, the Assembly discussed 11th report of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee on the proposed amendment of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Law.

Rapporteur of the committee MP Dawoud Maarefi disclosed this proposal is aimed at expanding the commerce and industry minister's control over the KCCI, specify conditions for the chamber to receive donations from foreign entities, specify ways to spend the cash of KCCI and make the KCCI membership optional rather than mandatory.

Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban stressed this proposal is considered a political turning point and one of the fruits of the government-parliament cooperation. He pointed out that according to the proposal, it is allowed to dismiss the Board of Directors of KCCI and the chamber will be under the full supervision of the government.

MP Hassan Jawhar said the current version of the law gives KCCI full control over the entire State, indicating that KCCI adopted the feudal system. He stressed the need to obligate KCCI to refund all the money it collected illegally.

MP Adel Al-Damkhi said KCCI is a State within a State as it controls both the executive and legislative authorities. He believes the revised version of the law will keep the traders away from decision making, clarifying not all traders are corrupt.

## 30 citizens

Continued from Page 1

The Council of Ministers expressed its deepest gratitude and appreciation to His Highness the Amir, as well as His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for the amnesty decision. It stressed that the decision to pardon some citizens convicted of various offenses is in accordance with the directive of His Highness the Amir who has a wise paternal vision.

The Government Communication Center announced that the number of those granted amnesty totaled 49 citizens who were convicted of certain offenses and upon whom the freedom-restricting penalty was imposed.

## PART inked KD2 bln worth 48 road contracts over 10 years: statistics

'118 maintenance contracts worth KD281 mln signed'

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Recent statistics issued by the Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport revealed that the authority had signed 48 contracts over 10 years, with a total value of 2.091 billion dinars, and that during the same period it signed 118 maintenance contracts worth 281 million dinars, reports Al-Rai daily.**

The statistics, a copy of which was obtained by the daily, showed that 70 percent of the total highways are not under maintenance contracts, compared to 30 percent that are still under contracts. It showed that the problem of flying gravel appeared in 2005, followed by the formation of 8 technical committees to study all asphalt problems. The problems were limited to 8 basic topics, with 42 recommendations issued to address the problem.

The sources added that in 2018, the technical committee that was formed at that time (the Independent Legal Technical Committee) issued a recommendation to cancel the law establishing the authority for three reasons -- the overlap of powers and specializations with the Ministry of Works, the difference of visions among its senior leadership, and the provision of budgets that will be spent on developing each from the Ministry of Works and PART.

48 new contracts were signed as follows -- 2013: 1 contract signed, 2014: 7 contracts signed, 2015: 3 contracts signed, 2016: 9 contracts signed, 2017: 11 contracts signed, 2018: 2 contracts signed, 2019: 3 contracts signed, 2020: 7 contracts signed, 2021: 3 contracts signed, 2022: 2 contracts signed.

The 118 maintenance contracts that were signed -- 2013: 23 contracts signed, 2014: 13 contracts signed, 2015: 9 contracts signed, 2016: 25 contracts signed, 2017: 14 contracts signed, 2018: 9 contracts signed, 2019: 4 contracts signed, 2020: 6 contracts signed, 2021: 9 contracts signed, 2022: Signing of 6 contracts for committees to investigate the deterioration of roads, 2005 -- the emergence of the problem of flying gravel; 2011: Formation of a committee to study the phenomenon of flying gravel; 2013: Formation of a technical committee to study the causes of steel flying from the asphalt surfaces of some roads and ways to avoid it; 2014: Formation of a technical committee regarding the study of the phenomenon of flying gravel, determine its causes and proposed solutions to address it and avoid its recurrence; 2015: Formation of a committee to follow up on the recommendations of the previous committee formed by the Ministry of Works, 2018: Formation of 3 committees, the first of which was formed in June (a technical committee to inspect newly implemented or maintained highways), and the second was formed in December (Independent Legal Technical Committee to investigate the phenomenon of flying gravel and other asphalt defects on roads and streets).

Also, in December, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research presented a study of the deterioration of asphalt roads and the adequacy of the measures taken by the ministry.

In June 2020, a technical committee was formed to evaluate and review the procedures followed by the committee to repair highways and internal roads.

In November of the same year, a memorandum of understanding was signed regarding cooperation in the areas of improving the work of implementing, constructing and maintaining roads between the Government of Kuwait and the State of Qatar.

## 'Kuwait sent 1,300 tons of humanitarian aid to Gaza'

IICO chief affirms Kuwait's unwavering support to Palestine

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28, (KUNA): Dr. Abdullah Al-Matouq -- chairman of Kuwait's International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres special advisor -- affirmed on Tuesday Kuwait's unwavering support to the Palestinian cause humanitarily and politically.

Dr. Al-Matouq gave a statement to KUNA regarding Kuwait's support for Palestine the last 75 years, which marked the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People to be held on November 29.

He added that the UN considered Kuwait as an International humanitarian aid center, pointing out his country has rushed to help the Palestinians in Gaza with 23 charities sending aid.

This occurred under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Social Affairs, as well as sending 30 relief planes containing vital things like ambulances, medical care and electricity, he revealed.

Dr. Al-Matouq affirmed that Kuwait would keep on supporting Palestine through all means necessary especially in the current sorrowful situation where the Israeli occupation forces are carrying out an inhumane and brutal campaign against the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian people in the West Bank.

The 30th plane within the Kuwait relief air bridge took off Tuesday heading to the Egyptian city of Al-Arish, carrying 10 tons of winter necessities to be delivered to Gaza Strip.

This initiative was organized by Al-Salam Society for Humanitarian and Charitable Works, the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO), the Egyptian Red Crescent and its Palestinian counterpart, with the help of the



KUNA photo  
Chairman of IICO Dr. Abdullah Al-Matouq speaking during the preparation of humanitarian aid plane to Gaza.

Kuwaiti ministries of social, defense and foreign affairs.

General Director for Al-Salam Society and member of the board for the IICO Dr. Nabil Al-Aoun confirmed to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) before the plane take-off that this is considered a complete relief stage due to the conditions on all levels in the Gaza Strip.

He indicated that the plane, dispatched at the request of the Palestinian Red Crescent, boarded 10 tons of tents, blankets and winter clothes, urgently needed for the Gazans at the winter onset.

Moreover, Kuwait will dispatch other necessities namely food, medicines, moisture-resistant beds, tents and shelter supplies.

The Al-Salam Society and the IICO are discussing with concerned organizations in Palestine, as the situation stabilizes, contributions for the reconstruction of Gaza Strip.

He revealed that Al-Salam Society has over 200 tons of different relief supplies, prepared to be sent on future trips to Gaza, with the help and cooperation of the Kuwaiti ministries of social, defense


and foreign affairs, as well as preparing 5,000 tents, 1,000 of which have been already delivered.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Egypt Ghanim Al-Ghanim announced Monday that Kuwait has so far dispatched a total of 1,300 tons of humanitarian aid to the war-ravaged Gaza Strip.


In his statement to KUNA, Al-Ghanim mentioned that the aid convey has been facilitated by the Red Crescent societies of Kuwait and Egypt, while also thanking them for such a task operation of 35 truckloads to be headed towards the Egyptian city of Al-Arish before heading to Gaza through Rafah crossing.

Al-Ghanim also noted the sum of aid provided amounts to 1,300 tons transported via trucks (500 tons) and 28 planes (800 tons) through the air bridge facilitated by Kuwait with more to be provided.

Dr. Musaed Al-Enezi, Advisor to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society gave a statement to KUNA saying the political leadership has been forefront on aiding the Palestinians and alleviating their sufferings thanks to the local populace and the charitable societies.




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World News Roundup

Europe

**6 nations agree to step up fight against 'migration':** Interior ministers from six European Union countries on Monday said their nations had agreed to step up efforts to protect the bloc from illegal immigration and target groups of human smugglers that operate on its borders.

The ministers from the V4 group of Central European nations — including the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia — were joined by counterparts from Austria and Germany for a summit in the southern Hungarian city of Szeged, 5 miles (8 kilometers) from the bloc's border with Serbia.



Rakusan

Some EU governments worry that increasing pressure from the so-called Balkan migration route, which leads from Serbia into Hungary, requires a tougher response from countries in the region.

The interior minister of the Czech Republic, **Vit Rakusan**, who organized the summit, said migration is a "shared challenge" for Europe, and that solutions must focus on preventing migrants from entering the bloc illegally.

"We all are on the same migration route. We share borders, and the situation on the external border of the EU affects all of us," he said. He didn't give details on how they would target smugglers.

Rakusan asserted that recent decisions by numerous European governments to reintroduce internal border checks within the visa-free Schengen zone were unsustainable, and that external border protection would be the focus of cooperation between the six governments going forward. (AP)

**Russian court extends reporter's detention:** A court in Moscow on Tuesday extended the detention of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, arrested on espionage charges, until Jan. 30, Russian news agencies reported.

The hearing took place behind closed doors because authorities say details of the criminal case against the American journalist are classified.

Gershkovich, 32, was detained in March while on a reporting trip to the Russian city of Yekaterinburg, about 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) east of Moscow. Russia's Federal Security Service alleged that the reporter, "acting on the instructions of the American side, collected information constituting a state secret about the activities of one of the enterprises of the Russian military-industrial complex."

Gershkovich and the Journal deny the allegations, and the US government has declared him to be wrongfully detained. Russian authorities haven't detailed any evidence to support the espionage charges.

Gershkovich is the first American reporter to be charged with espionage in Russia since 1986, when Nicholas Daniloff, a Moscow correspondent for US News and World Report, was arrested by the KGB. He is being held at Moscow's Lefortovo prison, notorious for its harsh conditions. (AP)

**Lavrov plans to attend OSCE meeting:** Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Monday that he plans to travel to North Macedonia later this week to attend a conference, a trip that would mark his first visit to a NATO member country since Moscow sent troops to Ukraine.

Russia is one of the 57 members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, set up during the Cold War to help defuse East-West tensions. North Macedonia, which holds the group's rotating chairmanship, last week invited Lavrov to an OSCE foreign ministers' meeting that starts Thursday in Skopje, the capital of the small, landlocked Balkan country.

NATO members banned Russian flights after Moscow launched its military action in Ukraine in February 2022. To reach North Macedonia, Lavrov's plane would need to fly through the airspace of Bulgaria or Greece, which also belong to the Western military alliance.

Bulgaria's Foreign Ministry on Monday said it has granted permission for the overflight of Lavrov's plane through Bulgarian airspace. (AP)

**Tornadoes forecast in Black Sea:** Tornadoes were forecast for the Black Sea region on Tuesday, a day after a storm that left more than 2 million people without electricity in Crimea, Russia and Ukraine. A think tank said that the weather also impacted Russian military operations.

The storm killed at least 14 people in Russia and Ukraine officials said as it toppled trees, tore down power lines and flooded coastal areas.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said at least five people died in the Odesa region of southern Ukraine, and that engineers were working to restore electricity to villages that have been cut off.

On Tuesday morning, almost 100,000 people were still without power on the Crimean Peninsula and some still had no water supply, the Russia-installed governor said, announcing that several regions were still under a state of emergency.

Crimea, which was annexed from Ukraine by Russia in 2014, is a key military and logistics hub for Russia as it pursues its war in Ukraine.

The damage caused by the storm affected "the tempo of military operations along the frontline in Ukraine," but has not stopped military activity entirely, the Institute for the Study of War said. (AP)

**Ukraine, Western Balkans top Blinken agenda:** US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is turning his attention to Ukraine, NATO and the Western Balkans after weeks of intense focus on Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza.

Blinken has spent much of the last month-and-a-half deeply engaged on the Gaza crisis, making two trips to the Middle East. Now, with the cease-fire between Israel and Hamas extended for two more days, Blinken departed Monday for Brussels for a NATO foreign ministers meeting.

In Brussels, the alliance will reaffirm its support for Ukraine's defense against Russia's invasion, explore ways of easing tensions between Kosovo and Serbia and look at preparations for NATO's 75th anniversary next year. (AP)

**Poland's president swears in gov't:** Poland's president on Monday swore in a government that is expected to last no longer than 14 days, a tactical maneuver that allows the conservative Law and Justice party to hang onto power a bit longer - and make more appointments to state bodies.

Following a national election in October, President Andrzej Duda swore in Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, who has held that position since late 2017. According to the constitution, Morawiecki and his Cabinet will have 14 days to face a vote of confidence in parliament.

They're almost certain to lose the vote because Morawiecki has no coalition partners after his nationalist and conservative Law and Justice party lost its parliamentary majority and no other parties want to join its government.

Morawiecki says he is trying to find partners to govern with, but himself puts his chances at "10% or even less." (AP)

**Diplomatic spat over Marbles scuttles meet:** A diplomatic spat erupted Monday between Greece and Britain after the UK canceled a planned meeting of their prime ministers, prompting the Greek premier to accuse his British counterpart of trying to avoid discussing the contested Parthenon Marbles.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis is visiting London and had been expected to meet British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at 10 Downing St on Tuesday. He was due to raise Greece's decades-old demand for the return of the ancient sculptures from the British Museum.

Late Monday Mitsotakis issued a statement to "express my annoyance at the fact that the British prime minister has cancelled our planned meeting a few hours before it was due to take place." (AP)



Holiday decorations adorn the Grand Foyer of the White House for the 2023 theme 'Magic, Wonder, and Joy,' on Nov 27 in Washington. Inset: US First Lady Jill Biden is surrounded by children of National Guard families before attending performances by the cast of the North American tour of Disney's stage musical, Frozen, in the East Room of the White House on Monday. (AP)

Deck the WH halls: Jill Biden wants holiday visitors to feel like kids again

Step inside the White House during the holidays by walking beneath the branches of a Christmas tree. Stroll along a hallway decorated with oversized holiday candy and other sweets. See Santa's sleigh and his eight reindeer suspended above the grand foyer in dramatic fashion.

Jill Biden wants everyone who visits the White House during the holidays to feel like a kid again. "Each room is designed to capture this pure, un-

filtered delight and imagination" so visitors "see this time of year through the wondrous, sparkling eyes of children," the first lady said Monday at the first of a month's worth of holiday receptions. About 100,000 visitors are expected for the holidays.

"Magic, Wonder and Joy" is the theme this year, US President Joe Biden's third in the White House. Jill Biden said it was "so amazing" to see the

Christmas tree atop the entrance to the East Wing when they returned Sunday night after spending the Thanksgiving holiday in Nantucket, Massachusetts. "When Joe and I saw that last night, we were just, like, mesmerized," she said.

The whimsical set of oversized decorations is meant to inspire the feelings of awe and wonder that put children on joyful edge during the holidays, White House aides said. (AP)

Politics

Ex-prez says he'll renew efforts to replace 'Obamacare'

Haley argues Trump always followed by 'chaos'

BLUFFTON, South Carolina, Nov 28, (Agencies): Nikki Haley has argued former president Donald Trump causes too much chaos to be successful in a second White House term, reiterating her argument about the GOP front-runner at a large town hall in her home state of South Carolina.

The former governor and United Nations ambassador drew the largest crowd of her primary campaign so far as she tries to close the gap with Trump just weeks before the Iowa caucuses kick off the Republican nominating calendar.

Haley invoked her former boss saying as she has before that she believes Trump was "the right president at the right time" but that the time is now right for a new generation in US leadership.

"I agree with a lot of his policies, but the truth is, rightly or wrongly, chaos follows him," Haley said. "We have too much division in this country, and too many threats around the world to be sitting in chaos once again."

About 2,500 people attended the event at a satellite campus of the University of South Carolina along the state's southern coast. Half that number watched her event from video screens outside the venue after it reached capacity. Hours ahead of Monday's start time, the line for attendees wrapped around the venue, which the campaign said had to be changed from its original location due to demand.

Her staff has cast her campaign as being on a rising trajectory and pointed to growing crowds in recent weeks as she gets new attention from voters and donors looking for a

Trump alternative.

Haley remains among a pack of candidates competing for a distant second place with Trump, who has led the GOP field since kicking off his third presidential campaign last year. Later this week, Haley will head back to New Hampshire, where she has stumped heavily. Entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy has more than a dozen events scheduled this week in Iowa. Florida Gov Ron DeSantis campaigns across South Carolina on Friday.

Serve

She often notes her ousting of a 30-year state incumbent in the South Carolina House, then beating three initially better-known candidates to become the first woman to serve as South Carolina governor.

The question of how Haley could close the gap with Trump was on the minds of some who gathered to hear her on Monday.

Vincent Franciscangeli, who lives on Hilton Head Island, said he is leaning toward supporting Haley but is taking a wait-and-see approach as the election's first votes draw closer, noting that Trump is still on his list of candidates whom he might support.

"The world was a safer place when Trump was in office," Franciscangeli said. "But Trump's got a lot of baggage, and you've got to ask yourself - is Trump really electable? I don't know."

Former US president **Donald Trump** threatened over the weekend to reopen the contentious fight over the Affordable Care Act after failing to repeal it while in the White House,

saying he is "seriously looking at alternatives" if he wins a second term.

Trump's comments drew rebuke from Democratic President **Joe Biden**'s campaign, which cast them as another "extremist" proposal from the GOP front-runner. And they rapidly moved to mobilize a response, including new advertising in battleground states contrasting Biden's efforts to lower drug costs with Trump's comments.

"Donald Trump is campaigning on a threat to rip away health care from millions of Americans, so we're going to use every tool in our arsenal to make sure the American people know that lives are literally on the line next November," said Biden campaign communications director **Michael Tyler**.

The back-and-forth points to what could be a key issue in a general election rematch between Trump and Biden if both win their parties' nominations, as is widely expected.

Meanwhile, after a pugnacious first turn on the witness stand, Trump plans to testify again next month in his civil fraud trial, his lawyers said Monday.

He is to return Dec 11, defense attorney **Christopher Kise** said.

Trump had plenty to say during his initial testimony Nov. 6 in the case, which has questioned his net worth, accused him of misleading banks and insurers and threatened his future in business in New York.

The Republican 2024 presidential front-runner denies all the allegations, and he used his first stint on the witness stand to lambaste the case, the judge and New York Attorney General **Letitia James**, who brought the lawsuit.



Prince William presents Dr Ekwoge Abwe from Cameroon, with the Prince William Award for Conservation in Africa 2023, at the 11th annual Tusk Conservation Awards at the Savoy Hotel, London on Nov 27. (AP)



Anderson



Jones

America

**Police chase 12-year-old boy:** Police in Michigan have arrested a 12-year-old boy who they said led them on a chase in a stolen forklift.

Police were called to Forsyth Middle School at about 6:45 pm Saturday on a report of a stolen forklift, MLive.com reported. Officers found the forklift heading south through the city and gave chase at speeds between 15 and 20 mph (24 and 32 kph).

The driver, later identified as a 12-year-old Ann Arbor boy, finally stopped the forklift and was taken into custody at about 8 pm.

Police later discovered the forklift had been left unlocked with a key hidden in the cab.

No one was hurt in the incident. (AP)

**Tribal police officer held:** A White Mountain Apache Police officer has been arrested in connection to a fatal hit-and-run accident in northeastern Arizona, authorities said Monday.

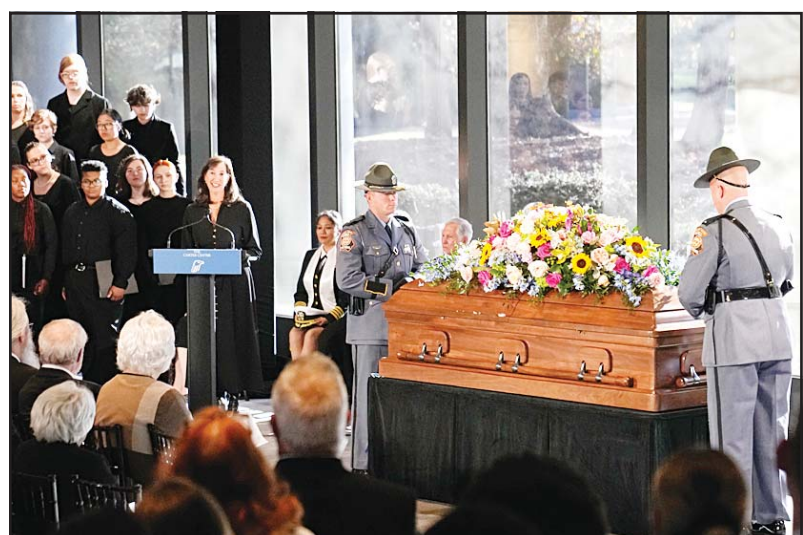
Officer **Josh Anderson** was arrested Friday evening by fellow tribal officers at his home in Whitewater on the Fort Apache reservation following last week's crash, according to the Navajo County Sheriff's office, which released the information on behalf of the White Mountain Apache Police. Anderson resigned immediately after his arrest.

The sheriff's office said Iris Billy was walking when he was struck by a vehicle that fled the scene early Thursday on state Route 73. The statement did not provide Billy's age or other details. (AP)

**Sandy Hook families offer to settle:** Sandy Hook families who won nearly \$1.5 billion in legal judgments against conspira-

cy theorist **Alex Jones** for calling the 2012 Connecticut school shooting a hoax have offered to settle that debt for only pennies on the dollar - at least \$85 million over 10

years. The offer was made in Jones' personal bankruptcy case in Houston last week. In a legal filing, lawyers for the families



Paige Alexander, CEO of The Carter Center, speaks during a repose service for former first lady Rosalynn Carter at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum in Atlanta on Nov 27. (AP)

said they believed the proposal was a viable way to help resolve the bankruptcy reorganization cases of both Jones and his company, Free Speech Systems.

But in the sharply worded document, the attorneys continued to accuse the In-fowars host of failing to curb his personal spending and "extravagant lifestyle," failing to preserve the value of his holdings, refusing to sell assets and failing to produce certain financial documents. (AP)

**Failed wheel bearing 'culprit':** A failed wheel bearing on a train car caused a derailment that sparked a chemical fire and forced residents of a small town in Kentucky out of their homes for just over a day, including most of Thanksgiving, according to CSX railroad.

The accident happened Wednesday afternoon just north of Livingston. A spokesman for the railroad said Monday that crews were able to restore the tracks over the weekend and trains resumed running through the area before midday Sunday. All 16 railcars involved in the derailment have been removed from the site, and crews removed the spilled chemical and 2,500 tons of impacted soil and replaced it with clean material, CSX said. The CSX train derailed around 2:30 pm near the remote town with about 200 people in Rockcastle County. (AP)



## Africa

## 11 workers dead, 75 hurt

## ICC prosecutors halt 13-year Kenya probe

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Nov 28, (AP): The International Criminal Court prosecutor's office announced Monday it is halting its long-running investigation into deadly violence that broke out in Kenya after the African nation's 2007 presidential election.

The decision was announced at a time when the prosecutor's office is appealing for extra resources as it investigates ongoing conflicts including the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war.

The Kenya investigation that opened in 2010 led to charges against six suspects, including the country's current and former presidents, but ultimately did not yield any successful prosecutions, amid claims of witness intimidation and political interference. All charges against the suspects were either withdrawn, terminated or tossed out by pre-trial judges.

Among the suspects charged but never convicted were then-President **Uhuru Kenyatta** and then-Deputy President **William Ruto**.

Prosecutors also have charged three Kenyans with interfering with witnesses. One of those suspects died and two others remain at large. They could still be put on trial at the ICC if they are captured and sent to The Hague.

Post-election violence in 2007 and 2008 left more than 1,000 people dead and forced 600,000 from their homes in Kenya.

"After assessing all the information available to me at this time, I have decided to conclude the investigation phase," ICC Deputy Prosecutor Nazhat Shameem Khan said in a statement.

The court's prosecutor, Karim Khan, was previously Ruto's defense lawyer at the ICC and recused himself from all Kenya investigations in 2021. Ruto's trial was halted after prosecutors finished presenting their case and Khan successfully argued that the evidence was not strong enough.

**Kenya raises alarm as flood death toll rises:** The Kenyan government on Monday urged people living in flood-prone areas to relocate to higher ground as heavy rains and flash floods continued to wreak havoc across East Africa.

At least 76 people have died and 40,000 displaced from their homes since the rains began pounding the country in October. President William Ruto convened an emergency cabinet meeting on Monday and said 38 of Kenya's 47 counties had been affected by floods and mudslides made worse by the El Niño phenomenon.

State House spokesperson Hussein Mohammed also noted "disease outbreaks, destruction of infrastructure and property as well as prolonged power outages" across Kenya and the region.

The worst affected areas are the coastal cities of Mombasa and Malindi and the northern Kenya region which borders Somalia, also hit hard by flooding.

**11 dead, 75 hurt after elevator drops 60 ft:** An elevator suddenly dropped around 200 meters (656 feet) while carrying workers to the surface in a platinum mine in South Africa, killing 11 and injuring 75, the mine operator said Tuesday.

Impala Platinum Holdings (Implats) CEO Nico Muller said in a statement it was "the darkest day in the history of Implats." It said an investigation had already begun into what caused the elevator to drop and the mine had suspended all operations on Tuesday.

All 86 mine workers killed or injured were in the elevator, Implats spokesperson Johan Theron said. Some of the injured had "serious compact fractures," he said. Theron said the elevator dropped approximately 200 meters down the shaft, although that was only an early estimate. He said it was a highly unusual accident.

**Niger's junta revokes key law:** Niger's junta has signed a decree revoking a 2015 law that was enacted to curb the smuggling of migrants traveling from African countries through a key migration route in Niger en route to Europe, according to a government circular issued on Monday.

"The convictions pronounced pursuant to said law and their effects shall be cancelled," Niger's junta leader, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, said in a Nov. 25 decree, a copy of which was seen Monday by The Associated Press.

All those convicted under the law would be considered for release by the Ministry of Justice, Ibrahim Jean Etienne, the secretary general of the justice ministry said in the circular.

The revocation of the law adds a new twist to growing political tensions between Niger and EU countries that sanctioned the West African nation in response to the July coup that deposed its democratically elected president and brought the junta into power.

**Madagascar main oppn candidate files suit:** The main opposition candidate in Madagascar said Monday he has filed lawsuits with the country's highest court seeking to have the results of this month's national election canceled and incumbent President Andry Rajoelina's victory declared invalid, claiming fraud.

Rajoelina, 49, was announced Saturday as the winner of the Nov. 16 election with 58.95% of the votes, giving him a third term as leader of the Indian Ocean island.

Rajoelina's victory was announced by the national electoral commission but needs to be ratified within nine days by the High Constitutional Court.

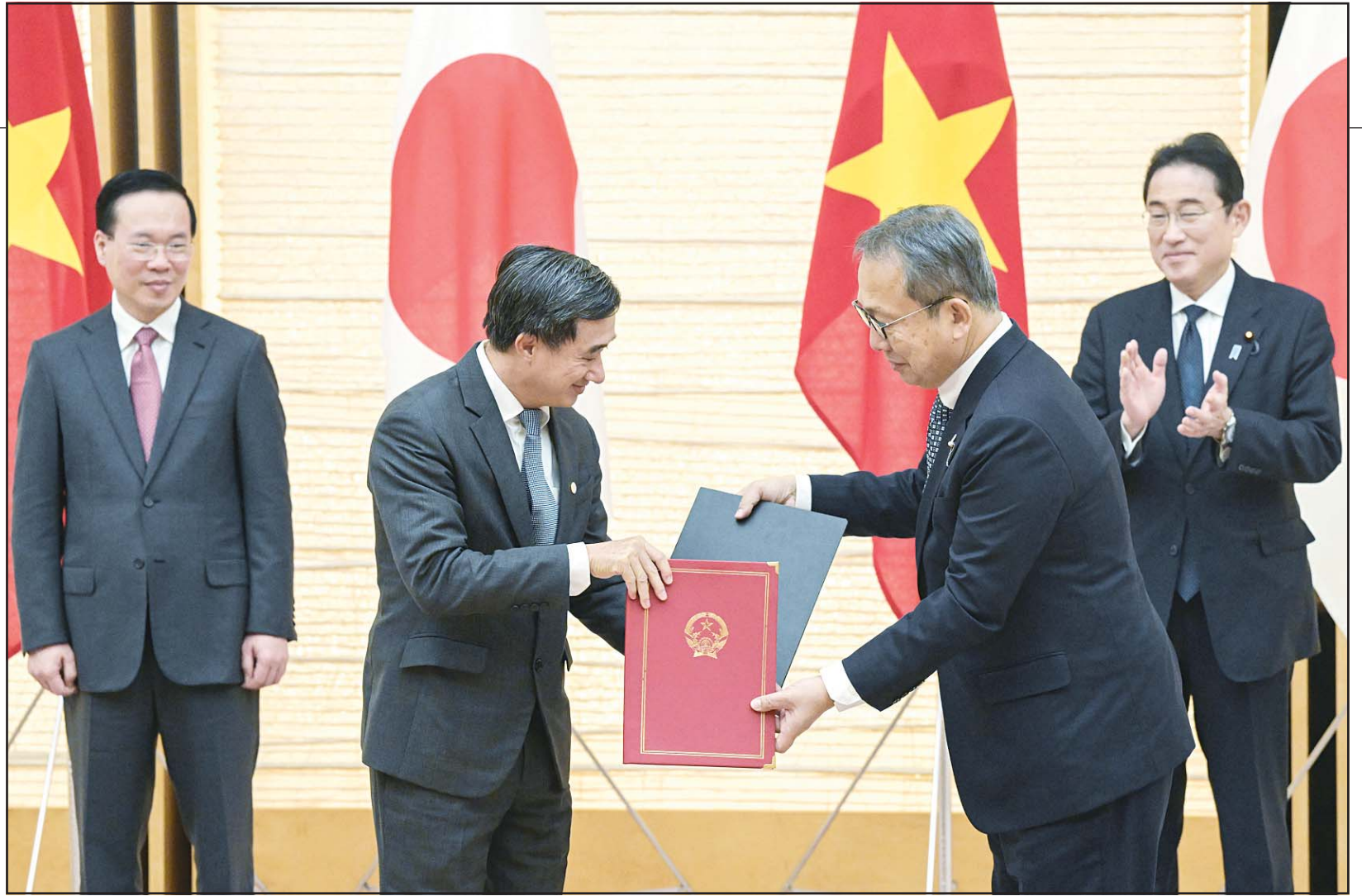
The runoff to the vote saw protests led by a coalition of opposition candidates and the burning of some ballot stations on the eve of election day. Ten of the 12 opposition candidates called for a boycott of the vote, although their names appeared on ballot papers.

**German priest is freed in Mali:** A German priest who was abducted by al-Qaeda-linked rebels in Mali's capital in November 2022 has been released by his captors, a former colleague told The Associated Press on Monday.

Church members in the capital of Bamako learned of the release of Rev. Hans-Joachim Lohre late on Sunday, according to Dia Monique Pare, a former colleague who had confirmed his kidnapping. There were few details about his release.

"Yesterday, while we were at Mass, a member of priest Hans-Joachim Lohre's family told us that they had good news about the priest," Pare said.

The German Foreign Office on Monday confirmed Lohre's release and said he had arrived in Germany, German news agency dpa reported.



Vietnam's President Vo Van Thuong (rear left), and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (rear right), attend a document exchange ceremony between the two countries after their meeting at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo, Japan on Nov 27. (AP)

## Asia

## Japan, Vietnam agree to boost ties

## South Korea delays its own spy satellite liftoff

SEOUL, South Korea, Nov 28, (Agencies): South Korea has postponed the planned launch of its first military spy satellite set for this Thursday, officials said, days after rival North Korea claimed to put its own spy satellite into orbit for the first time.

Under a contract with SpaceX, South Korea is to launch five spy satellites by 2025, and its first launch using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket had been scheduled to take place at California's Vandenberg Air Force Base in the United States.

The South Korean Defense Ministry said in a brief statement Tuesday the launch was delayed due to weather conditions. Ministry officials said the launch was tentatively rescheduled for this Saturday but it wasn't a fixed date.

South Korea currently has no military reconnaissance satellites of its own and partially resorts to US spy satellites to monitor moves by North Korea. After two launch failures earlier this year, North Korea said it successfully placed its "Malligyeong-1" spy satellite into orbit on Nov. 21. South Korea said it has confirmed that the satellite entered orbit, but said it needs more time to verify whether it is working properly.

North Korea said Tuesday leader Kim Jong Un reviewed imagery taken by the Malligyeong-1 satellite of the White House and the Pentagon in Washington and US aircraft carriers at a navy base and a shipyard in Virginia. North Korea earlier said the satellite also transmitted photos of US military facilities in Guam and Hawaii and key sites in South Korea.

North Korea hasn't yet released those satellite photos. Outside experts remain skeptical about whether the North Korean satellite can send high-resolution imagery and perform proper military reconnaissance.

## Also:

**TOKYO: Japan and Vietnam** on Monday agreed to strengthen their security and economic ties in the face of China's growing influence in the region.

Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** and Vietnamese President **Vo Van Thuong** held talks in Tokyo and agreed to broaden their security cooperation, work on defense equipment and technology transfers and start discussing a new Japanese aid program for militaries of like-minded developing countries in the region.

The two leaders said the Japan-Vietnam relationship would become a "comprehensive strategic partnership," bringing their ongoing cooperation to "new heights and to further expand it to new

## Philippine govt &amp; communist rebels agree to resume talks to end conflict

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Nov 28, (AP): The Philippine government and the country's communist rebels have agreed to resume talks aimed at ending decades of armed conflict, one of Asia's longest, Norwegian mediators announced Tuesday.

High-ranking delegations from both sides met in the Norwegian capital last week and agreed to a "common vision for peace" that sought to address key obstacles, according to Norway's foreign ministry.

Norwegian Foreign Minister **Espen Barth Eide** said the deal was signed at "an important signing ceremony" on Thursday but was only made public Tuesday.

The Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, have fought successive Philippine governments since 1969. The rebellion, which opposes the Philippines' close ties with the US and wants left-wing parties to be part of the government, has left about 40,000 combatants and civilians dead and has stunted economic development in the impoverished countryside. The military says a few thousand Maoist insurgents are continuing to wage the insurgency.

Past administrations had engaged in on and off peace negotiations with

communist rebels. Former President **Rodrigo Duterte** ended peace talks in March 2019, accusing the rebels of attacks on police and military outposts. The US, the European Union and the Philippine government consider the NPA as a terrorist organization because of its attacks targeting civilians.

## Also:

**JAKARTA, Indonesia:** Candidates opened their campaigns Tuesday for Indonesia's presidential election, which is shaping up as a three-way race among a former special forces general who's lost twice before and two former governors.

The three presidential hopefuls have vowed a peaceful race on Monday as concerns rose their rivalry may sharpen religious and ethnic divides in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country.

**Ganjar Pranowo**, the governing party's presidential candidate and former governor of **Central Java**, started his first day of the 75-day campaign season in Indonesia's easternmost city of **Merauke** in South Papua province, while his running mate, top security minister **Mohammad Mahfud**, began his tour from the westernmost city of **Sabang** in Aceh province.

China Sea after a recent confrontation between the two navies.

**Liu Jianchao**, the Chinese Communist Party's international minister, gave the warning while speaking at a Sydney university during a trip that paves the way for President **Xi Jinping's** Australian visit, expected to take place next year.

Bilateral relations had been improving recently, but took a downturn when Australia accused the Chinese destroyer **CNS Ningbo** of injuring Australian navy divers with sonar pulses in Japanese waters on Nov. 14. Australia said China disregarded a safety warning to keep away from the Australian frigate **HMAS Toowoomba**.

Liu reiterated China's position that the encounter happened outside Japanese territorial waters and that the Chinese warship caused no harm.

"We do urge the Australian government and also the military to act with great prudence in this area," Liu said at the University of Technology Sydney.



Special Adviser to the President, Minister Antonio Lagdameo (left), and Luis Jalandoni of the Communist Movement (NDFP) shake hands after signing their joint vision for peace, at Oslo City Hall, on Nov 23. (AP)



Lula



Boluarte

## Lat/Am

**Boluarte blamed for deaths:** Peru's attorney general on Monday blamed President **Dina Boluarte** and her prime minister for the deaths of "several" anti-government protesters earlier this year, and charged them with first-degree murder before the nation's congress in a procedure known as a "constitutional complaint."

A congressional committee must now review the complaint, which could lead to a trial if the charges are approved by a majority of the nation's lawmakers.

Peru's constitution protects heads of state from most criminal charges while they are still in office. This means the complaint filed Monday against Boluarte would most likely initiate a trial after she finishes her term or if she is ousted from office through other means, such as an impeachment vote.

Peru has had five presidents since 2016, with none finishing their terms, and two of them impeached by the nation's powerful congress. The charges pressed against Boluarte deepen a political crisis that broke out last year following the impeachment of former President **Pedro Castillo**, after he attempted to dissolve congress and rule by decree.

At least 49 people were killed in protests that followed the removal of Castillo, who was replaced by Boluarte, his vice president. (AP)

**Lula picks Dino for SC slot:** Brazil President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** of Brazil said Monday that he chose Justice Minister **Flávio Dino** to fill an empty seat on the country's top court.

Many allies of the leftist leader hoped he would pick another woman to replace Minister **Rosa Maria Weber**, who stepped down in September after turning 75, the age limit for the nation's Supreme Federal Court justices. Weber's departure as chief justice left one remaining female jurist on the 11-person court. The Brazilian Senate is expected to vote before the end of the year on Dino's nomination, which requires a simple majority for confirmation.

Dino, 55, governed the impoverished state of Maranhão between 2015 and 2023 before becoming Lula's justice minister. He is a former federal judge and was seen for many years as one of the most vocal adversaries of former President **Jair Bolsonaro**. (AP)

**Milei to meet Sullivan:** Argentina's right-wing President-elect **Javier Milei** will meet with President **Joe Biden's** national security adviser on Tuesday in Washington, according to the White House.

National Security Council spokesman **John Kirby** told reporters on Monday that Milei will meet with White House national security adviser **Jake Sullivan** and other

administration officials. Biden, who will be traveling on Tuesday to Georgia for a memorial service for former first lady **Rosalynn Carter** and then to Colorado, will not meet with Milei. The Treasury Department

said in a statement that Milei's economic policy advisers will also meet with senior Treasury Officials on Tuesday.

"We want to continue to look for ways to cooperate with Argentina," Kirby said. "Ar-



This is an undated photograph of Impala Platinum mine shaft 11, provided by Implats on Nov 28, near Rustenburg, South Africa. An elevator suddenly dropped around 200 meters (656 feet) while carrying workers to the surface in a platinum mine in South Africa, killing 11 and injuring 75, the mine operator said Tuesday. It happened Monday evening at the end of the workers' shift at a mine in the northern city of Rustenburg. The injured workers were hospitalized. (AP)

gentina is a healthy and vibrant partner in this hemisphere on many, many issues. And so we're looking forward to obviously hearing what the president-elect's ideas are and where he wants to go on policy issues and making sure that we have a chance to keep that channel of communication open. (AP)

## Party to hold gubernatorial primary:

One of Puerto Rico's biggest political parties will hold a gubernatorial primary after Rep **Jesús Manuel Ortiz** of the Popular Democratic Party announced his candidacy Monday.

Ortiz will face Puerto Rico Sen **Juan Zaragoza**, who previously served as the US territory's treasury secretary.

Ortiz, who is president of the Popular Democratic Party, listed conditions in Puerto Rico that he said were negatively affecting the island's 3.2 million inhabitants.

"Recovery funds that are not used effectively, anguish from waiting months for a doctor's appointment, the daily battle with a crumbling electrical system, lack of employment opportunities, the deterioration of essential services and so many other problems," he said.

The winner of the Popular Democratic Party's primary will face the winner of the New Progressive Party's primary, in which Gov **Pedro Pierluisi** faces **Jennifer González**, the island's representative in Congress. They also will face gubernatorial candidates from other, newer parties. (AP)



### USD down

The US Dollar decreased on Thursday vis-a-vis the Kuwaiti Dinar to KD 0.307 and the euro stabilized at KD 0.337 compared to yesterday's exchange rates.

The Central Bank of Kuwait said in its daily bulletin that the Pound Sterling stabilized at KD 0.388, the Swiss Franc remained stable at KD 0.349, and the Japanese Yen remained stable at KD 0.002. (KUNA)

### oil slips

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by USD 1.51 to USD 84.47 per barrel on Monday as opposed to USD 85.98 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

The prices of the Brent crude and the West Texas Intermediate both went down by 60 and 68 cents respectively, settling each at USD 79.98 pb and USD 74.86 pb. (KUNA)

### Kuwait's local liquidity sees 0.72% monthly increase in Oct

After experiencing a continuous decline over three consecutive months, local liquidity in the State of Kuwait witnessed a monthly increase of about 0.72% by the end of October 2023, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In the banking sector, specifically in "Money Supply 2," local liquidity recorded 39.339 billion dinars (\$127.938 billion) last month, compared to 39.058 billion dinars

(\$127.024 billion) at the end of September 2023. This signifies a 4.10% increase in local liquidity compared to the level observed in Kuwait during October 2022, which amounted to 37.789 billion dinars.

The value of cash in circulation in Kuwait for the month of October reached 1.962 billion dinars, indicating a 0.15% increase from the previous month's level of 1.959 billion dinars. However, when com-

pared to the same month in the previous year, there was a 1.46% decrease.

The distribution of cash in circulation last month comprised 1.931 billion dinars in various denominations of banknotes and 31.459 million dinars in coins. This data provides insights into the dynamics of local liquidity, reflecting both monthly fluctuations and annual trends in cash circulation in Kuwait.

### Market Movements 28-11-2023

		Change	Closing pts			Change	Closing pts
SAUDI	Tadawul	+20.18	11,100.92	JAPAN	Nikkei	-39.28	33,408.39
UAE	DFM	+14.02	4,008.61	EGYPT	EGX 30	-783.81	25,121.73
PHILIPPINES	PSEI	+40.07	6,309.57				
PAKISTAN	KSE 100	+1,071.49	60,845.54				

# Business

## Assets of Kuwaiti banks jump by 3 billion dinars within 12 months

Kuwait's official reserves drop 4.67% in Oct

By Mahmoud Shendi  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28:** According to the monthly statistics released by the Central Bank of Kuwait for October, there has been a notable increase in the total assets of local banks, reflecting a positive trajectory in the country's financial landscape. The data revealed that the total assets of local banks rose by approximately 986 million dinars during October, reaching a substantial figure of 86.414 billion dinars. This marks a 1.2% increase from the previous month, where the total assets stood at 85.428 billion dinars.

Moreover, when compared to October of the previous year, the surge in total assets is even more evident. Over the course of the year, the total assets have seen a substantial growth of about 3.060 billion dinars. In October 2022, the total assets were recorded at 83.354 billion dinars, showcasing a significant positive trend in the financial health of Kuwait's banking sector.

However, it's essential to note that the statistics also indicated a decline in the assets of the Central Bank of Kuwait by 640 million dinars. In October, the Central Bank's assets reached the level of 12.657 billion dinars, down from 13.297 billion dinars in September.

The report further delved into the dynamics of resident deposits, showcasing a noteworthy increase during October. The volume of resident deposits surged by 558 million dinars, reaching the level of 47.900 billion dinars, compared to 47.342 billion dinars in September. Similarly, resident private sector deposits experienced positive growth during the same period, increasing by about 309 million dinars to reach the level of 37.727 billion dinars, compared to approximately 37.418 billion dinars in the previous month.

Shifting focus to credit facilities, the statistics revealed a rise of 297 million dinars, bringing the total to 53.125 billion dinars in October, up from 52.828 billion in September. Over the year, credit facilities increased by a noteworthy one billion dinars, demonstrating sustained growth since October 2022 when the total was 52.126 billion dinars.

Further categorization of credit facilities highlighted specific areas of growth. Personal credit facilities increased by 119 million dinars, reaching 18.771 billion dinars in October, compared to 18.652 billion dinars in September. Credit facilities directed to the industrial sector saw a rise of 11 million dinars, reaching 2.754 billion dinars in October, up from 2.743 billion dinars in September. However, the value of facilities in the trade sector witnessed a decline from 3.603 billion dinars in September to 3.566 billion dinars in October.

Additionally, the report highlighted an increase in the value of facilities and consumer loans during October, growing by 14 million dinars to reach 1.968 billion dinars, compared to about 1.954 billion dinars in September.

On the governmental front, there was a decline in government deposits during October. A total of 181 million dinars reached the level of 4.050 billion dinars at the end of October, down from 4.231 billion dinars in September. Despite this monthly decrease, government deposits witnessed an overall increase of about 675 million dinars over the span of 10 months since December 2022 when they stood at 3.375 billion dinars.

### Also:

**KUWAIT CITY:** The official reserve assets of the State of Kuwait experienced a monthly decrease of approximately 4.67% by the end of October 2023, marking the second consecutive month of decline, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In October, Kuwait's official reserve assets amounted to 13.941 billion dinars (\$45.339 billion), down from 14.624 billion dinars (\$47.560 billion) in September 2023. However, when compared to its level in October 2022, which stood at 13.824 billion dinars, Kuwait's official assets demonstrated a growth of 0.85%.

Since the beginning of 2023, the official reserve of the State of Kuwait has witnessed a decline of about 5.67%, starting from approximately 14.779 billion dinars at the end of 2022.

Two key factors influenced the monthly performance of the reserve. The first factor is foreign currency and deposits abroad, which recorded 12.309 billion dinars at the end of October, reflecting a decline of 5.15% compared to 12.977 billion dinars in the previous month. Despite this monthly decrease, there was an annual increase of 1.07%.

### Govt targets 'junk fees'

Biden warns against price gouging in his supply chain council meeting

WASHINGTON, Nov 28, (AP) - President Joe Biden on Monday opened the first meeting of his supply chain resilience council by warning companies against price gouging and saying that his administration was working to lower costs for U.S. families.

"We know that prices are still too high for too many things, that times are still too tough for too many families," Biden said. "But we've made progress."

The president has blamed inflation on issues such as supply chains and Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, while Republican lawmakers say the run-up in prices was triggered by the \$1.9 trillion in coronavirus relief that Democrat Biden signed into law in 2021.

Biden used the council meeting to announce 30 actions to improve access to medicine and needed economic data as well as other programs tied to the production and shipment of goods.

He said he was tackling "junk fees," hidden charges that companies sneak into bills just because they can and customers have no alternative.

The council follows an earlier task force that was meant to address the supply chain problems that partially fueled higher inflation in 2021 as the United States recovered from the coronavirus pandemic.

Inflation remains a sore point for Biden's approval ratings ahead of next year's presidential election. After the annualized increase in the consumer

price index peaked at 9.1% in June 2022, inflation has eased to a moderate 3.2%. The slowdown has not so far improved U.S. adults' feelings about the economy.

Biden said GOP policies would leave supply chains vulnerable, claiming that Republicans want to cut investments he has made in infrastructure and advanced manufacturing. The president also said companies that are taking advantage of inflation to boost profits are "price gouging."

Among the 30 new actions, Biden will use the Defense Production Act to have the Health and Human Services Department invest in the domestic manufacturing of needed medicines that are deemed crucial for national security. The Cabinet agency has identified \$35 million to invest in the production of materials for injectable medicines.

The federal government will also improve its ability to monitor supply chains through the sharing of data among agencies. The Commerce Department has developed new tools to assess risks to the supply chain and has partnered with the Energy Department on the supply of renewable energy resources. Shipping companies are beginning to use new data resources from the Transportation Department on freight logistics.

The supply chain group is co-chaired by Lael Brainard, the White House National Economic Council director, and Jake Sullivan, the White House national security adviser.

### Net income rises to \$13.8 bln despite operating costs surge

## GCC banking sector resilient amidst higher rates in Q3-2023

By Kamco Invest

**Lending sees marginal impact of higher interest rates...**  
The GCC banking sector witnessed the initial impact of higher lending rates during Q3-2023 as credit facilities reported by listed banks in three out of six countries in the region declined as compared to Q2-2023. Nevertheless, aggregate lending at the GCC level showed a growth of 1.5% backed by resilient lending growth in Saudi Arabia and UAE while listed banks in Qatar showed a marginal growth. The growth was mainly led by a robust projects market pipeline as well as government efforts to reduce the impact of higher interest rates.

Aggregate gross loans for GCC-listed banks reached a new record high of USD 1.95 Trillion at the end of Q3-2023. The q-o-q growth stood at 1.5% or USD 28.9 Bn. Similarly, aggregate net loans showed a slightly higher growth of 1.6% during the quarter to reach USD 1.85 Trillion. The y-o-y growth was a strong 6.8% for both net loans and gross loans. On the liquidity front, customer deposits increased at a similar pace of 1.5% q-o-q to reach USD 2.34 Trillion after a decline in customer deposits in Qatar, Bahrain and Oman was more than offset by higher deposits in the rest of the markets. The net impact of almost equivalent growth in lending and deposits was a slight growth in the aggregate loan-to-deposit ratio that reached 79.1% at the end of Q3-2023.

Meanwhile, total net income was up for the third consecutive quarter to reach USD 13.8 Bn in Q3-2023 registering a q-o-q increase of 1.3% supported by both higher net interest income and non-interest income during the quarter. Higher interest rates supported net interest income during the quarter that was further supported by a decline in loan loss provisions from USD 2.7 Bn in Q2-2023 to USD 2.3 Bn in Q3-2023. However, an increase in operating costs by 14.0% q-o-q during Q3-2023 partially dented the overall growth.

On the other hand, reports from most global economies have shown borrowers getting squeezed due to the high interest rate environment with central bank policy rates at the highest levels in more than two decades. According to the IMF, credit risk has increased as individual and business borrowers face higher debt service costs resulting in higher risk of defaults. This has especially affected the leveraged loan market with higher reported defaults, and this may worsen in the coming years as around USD 5.5 Trillion worth of corporate debt is due in 2024.

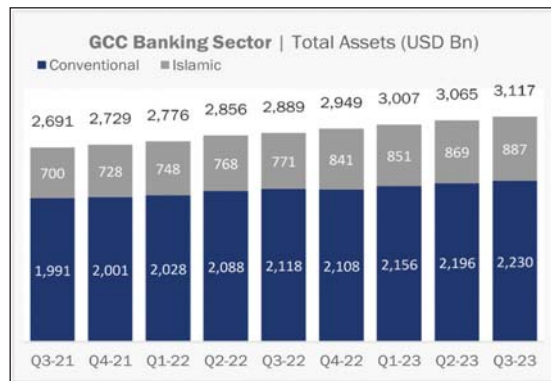
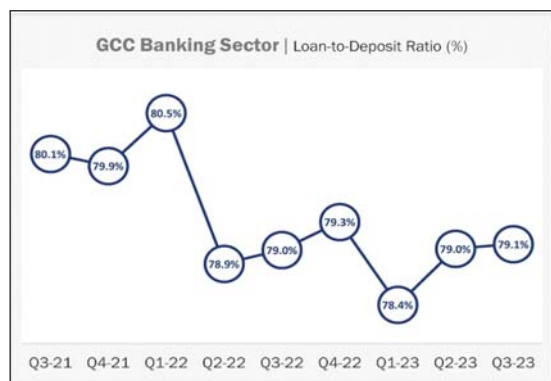
### Highlights - GCC Banking Sector

This report analyzes the financials reported by 58 listed banks in the GCC for the quarter ended Q3-2023. Data for individual banks have been aggregated to the country level. Some of the key observations from the most recent financial quarter for the GCC Banking Sector includes the following:

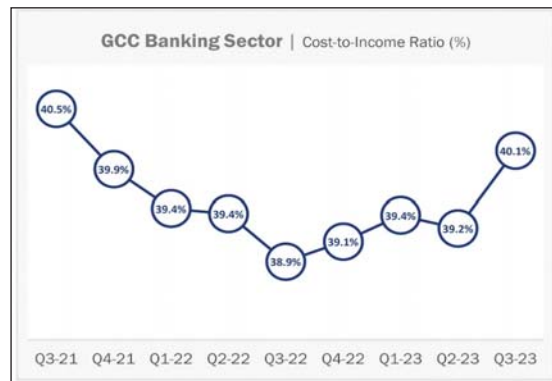
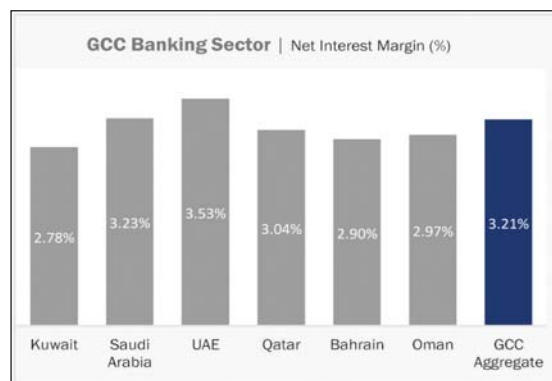
### Economists warn while banks report higher earnings...

The consecutive rate hikes since last year by global central banks have started to show their impact on headline inflation rates as seen from some of the recent inflation reports. This has resulted in rate pause by the US Fed over the last two meetings while most investors are now hoping to see the first rate cut during 2H-2024. This optimism in the market comes despite a cautious statement from the US Fed which said that rates could remain higher for longer and there is no desire to cut rates anytime soon. A similar stance was adopted in Europe with the ECB and BoE that said it is too early to discuss a win over higher interest rates.

On the economic front, GDP growth rates see different trends globally. While US GDP remains positive, in Asia, China and Japan are looking at economic stimulus package as the economies are showing signs of slowdown. India is also battling to keep interest rates low as the national currency reached one of the lowest levels on record against USD. In Europe, Germany is also seen heading towards a recession after the GDP dropped during Q3-2023. One of the key reasons for the distress is the impact of higher interest rates on the economy. Governments, individuals and corporates are feeling the heat of higher interest rates, as seen from the IMF's latest Global Financial Stability Report. The report highlighted debt repayments of USD 5.5 Trillion in 2024 followed by elevated repayments over the following three years (2025-2027) that are mainly debt issued during the aftermath of the pandemic at extremely low interest rates. The impact is higher in the real



Source: Reuters, Company Financials, Kamco Invest Research



estate sector, especially in countries with floating interest rates. Individual home buyers are seeing an accelerated decline in savings due to higher mortgage payments while funding is drying in the corporate real estate segment. The impact on government is apparent in frontier and low-income countries that are facing difficulties in raising debt.

On the other hand, the banking sector in most countries reported higher earnings, especially larger banks, led by higher interest rates. The four largest banks in the US reported better-than-expected earnings during Q3-2023 while regional banks reported stress and lower earnings due to higher cost of credit and difficulty in funding as they had offered higher interest rates in order to retain customers. The banking sector model is also said to be changing with banks offering loans with strict scrutiny, collaterals and regular monitoring.

### Lending up for the second consecutive quarter

Data from GCC central banks showed that despite higher interest rates, credit facilities offered by banks in region continued to show growth during Q3-2023, barring Bahrain that showed a marginal decline as compared to Q2-2023. This reflects resilient economic indicators in the form of a strong project pipeline in the region while consumer confidence remained intact. Data from MEED Projects showed that YTD-October-2023 project awards in the GCC reached the highest level in eight years at USD 150.9 Bn. Similarly, manufacturing activity data from Bloomberg (Markit Whole Economy Surveys) showed PMI figures stayed strong during the quarter above the growth mark of 50 for Dubai, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE at the end of Q3-2023. The manufacturing activity in Saudi Arabia remained robust with PMI at 57.2 points during September-2023 and accelerated during October-2023 at a slightly higher 58.4 points. UAE also boasted strong PMI figure of 56.7 points in September-2023 followed by 57.7 points during October-2023. Qatar, meanwhile, has shown a sharp slowdown in growth during October-2023 with PMI at 50.8 points as compared to 53.7 points in September-2023.

Data from Saudi central bank showed growth in lending for the 19th consecutive quarter in Q3-2023. Aggregate bank credit grew by 2.93% q-o-q during Q3-2023, the fastest pace of growth in the GCC, to reach SAR 2.5 Trillion backed by a broad-based growth in almost all sectors of the economy. Elsewhere in the GCC, growth remained marginal at less than 1%

while in Bahrain lending declined by 0.3% during Q3-2023. The credit sentiment survey in the UAE also pointed to stronger loan growth and rising willingness of financial institutions to extend credit backed by positive economic outlook and strong real estate market. The survey showed that lending remained strong across all loan categories mainly led by large firms, locals, GREs, and SMEs. In terms of sectors, the manufacturing sector witnessed strong growth along with retail and wholesale trade sectors, construction, and property development.

### Listed bank lending growth shows wider variations at the country level

Aggregate lending by GCC banks continued to show growth during Q3-2023 backed by growth in three out of six markets in the GCC. Aggregate gross loans reached a new record high of USD 1.95 Trillion, up 1.5% q-o-q and 6.8% y-o-y, mainly led by strong growth in banks in Saudi Arabia and UAE and marginal growth in Qatar. Saudi-listed banks once again reported the strongest q-o-q growth in lending at 2.8% to reach USD 658 Bn at the end of Q3-2023. UAE-listed banks closely followed with a growth of 2.4% in gross loans that reached USD 548 Bn followed by Qatari-listed banks with a growth of 0.3% to reach USD 375 Bn. Banks in Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait, meanwhile, reported decline in gross loans during the quarter. The biggest q-o-q decline was seen in Oman at 3.3% with gross loans reaching USD 64 Bn followed by 0.6% decline in Bahrain and a marginal decline of 0.2% in the case of Kuwaiti banks. In terms of type of banks, Islamic banks recorded a faster growth in lending during the quarter at 1.7% to reach gross loans of USD 606 Bn while conventional banks recorded a growth of 1.4% to reach USD 1.34 Trillion. A recent report from Moody's said that Islamic banks are expected to benefit from the ongoing economic diversification efforts resulting in higher profit margins over the next 12 to 18 months vs. conventional banks in the region led by an inherent margin advantage and a focus on household financing and the retail segment. The report highlighted that the strong asset quality of GCC Islamic banks is expected to continue, and their strong capital and liquidity positions is expected to help these banks to meet the growing demand for Islamic banking services.

The trend in net loan growth was almost in line with gross loan with aggregate net loans at USD 1.85 Trillion at the end of Q3-2023 registering a q-o-q growth of 1.6%. The growth

was led by higher net loans recorded in Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar partially offset by a slide in lending registered by banks in Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait. A report from Fitch Ratings showed that conditions for banks in the region remain optimal as most loan books reprice fairly quickly while the low-cost of current and savings account deposits represent a significant source of banks' funding.

### Deposit growth stays positive for the 10th consecutive quarter

Total customer deposits reported by listed-GCC banks continued to show growth for the tenth consecutive quarter during Q3-2023 to reach a new record high of USD 2.34 Trillion as compared to USD 2.31 Trillion at the end of Q2-2023. However, as seen in gross loans, the trend in customer deposits also varied within the region with three out of six countries showing higher q-o-q deposits while the remaining three registered declines. UAE-listed banks reported the biggest q-o-q growth in Q3-2023 with aggregate customer deposits reaching USD 749 Bn, regaining the top spot in the GCC. Saudi-listed banks were next with a growth of 1.7% with total deposits reaching USD 742 Bn followed by Kuwaiti banks with a marginal growth of 0.2% to reach USD 302 Bn. On the other hand, decliners included Qatar and Bahraini banks with q-o-q decline of 0.8% followed by a marginal decline of 0.2% for Omani banks. Islamic banks once again outpaced conventional banks after recording a higher q-o-q growth of 2.2% while conventional banks grew deposits by 1.3% during the quarter.

### Loan-to-deposit ratio has significant room for expansion

The aggregate loan-to-deposit ratio for the GCC banking sector continued to remain below the 80% mark for the sixth consecutive quarter at the end of Q3-2023 to reach 79.1%, a marginal improvement from 79.0% recorded at the end of Q2-2023. The flatish performance reflected an almost equivalent growth in lending and customer deposits during the quarter. At the country level, the performance was mixed with three out of six countries witnessing higher loan-to-deposit ratio. Saudi-listed banks showed the biggest improvement in the ratio with an increase of 100 bps to reach 86.9% at the end of Q3-2023, the third highest in the GCC. Qatari banks also showed a growth of 80 bps with the ratio reaching 89.0%, the highest in the GCC overtaking Omani banks that was leading in Q2-2023 but reported the biggest q-o-q decline during Q3-2023. Banks in Bahrain showed marginal improvement during the quarter.

### Net interest income sees strong growth in most markets

Aggregate net interest income reported by banks listed in the GCC witnessed growth for the second consecutive quarter to reach a record during Q3-2023. Total net interest income reached USD 21.1 Bn during Q3-2023 from USD 20.0 Bn in Q2-2023, registering a growth of 5.6%. The increase in Q3-2023 came despite cost of funds reaching one of the highest levels on record at 3.7% as compared to 3.2% recorded in Q2-2023.

In terms of y-o-y growth, the growth in net interest income was strong at 13.2% reflecting an increasing impact of consecutive rate hikes implemented by banks in the GCC following rates hikes in the US. The q-o-q trend in the GCC remained largely positive with only Omani banks seeing a decline during the quarter while the rest of the GCC aggregates showed growth. Qatari banks recorded the biggest q-o-q increase in net interest income during Q3-2023 at 10.8% to reach USD 3.5 Bn followed by Kuwaiti and UAE-listed banks with growth of 6.9% and 5.5%, respectively. Saudi banks were next with a growth of 3.8% to reach net interest income of USD 7.0 Bn, in line with the aggregate for UAE-listed banks.

### Topline growth at three-quarter high

Total bank revenue for GCC banks once again registered q-o-q growth during Q3-2023 by 5.3% to reach a new record high of USD 30.7 Bn as compared to USD 29.2 Bn during Q2-2023. A growth in aggregate net interest income as well as non-interest income supported the growth in total revenues. The q-o-q increase was led by a broad-based improvement in revenues across the GCC during the quarter, barring Omani banks that reported a decline of 1.1% during the quarter. Qatari banks reported the biggest increase during the quarter at 9.2% followed by Kuwaiti and UAE-listed banks with growth of 7.9% and 5.1%, respectively. Saudi-listed banks also reported a healthy q-o-q growth of 3.5% during Q3-2023.



## BUSINESS

## UK gov't reaches pay deal with senior doctors

Britain's government reached a deal with senior doctors in England that could potentially end a series of disruptive strikes, officials said Monday.

The Department of Health and Social Care said it submitted a pay offer to doctors' unions after weeks of talks, and union leaders agreed to put the proposal to their members for a vote.

Health officials said the breakthrough was a huge relief, though results from the union votes won't be known until January. The British Medical Association said

the government's offer meant senior doctors will start to receive extra income next year, on top of a 6% pay increase already awarded for 2023 to 2024. The doctors' union said the government was investing 4.95% more in salaries for senior doctors, though the amount each doctor will get depends on their contracts.

Thousands of senior physicians walked off the job for 48-hour periods earlier this year to demand better pay and working conditions from the government, causing major disruptions at hospitals across Eng-

land.

Those strikes came on top of similar industrial actions by junior doctors, nurses and other health workers who organized their own strikes to obtain pay raises amid the U.K.'s soaring inflation and cost-of-living crisis.

Senior doctors said their pay has shrunk by a third in real terms over the past 14 years.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the new offer was a "fair deal" for senior doctors and will be good news for patients. (AP)



Junior doctors hold placards on a picket line outside St Mary's Hospital in London, Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Britain's government reached a deal with senior doctors in England that could potentially end a series of disruptive strikes, officials said Monday, Nov. 27, 2023. (AP)

## 'Global CEOs are right to back Britain...'

## Sunak unveils 29.5 bln pounds of investment at summit

LONDON, Nov 28, (KUNA): United Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak unveiled on Monday a new investment for thriving UK sectors, totaling pound 29.5 billion (USD 37,245 millions), as the world's A-list CEOs and investors arrive at the Global Investment Summit at Hampton Court Palace.

Backing some of the fastest growing and most innovative sectors in the UK, the transformative investments have been secured for projects in tech, life sciences, infrastructure, housing and renewable energy, creating thousands of new jobs and driving growth across the country.

The Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said "today's investments, worth more than pound 29 billion, will create thousands of new jobs and are a huge vote of confidence in the future of the UK economy."

Global CEOs are right to back Britain, we are making this the best place in the world to invest and do business.

From giving businesses the biggest tax cut in recent history last week, to our culture of innovation and thriving universities producing some of the finest minds in the world, ours is truly a nation of opportunity.

Attracting global investment is at the heart of my plan for growing the

economy.

With new funding pouring into key industries like clean energy, life sciences and advanced technology, inward investment is creating high-quality new jobs and driving growth right across the country."

Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho said: "The UK is a world-leader in renewable energy and green industries. We have attracted pound 200 billion in low carbon investment since 2010, with another pound 100 billion expected by 2030, as we lead the second industrial revolution."

"Aira's pound 300 million investment in the UK heat pump industry and creation of 8,000 jobs is a helpful contribution to our green ambitions, offering a cleaner heat source for our homes and growing the economy."

"Families will benefit from lower heat pump prices with more trained installers and pound 7,500 grants through one of the most generous schemes in Europe."

The summit will also see billions for the UK's burgeoning tech sector, which already attracts the highest levels of investment in Europe and last year became the third in the world to be worth USD 1 trillion.

Following the success of the UK Government's first-ever AI safety summit,

Microsoft has pledged pound 2.5 billion to build critical AI infrastructure, bringing more next-generation AI data centers and thousands of graphic processing units to the UK.

This will boost the UK's AI Superpower status, which generated over pound 10 billion of revenue from AI companies last year.

In a move to spur even more innovation and investment, the Government is also announcing the creation of three new regulatory sandboxes for hydrogen-powered aviation, autonomous marine vessels and drones, with Innovate UK launching a pound 110 million Investor Partnership for UK science and tech SMEs.

And in a further boost from Australia, Aware Super have committed more than pound 5 billion for projects in energy transition, affordable housing, life sciences, innovation, technology and digital infrastructure, just days after opening their new UK office.

The Department for Business and Trade have also convened an expert panel chaired by Professor Vanessa Knapp to explore options for a UK corporate re-domiciliation regime to make it easier for foreign companies to relocate to the UK.

## Chinese AI firm SenseTime denies Grizzly's claim it inflated revenue

HONG KONG, Nov 28, (AP): SenseTime, a major Chinese artificial intelligence company, has rejected claims by a research company that it has falsely inflated its revenue.

"(SenseTime) believes the report is without merit and contains unfounded allegations and misleading conclusions and interpretations," the company said in a notice Tuesday to Hong Kong's stock exchange, after its stocks tumbled more than 9% following the report's release by short-seller Grizzly Research LLC.

"It also shows a lack of understanding of the company's business model and financial reporting structure, and a lack of thorough reading of the company's public filings," SenseTime said.

The company said it was reviewing the allegations and "considering the appropriate course of action to take to safeguard the interests of all shareholders."

SenseTime is known for its facial recognition technology. It launched a ChatGPT-style chatbot to the public in August.

Grizzly's report alleges that SenseTime uses revenue fabrication schemes to inflate its sales data. It also said SenseTime was controlling several entities that it has not dis-

closed on its balance sheet, suggesting the publicly listed company is not as transparent about its business as it should be.

In its statement, SenseTime also responded that Grizzly did not understand its business model.

Reports by short-selling research companies like Grizzly usually focus on corruption or fraud in the business world, such as accounting irregularities and bad actors in management.

The short-sellers make "short" bets against those targets, enabling them to make money when their share prices fall.

SenseTime's Hong Kong-traded stock sank as much as 9.7% early Tuesday but recovered some lost ground and was trading 6.3% lower by the afternoon.

SenseTime was blacklisted by the U.S. government in 2019 over allegations that its facial recognition technology has been used to oppress members of the mostly Muslim Uyghur minority in China's northwestern Xinjiang region.

In July, Alibaba, one of its prominent backers, cut its stake in SenseTime to 3.15% from 5.29%. Japan's SoftBank Group, also a SenseTime backer, has also sold off significant holdings in the company.

## Amazon's acquisition of iRobot may 'harm' competition: EU regulators

BRUSSELS, Nov 28, (AP): European regulators say that Amazon's proposed acquisition of robot vacuum maker iRobot may harm competition.

The European Commission, the European Union's executive arm and top antitrust enforcer, said it has informed Amazon of its "preliminary view" regarding the deal following an investigation that began in July.

The news raised investors' concerns about the acquisition, sending shares in Bedford, Massachusetts-based iRobot Corp., most famous for the circular-shaped Roomba vacuum, down more than 17% Monday.

The European regulators raised concerns that the buyout may hinder iRobot's rivals from effectively competing on Amazon's marketplace, which they said is an important platform for sales of robot vacuum cleaners in France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

If the deal goes through, the commission said Amazon may be incentivized to prevent competitors from selling their products on its marketplace or making it difficult for them to do so.

Among other things, it said Amazon could reduce the visibility of a competitor's product on its marketplace or limit access to certain labels, such as "Amazon's choice," that may attract more shoppers. It may also find ways to raise the costs

of iRobot's rivals to advertise and sell their products on its platform, the commission said.

The commission has until Feb. 14 to make a final decision on the deal. And Amazon may respond to some of the objections raised.

Alexandra Miller, an Amazon spokesperson, said the Seattle-based company is working with the commission and is focused on addressing its questions.

"iRobot, which faces intense competition from other vacuum cleaner suppliers, offers practical and inventive products," Miller said. "We believe Amazon can offer a company like iRobot the resources to accelerate innovation and invest in critical features while lowering prices for consumers."

Amazon's acquisition of iRobot was announced last year for \$1.7 billion, but the value of the deal has since declined by 15% after vacuum maker incurred new debt.

Anti-monopoly organizations have voiced concerns about the deal, saying that it would broaden the e-commerce giant's dominance in the smart home market.

But British antitrust regulators cleared Amazon's purchase of iRobot back in June. The acquisition is still facing a review in the U.S. by the Federal Trade Commission.

Amazon's stock finished up less than 1% Monday.



An Amazon company logo is seen on the facade of a company's building in Schoenefeld near Berlin, Germany, March 18, 2022. European regulators said Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, that Amazon's proposed acquisition of robot vacuum maker iRobot may harm competition. (AP)

## Germany's leader vows 'fixes' for a budget crisis as economy struggles

Chancellor Scholz offers few details

FRANKFURT, Germany, Nov 28, (AP): German Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed Tuesday that his government will work "as fast as possible" to lay out how to solve a budget crisis, but he offered few details on how he would achieve his goals of promoting clean energy after a court decision struck down billions in funding.

With its economy struggling, Germany now is wrestling to fill the gaps in spending set aside for renewable energy projects and relief for companies and consumers facing high utility bills because of Russia's war in Ukraine. Cuts could further slow what is already the world's worst-performing major economy.

Germans "need clarity in unsettled times," Scholz said in a speech to parliament, adding that the government would not abandon any of its goals, which also include promoting investment in computer chip and battery factories for electric cars to modernize the economy.

He said it would be "a serious, an unforgivable mistake ... to neglect the modernization of our country."

A cap on consumers' utility bills is no longer needed because energy prices have fallen, although the government would act if they rose again. "You'll never walk alone," Scholz said, quoting the song title in English.

Details on what could be cut for next year were lacking. On top of that, a long-term solution could take years, possibly until after the next national elections scheduled for 2025. That's because the strict legal limits on borrowing cited in the Nov. 15 court decision are enshrined in the country's constitution, and a two-thirds majority in parliament is required to soften them.

Economists say spending cuts will only add to the challenges facing Europe's largest economy after Russia cut off the cheap natural gas that fueled its factories, squeezing businesses and raising the cost of living for households paying more for energy.

Germany's constitutional court has voided some 60 billion euros (\$65 billion) in spending for this year and next. It said the government could not shift unused funding meant for COVID-19 relief to boost wind and solar projects, help with energy bills and encourage investment in computer chip production.

The constitution limits deficits to 0.35% of economic output, though the government can go beyond that if there's an emergency it didn't create, such as the pandemic.

The ruling also could apply to other national and local spending based on the same now-rejected accounting maneuver, covering as much as 130 billion euros in expected spending through 2027.

Some of the disallowed spending has already been used this year. To comply with the ruling, the government is changing the 2023 budget by declaring an emergency, citing Russia's cutoff of natural gas supplies and higher energy prices.

The question now is next year's budget. The government would have to scramble to cover shortfalls of roughly 30 billion to 40 billion euros - plus 20 billion to 30 billion euros for 2025 - compared with earlier plans, according to Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg bank.

Some spending can be moved to public-private partnerships or taken over by the country's development bank. But those fudges will only go so



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, at the podium left, delivers a speech about Germany's budget crisis at the parliament Bundestag in Berlin, Germany, Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023. With its economy already struggling,

Germany now is wrestling to find a way out of a budget crisis after a court struck down billions in funding for clean energy projects and help for people facing high energy bills because of Russia's war in Ukraine. (AP)

## Tesla sues Swedish agency as striking workers stop delivering license plates for new vehicles

STOCKHOLM, Nov 28, (AP): Tesla has filed a lawsuit against the Swedish state via Sweden's Transport Agency as striking postal workers in the Scandinavian country halted the delivery of license plates of new vehicles manufactured by the Texas-based automaker.

Tesla is non-unionized globally, but the Swedish workers are demanding that the carmaker sign a collective bargaining agreement, which most employees in Sweden have. Tesla has no manufacturing plant in Sweden, but has several service centers.

Tesla said it was suing "the Swedish state through the Swedish Transport Agency" because not accessing the registration plates "constitutes an unlawful discriminatory attack directed at Tesla."

Mikael Andersson, a press spokesperson for the agency, told The Associated Press in an email that "we at the Swedish Transport Agency do not share this view" that the agency was blocking the distribution of license plates. "Therefore Tesla has decided to have the issue tested in court, which is their right."

"We have not yet seen the lawsuit and it is therefore difficult for us to give any direct comments. We need to look at the lawsuit and Tesla's reasoning in it," Andersson said.

far. Ultimately, spending may be reduced by as much as 0.5% of annual economic output for the next two budget years, Schmieding said.

The debt limits were enacted in 2009 after the government piled up debt paying to rebuild former East Germany after Germany reunified at the end of the Cold War and when tax revenue dropped during the 2007-2009 global financial crisis and Great Recession.

For years afterward, Germany balanced its budget or even ran small surpluses as the economy lived large on cheap Russian natural gas and booming exports of luxury cars and industrial machinery, with rapidly growing China serving as a major market. Economists say the government skimmed on investment in infrastructure, renewable energy and digitaliza-

tion - gaps it is now trying to make up. The fallout has left Germany projected to be the worst-performing major economy this year, shrinking by 0.5%, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Prospects for next year are only a little better. Industry is struggling with energy prices and a lack of skilled labor, while Chinese automakers are challenging Germany's Volkswagen, BMW and Mercedes-Benz and have plans to expand sales across Europe.

The budget debate is ironic because Germany has the smallest long-term debt pile of any of the Group of Seven advanced democracies, with debt of 66% of gross domestic product. That compares to 102% in Britain, 121% in the U.S., 144% in Italy and 260% in Japan.

The now-banned spending was

aimed at some of the long-term problems plaguing economic growth, such as the need to invest in new sources of affordable renewable energy like wind, solar and hydrogen. That has led to calls from some to loosen the debt limits because they restrict the government's response to new challenges.

But Scholz's coalition of Social Democrats, Greens and pro-business Free Democrats doesn't have the two-thirds majority to do that without the conservative opposition, the Christian Democrats, who brought the legal challenge in the first place.

Yet even some opposition state governors have said the debt limits should be loosened. Berlin Mayor Kai Wegener, a member of the Christian Democrats, said the provision was "a brake on the future."

The union also asked consumers for their understanding, saying, "We are doing this for the sake of our members, to ensure that they have safe working conditions."

In the lawsuit, Tesla demanded the district court ensure the Swedish Transport Agency delivered its license plates.

Sweden's mechanics stopped servicing Tesla cars and several unions, including postal workers, have joined in a wave of sympathy with IF Metall's demands. Dockworkers at Sweden's four largest ports also stopped the delivery of Tesla vehicles to put more pressure on the automaker.

Last week, Tesla's CEO Elon Musk wrote on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, which he owns, that it was "insane" that Swedish postal workers were refusing to deliver license plates for new vehicles.

IF Metall earlier said that Tesla Sweden has "refused to sign a collective agreement and violates basic principles in the Swedish labor market." It called such agreements "the backbone of the Swedish model."



## University named national winner and second best regionally at MEED Projects Awards 2023

# Kuwait University's Administration Facilities Project clinches top honors

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: In recognition of its outstanding architecture, innovation, and contribution to the regional educational landscape, the Kuwait University (KU) Campus' Administration Facilities Project at Sabah Al-Salem University City was crowned as a 'National Winner' at the prestigious 2023 MEED Projects Awards, in addition to garnering the highly-coveted second place regionally. The multi-awarded mega project won its latest recognitions in the 'Education and Social Project of the Year' category.

Having shown outstanding achievements across the various key assessment factors set by MEED's panel of judges, the University's Administration Facilities Project was chosen as the top project of the year in Kuwait and amongst the best projects in the region.

Collaborating with leading regional multidisciplinary consultancy firm Pace, KU's project at the University City in Shadadiyah was designed and executed in line with the highest international benchmarks for quality and excellence. Working side by side with long-term partner SOM – the US-based architectural and engineering design firm – Pace provided a full suite of specialised and integrated architectural, engineering and planning services for the project's implementation.

Expressing his excitement for winning the awards, Pace CEO, Tarek Shuaib said, "We are honoured that our project continues to receive notable recognition from regional and international awarding organisations such as MEED. The Administration Facilities project at Sabah Al-Salem University City Campus is not only an architectural masterpiece, but is also a major pillar contributing to the transformation of Kuwait's educational sector."



Kuwait University Campus' Administration Facilities Project at Sabah Al-Salem University City.

The award-winning project involves the construction of six buildings located at the heart of the campus, becoming a new gateway to the 'University City', with a total plot area of 55,085 square meters and a total built-up area of 318,867 square meters, Shuaib pointed out.

Designed to serve the needs of students, faculty, administrators, and visitors alike, the facilities include an administrative building, a grand central library, a convocation hall, a grand mosque, a conference centre, a cultural centre, and a

visitors' centre, as well as the welcoming gardens. Standing 75 metres above ground level, the central administrative tower houses the supervisory authority for the entire university.

The prime focus of the new facilities project is 'The Pearl', a performing arts theatre located in the centre of the main arrivals garden axis, with all project components surrounding its ovoid structure. Within the monumental building is the convocation hall, where the University will hold its graduation ceremony and its other events and celebrations.

Meanwhile, the cultural centre comprises four distinct halls: one designated as a museum showcasing Kuwaiti history, another for hosting public performances, and two additional spaces intended for conferences and the presentation of scientific research. The grand library will feature the latest technologies in the field of digital archiving and references, with innovative technical installations.

"Functionality and beauty merged seamlessly with architectural finesse when designing and implementing this multi-million-dollar mega-project -and we are proud to say that the Mashrabiya facade designs were the creative product of Kuwaiti Artist, Farah Bebhani," Shuaib said. He explained that, "Employing a cohesive architectural style and adopting the 'Shades of Knowledge' concept, the facilities project incorporates contemporary design elements using intricate Mashrabiya to envelop each building. These shading screens are adorned with calligraphy cut-outs arranged in repetitive patterns, creating distinctive designs that blend cultural, visual, and technical elements, all while taking inspiration from the region's traditional architecture."

With a bright outlook for both current and future projects, Shuaib stated that, "As longstanding and reliable partners in the nation's progress, Pace's significant accomplishments attest to our ongoing leading position in assisting the government to deliver practical, inventive, contemporary, and globally acclaimed architectural landmarks." It serves to note that world-renowned media and business intelligence platform MEED recognises the best engineering industries throughout the MENA region every year with its prestigious awards, with a focus on innovation, sustainability, and overall impact on society.

## Elogics Systems and Ai Doctrine showcase innovations

# Kuwait hosts 4th GCC Cyber Security Conference & Exhibition

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The 4th GCC Cyber Security Conference & Exhibition was held on November 6th & 7th of 2023 at Arraya Ballroom, Kuwait City. The event was conducted under the patronage of His Excellency, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, Minister of State for Economic and Investment Affairs, Dr. Saad Hamad Nasser Al-Barrak, along with several senior officials from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. The Fourth Gulf Conference and Exhibition on Cybersecurity Challenges was inaugurated on 6th November in collaboration with the Central Agency for Information Technology, affiliated to the Cabinet, and in participation with the Union of Kuwaiti Banks, Ministry of Interior, Kuwait Army and several other Kuwait Government entities.

Engineer Omar Al-Omar delivered his opening speech



on behalf of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority. "Our goal is to unify efforts for cybersecurity in Kuwait and Gulf Cooperation Council countries. The event emphasized the need to minimize cyber-attacks which not only affected the individuals and institutions but also the National Security. Elogics Systems Company in collaboration with Ai Doctrine participated in the event with a demonstration stall at the exhibition hall. Mr Naeem Mirza, Middle East Regional Director of Ai Doctrine had given a presentation on the inauguration day.

The Ai Doctrine & Elogics stall were visited by the chief guests and VIP delegations from Kuwait and other GCC countries.



Top & above: Photos during the 4th GCC Cyber Security Conference & Exhibition.

## 20 customers win cash prizes worth KD 1,500 each

# KFH announces winners of AIRabeh draw

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the AIRabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD 1,500 each for the 45th and 46th weeks of 2023.

The winners of KD 1,500 are: Mahmoud Ali, Jamal Al-Musaleem, Abdulaziz Al-Azmi, Kholoud Al-Thaqeb, Raghdah Asad, Ahmad Ebraheem, Ahmad Alsaeed Ahmad, Fatma Al-Azmi, Nazeeha Al-Thaqeb, Anas Kandi, Hala Al-Howaisah, Aeshah Al-Muawed, Mansour Al-Khurainej, Talal Khudhur, Rofida Kenawy, Bader Al-Shamari, Sultan Al-Dosry, Meshari Abbas, Nada El-Ghandour, Fahad Al-Zoabi.

The AIRabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The campaign is part of KFH's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products



The campaign visual

and services that meet customers' aspirations, enhance the Bank's leadership in the local and global markets, as well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards.

The AIRabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open AIRabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank's online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for

customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Salary transfer is a prerequisite for customers to enter the draw provided that the transfer of salary to AIRabeh account is constant.

Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the 3 months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for amount of K.D 1,500 for 10 winners each, 1 KG of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and K.D 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.

KFH is keen to further meet customers' requirements and aspirations and their increasing needs as well as offer innovative and modern services, therefore achieving customer satisfaction, which is one of the fundamentals at KFH. The Bank has achieved a qualitative shift in the level of financial services by utilizing technology.

## Jewellery retailer launches 335th global showroom

# Malabar Gold & Diamonds expands into Canada

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Malabar Gold & Diamonds has scripted history as the first Indian International jewellery retailer to open in Canada with their new showroom in Mississauga, at Heartland Town centre within the Greater Toronto Area. Currently ranked as the world's 6th largest jewellery retailer, Canada has become the 12th country in Malabar Gold & Diamonds' global operational map and the 2nd country in North America. Currently, the brand has an extensive retail presence of over 335 showrooms spread across UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, KSA, Bahrain, Singapore, Malaysia, the USA, the UK, Canada and India.

The showroom was inaugurated by Ms. Nina Tangri, the Associate Minister of Business for Ontario, in the presence of Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director – International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Ameer CMC, Director of Finance & Administration, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Joseph Eapen, Regional Head-North America, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; other Malabar Gold & Diamonds management team members, customers and well-wishers.

"The opening of our 1st showroom in Canada brings me immense pride and joy, marking a significant milestone for us as the first Indian International jewellery brand to begin operations in Canada. Located at Heartland Town Centre in Mississauga within the Greater Toronto Area, our new showroom stands as the largest jewellery showroom in the country. The expansion into Canada presents us with a unique opportunity to showcase our jewellery to a diverse customer base who truly appreciate the artistry and craftsmanship of Indian jewellery. On behalf of Malabar Group, I would like to thank all our customers, management team members, shareholders and other stakeholders for being an integral part of helping us craft this historic moment and move one step closer towards our goal of being crowned as the world's no.1 jewellery retailer", said Malabar Group Chairman, M.P Ahamed.

Spread across 7,800+ sq.ft, the new outlet is the largest jewellery showroom in Canada, housing over 30,000 designs across 25 exclusive brands and collections in gold, diamond & precious gem jewellery. The new store will also showcase an extensive collection of bridal jewellery, alongside a wide range of options for occasional wear, daily wear & office wear.

"We are extremely thrilled to extend our operations into the 12th country globally and the 2nd country within



Malabar Gold & Diamonds' first showroom in Canada and 335th Global showroom was inaugurated by the Associate Minister of Business for Ontario, Ms. Nina Tangri. Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Ameer CMC, Director of Finance & Administration, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Joseph Eapen, Regional Head - North America, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; other management team members, customers and well-wishers were present for the occasion. With the new showroom launch, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has expanded its operations into the 12th Country, becoming the First Indian International Jewellery brand to expand into Canada.

the continent. As Canada and the USA stand out as highly appealing destinations for Indian sub-continental expatriates in the Western hemisphere, the North American market presents vast potential and we have ambitious expansion plans in the region, covering British Columbia and Alberta in Canada. Concurrently, in the USA, we are set to expand into Naperville, Chicago; Artesia, Los Angeles; and Atlanta, Georgia. As we continue to take significant steps in our international expansion journey, both the new showroom in Canada and our existing ones in the USA will play a pivotal role in shaping our future initiatives in the North American region, commented Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

The showroom also offers a customized jewellery designing facility, presenting customers with the option to design their own jewellery with the assistance of Malabar Gold & Diamonds' expert designers and craftsmen. The showroom is also equipped with a luxurious customer lounge area, enabling comfortable and hassle-free jewellery shopping.

"This is indeed a historic moment for Malabar Gold & Diamonds. The new showroom with its enticing array of jewellery, transparent policies, and luxurious amenities, is strategically positioned to cater to the diverse tastes and preferences of jewellery enthusiasts in Canada. In addition to being a highlight of our international expansion plan, Malabar Gold & Diamonds' expansion into Canada will further our aim of showcasing Indian-made jewellery to a global audience; upholding the motto of 'Make in India: Market to the World'. We have charted an ambi-

tion and exciting plan for the future, which involves strengthening our retail presence in existing regions with more showroom openings and expansion into new territories.", commented Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice-Chairman of Malabar Group.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is renowned globally for offering an unparalleled jewellery buying experience with convenience, and customer-friendly policies along with the 'Malabar Promise' of incomparable quality and service assurance. Recently, the brand further strengthened its commitment by introducing a 100% exchange value on diamonds, positioning diamonds as an investment, as appealing as gold. Apart from this, the Malabar Promise also includes transparent pricing, assured lifetime maintenance from any of the showrooms across 12 countries, guaranteed buyback, tested and certified diamonds, 100% value on gold exchange, 916 hallmark jewellery, responsible sourcing, fair price policy, and fair labour practices are the Malabar promises.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) has been a primary commitment of Malabar Group since its inception in 1993, setting 5% of its net profits towards such causes in every region of operation. The group operates on the strong belief that the most successful companies are the ones that integrate responsibility and sustainability into their core business. The key focus areas of Malabar Group's ESG initiatives are Health, Housing, Hunger Eradication, Education, Environment & Women empowerment. The group periodically strengthens its ESG goals to remain a socially conscious and responsible organization.

## World of Lexus powered by advanced tech & performance

# Lexus showcases amazing experience at GulfRun 2023

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est Co. and Lexus concluded its participation in the GulfRun event at Kuwait Motor Town recently. GulfRun features Auto Show where Automotive dealerships host their private garages to display vehicles and offer taxirides to visitors along with White Expo festival market which encompasses, store booths, exciting activities, and live music, alongside several restaurants and cafes.

Lexus the pinnacle of luxury demonstrated the advancement in technology and performance with the display of models including LC convertible, RX500, LX, LS, ES, RC, NX. A ride along 2 laps with a professional driver was also offered to feel the Lexus experience featuring the following models – IS 350F, LC 500, RC 350 F.

According to Mahmoud Abou Zahr Senior Business Director Lexus Kuwait "Lexus is the leading luxury automotive brand in the world, and especially in Kuwait, by far the most desired luxury automotive brand. We are overwhelmed by the response at Lexus garage, seeing the excitement of the audience specially among the females and the youth. I also thank the organizers of the mega event GulfRun and congratulate them for the grand success".

In addition the vehicle display and track experience, Lexus garage also featured simulation corner for gaming activity, an augmented reality zone where visitors could

distinctly explore the Lexus models in a virtual way as well as an accessory boutique. The hospitality corner had giveaways for customers who completed test drives, gifts for kids who visited the garage and refreshments.

The first GulfRun GP event was held at the Bahrain International Circuit in 2006; and has become the longest running event at the Formula 1 Circuit. With the inauguration of Kuwait Motor Town, the race was launched in Kuwait. In the time attack race cars are placed in their respective class according to capability, power, weight and tire type and participate in two days of racing to secure the fastest results in their classes.

Over the past few years Lexus has been constantly pushing the boundaries to elevate the standards of customer experience and reflect Omotenashi that stands for Japanese hospitality.

According to Bedour Faisal Al Sayer, Manager Advertising and Promotion "I appreciate the efforts and cooperation of Kuwait Motor Town and Suffix Sportstowards this mega event, Lexus team was able to come up with an impressive garage where visitors can explore Lexus brand and products. Our aim was to provide a modern experience powered by the touch of advanced technology. Certainly, we will continue to partner for such events going forward to bring the unparalleled world of Lexus."



Lexus – the pinnacle of luxury – demonstrated the advancement in technology and performance.



# Abbass' 'Bye Bye Tiberias' applauded at Marrakech Fest

MARRAKECH, Morocco, Nov 28, (AP): Thirty years ago, Palestinian actor Hiam Abbass left her home to pursue her dreams of being in the movies, joining generations of women in her family who were shaped by exile and "learned to leave everything and start anew."

That's one of the stories told in her director daughter Lina Soualem's documentary "Bye Bye Tiberias," which received a standing ovation and shouts of "Long Live Palestine" on Saturday night at the Marrakech International Film Festival for the film's first screening in the Arab world.

The documentary, the Palestinian entry for next year's Academy Award for Best International Feature, follows Abbass and Soualem as the mother-daughter pair laugh, cry and tell the story of four generations of women in their family.

"Bye Bye Tiberias" first premiered at the Venice International Film Festival, more than a month before the start of the latest Israel-Hamas war, sparked by the militant group's deadly incursion into Israel on Oct. 7.

It is the only Palestinian film in competition in Marrakech, where festival organizers have, unlike past years, not held screenings in a popular square that has seen protests against the war.

Introducing the documentary on Saturday, Soualem and Abbass acknowledged it was an emotional time to present the film, thinking about the children and grandchildren of Palestinian refugees in Gaza.

Soualem declined to answer a question about how today's war affected reactions to her film. Speaking carefully, she later said that she felt the emotional response from festival audiences in Europe and the United States and noted her emphasis on offering a different Palestin-

ian narrative amid current events, humanizing Palestinian women and the complex choices they make throughout their lives.

"Our hearts are heavy, seeing everything happening in Gaza - all the destruction and all the deaths, which we are mourning," she said in an interview with The Associated Press on Sunday. "Every screening, there is a sense of repair and warmth. There's a lot of people who feel that they cannot speak or they are silenced."

## Intimate

"Bye Bye Tiberias" splices together intimate interviews of Soualem's family members, primarily her mother, Abbass, known to both Arab and Western audiences from her work in the television series "Succession" and "Ramy" as well as films such as "The Lemon Tree" in 2008, the Blade Runner 2049 in 2017, and "Gaza mon amour" in 2020.

It builds off Soualem's first documentary "Their Algeria" - another personal history about her grandparents' exile from North Africa and move to France amid war and economic downturn.

Unlike other Palestinian narratives, which focus on the broad diaspora, the Gaza Strip or the occupied West Bank, "Bye Bye Tiberias" documents a family displaced by the 1948 Arab-Israeli war from one city to another within modern-day Israel, where they retained citizenship but lived in a Palestinian village largely segregated from Jewish Israeli life.

Abbass rolls her mother Nemat in a wheelchair past Hebrew street signs and a now-dilapidated mosque in modern-day Tiberias as Soualem explains how the 1948 war upended her grandmother's edu-

cation and "propelled her at full speed into history."

Intimate interviews are spliced with excerpts from home movies shot by Soualem's father at their family's home in Deir Hanna, and archival footage spanning back to 1948.

That year, the British ordered the family to leave their home in Tiberias, a city on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The home was later destroyed, the family was prohibited from returning and its members resettled far and wide, including in Syria and Deir Hanna, a Palestinian village within the borders of modern-day Israel.

"These images are the treasure of my memory that I don't want to fade," says Soualem, who narrates the documentary.

A generation later, living amid such tension "suffocated" Abbass, who emigrated to France three decades ago to pursue her dreams of becoming an actor.

"Today, I wish I could ask my mother if she forgives me for making a choice that was contrary to her traditions and her life," Abbass says at one point in "Bye Bye Tiberias."

For much of her daughter's life, Abbass rarely talked about her departure from the Middle East, not wanting to "open the gate to past sorrows," Soualem says.

In the film, though, she does. Soualem captures Abbass mourning the loss of her mother, remembering performing in Jerusalem's Palestinian National Theatre, and peering across the Sea of Galilee trying to digest the enormity of what happened to Palestinian families like hers post-1948, as well as her choice to leave a land that holds great meaning to her.

Film

## Variety



Celine Song poses with the award for best feature 'Past Lives' at the Gotham Independent Film Awards at Cipriani Wall Street on Monday, Nov. 27, in New York. (AP)

## Film

Robert De Niro says his speech was edited

# 'Past Lives' wins big at Gotham Awards

NEW YORK, Nov 28, (AP): Celine Song's wistful romance "Past Lives" earned top honors at the Gotham Awards on Monday evening at an award-season kickoff where the night's biggest drama came in a political speech by Robert De Niro that the actor claimed had been edited without his permission.

"Past Lives," a breakout at the Sundance Film Festival in January and an arthouse hit in June for A24, may be poised to be an Oscar sleeper this year after winning best feature film at the Gothams. Affection is strong for Song's directorial debut, starring Greta Lee as a woman born in Seoul who, after marrying an American (John Magaro), reconnects with a childhood friend from South Korea (Teo Yoo).

"This is the first film I've ever made and a very personal film about an extraordinary feeling I had in an ordinary bar in the East Village, not too many blocks away from here," said Song, accepting the award. "As this film has been shared with the world, it has taught me - and taught us - that you're never alone in that extraordinary feeling."

"Past Lives" was expected to win, but the ceremony went off-script when De Niro, co-star in Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon," took the podium to present a tribute award to the film. While giving his remarks, De Niro noticed a section had been omitted on the teleprompter. After attempting to scroll back through, he completed his speech before returning to read from his phone.

"The beginning of my speech was edited, cut out," De Niro said. "I didn't know about it."

De Niro, known for his fiery rhetoric against former President Donald Trump, then expanded on what he called America's "post-truth society" and chided Hollywood - specifically John Wayne - for earlier depictions of Native Americans.

"The former president lied to us more than 30,000 times during his four years in office, and he's keeping up the pace with his current campaign of retribution," De Niro said. "With all of his lies, he can't hide his soul. He attacks the weak, destroys the gifts of nature and shows his disrespect for example using Pocahontas as a slur."

De Niro seemed to blame Apple, which produced

"Killers of the Flower Moon," for the changes to his speech.

"So I'm going to say these things - to Apple and thank them, all that. Gothams. Blah blah blah. Apple. But I don't really feel like thanking them at all for what they did," said De Niro. "How dare they do that, actually."

Apple didn't immediately respond to requests for comment late Monday evening.

It was still a big night for Scorsese's epic, about the Osage murders in the early 20th century, even though Scorsese unexpectedly wasn't in attendance. Lily Gladstone, who stars in the film opposite Leonardo DiCaprio, won for best lead performance - though not for that performance.

Gladstone won for a lesser-known film released earlier in 2023: "The Unknown Country," in which stars as a woman embarking on a road trip through the Midwest. In each of her speeches - for "Killers of the Flower Moon" and "The Unknown Country" - Gladstone praised the filmmakers for prioritizing Native perspectives.

## Challenge

"I challenge everybody in this room who makes films: Invest. When you have a budget, invest it in the people," said Gladstone. "Invest in the people that you're telling your story about. Your film will be better for it. Your lives will be better for it."

The Gotham Awards, now in their 33rd year, leapfrog most of the major ceremonies that lead up to the Academy Awards. But over time, they've established themselves as the first big party of the season, and an early hint at some of the favorites.

Put on by the Gotham Film & Media Institute and held annually at Cipriani Wall Street, the Gothams have some quirks that make them different than other awards. Prizes are chosen by small committees of film professionals, critics and journalists. Their acting categories are also gender neutral, with 10 actors nominated for lead performance, and another 10 up for supporting performances.

This year, one of the most competitive categories was best international film. There, Justine Triet's Palme d'Or winning courtroom drama "Anatomy of a Fall"

triumphed over the likes of "Poor Things," "All of Us Strangers" and "The Zone of Interest." Triet's film also won for best screenplay.

Andrew Haigh's tender metaphysical drama "All of Us Strangers," starring Andrew Scott as a screenwriter cast back into his childhood while developing a relationship with a neighbor (Paul Mescal), had come into the Gothams as the lead nominee with four nods, but went home without a trophy.

The Gothams this year removed a \$35 million budget cap for nominees, but many big-budget films still opted not to submit themselves. The monthslong Screen Actors Guild strike meant awards season got off to a slower start, but one of the early questions is if anything can rival those diametrically opposed summer sensations of "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer."

Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie of "Barbie" were among the numerous tribute awards. In their joint speech, Gerwig said her partner, Noah Baumbach, found out he was co-writing the movie with her from a Variety article that cited them both. He sent the article to Gerwig with just a question mark, she said.

"Then he wrote back: 'It's OK, we'll make each other laugh,'" added Gerwig.

Best supporting performance went to Charles Melton of Todd Haynes' "May December." He plays a young father who first began his relationship with his wife (Julianne Moore) when he was a minor.

A.V. Rockwell, whose directorial debut "A Thousand and One" stars Teyana Taylor as a single mother, won for breakthrough director. She noted all of her fellow nominees were women. "It's a fight just to get here," she said.

"Just to be frank, it is very hard to tell a culturally specific story when you look like this," said Rockwell.

Best documentary went to Kaouther Ben Hania's Tunisian film "Four Daughters," a true story about a Tunisian woman with two daughters who became radicalized. The film reconstructs their disappearance.

In the TV categories, the Netflix series "Beef," starring Steven Yeun and Ali Wong as a pair locked in a feud after a road rage incident, won for both breakthrough series under 40 minutes and for Wong's performance.

Features

ARAB@TIMES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023

**BATON ROUGE, La.:** Jean Knight, a New Orleans-born soul singer known for her 1971 hit "Mr. Big Stuff," has died at 80.

Family, friends, fans and veterans of the music world mourned the loss of the Grammy-nominated singer who was considered a musical powerhouse and an integral part of New Orleans' cultural legacy.

Knight died Wednesday of natural causes in Tampa, Florida, where she was living, said family representative Mona Giamanco. She confirmed the death to The Associated Press on Monday afternoon.

"Jean Knight's legacy is not just a musical one; it is a testament to the enduring love between an artist, her hometown and the fans who adored her," the singer's family said in a statement.

Knight got her start by singing in her cousin's New Orleans bar shortly after graduating from high school. In the early '70s she recorded "Mr. Big Stuff" - a sassy and soulful chart-topping anthem that became known for the infectious refrain of "Who do you think you are?"

The song reached No. 1 on Billboard's R&B chart and No. 2 on the Billboard 200 pop chart, earning Knight a Grammy nomination for best female R&B vocal performance in 1972. The Stax Museum of American Soul Music said in a news release that Knight was Stax Records' top-selling female artist.

Following the success of "Mr. Big Stuff," Knight went on to record several more albums - including ones that featured songs "Don't Mess With My Toot Toot" and "Bill" - and formed her own label, Comstar.

Reginald Toussaint was an engineer for one of Knight's albums and even helped mix a song that his father - musical legend Allen Toussaint - wrote for it. Reginald Toussaint went on to become friends with Knight, whom he described as a "wonderful woman." (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** First this fall, another round with COVID-19 shuttered Stephen Colbert's "The Late Show." Now the show is again sidelined as the host recovers from a burst appendix.

The comedian revealed on social media Monday that he's recovering after surgery, wiping out planned shows for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. "Going forward, all emails to my appendix will be handled by my pancreas," he joked.

Colbert had a busy three shows planned, including guests Jennifer Garner, Baz Luhrmann, Patrick



Knight



Colbert

Stewart and Kelsey Grammer, the return of former bandleader Jon Batiste and Barbra Streisand was to take "The Colbert Questioner."

In mid-October, Colbert contracted COVID-19 and had to cancel a week's worth of shows, although he hosted one from his home, like he did during the

pandemic. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** The creators of "Cobra Kai" are behind a new Netflix series called "Obliterated." The action comedy stars Nick Zano and Shelley Hennig ("Teen Wolf") as members of a special task force assigned to prevent

a planned terror attack in Las Vegas. Once the mission is completed, the temptations of Sin City sway them to spend the night partying. A call interrupts the fun to inform the group that they didn't finish the job and need to get back to work, sober or not, to find and deactivate a bomb. "Obliterated" debuts Thursday. (AP)



## People &amp; Places

## People

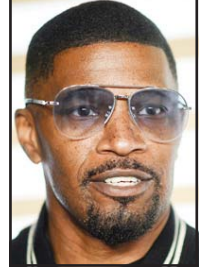
## Over 3,700 claims

## A-listers named in NY sex abuse suits

NEW YORK, Nov 28, (AP) — For a year, New York's Adult Survivors Act suspended the usual legal deadlines to give sexual assault victims one last chance to file lawsuits over misconduct that occurred years or decades ago.

By the time the law expired last week, more than 3,700 legal claims had been filed, with many of the last few coming against big-name celebrities and a handful of politicians.

The list of the accused contained many familiar names from past #MeToo scandals and a few new ones. A huge number of claims were also made by former prisoners over alleged assaults in jails and prisons.



Foxx

Here's a guide to some of the more noteworthy lawsuits: Former president Donald Trump was one of the first to be sued under the law when it took effect last November, by a writer who said he had raped her in a department store dressing room.

E. Jean Carroll, a columnist, had written of the alleged assault in a 2019 book. He rebutted the accusation, saying it never happened. She initially sued Trump only for defamation because the allegations dated back to the mid-90s and the deadline for filing a legal claim had long since passed. But the Adult Survivors Act cleared the way for a suit claiming sexual assault.

In May, a jury found Trump liable of sexually abusing Carroll, but not raping her. She was awarded \$5 million, including damages for defamation.

Sean "Diddy" Combs, the hip-hop music mogul, was sued this month by three women. The first case was filed in federal court by R&B singer Cassie. She accused Combs of beatings and rape in a long-term relationship, which he denied. They announced a settlement the next day.

## Expiration

Two more women came forward with lawsuits last week, just before the law's expiration. They accuse Combs of sexual abuse in separate incidents dating back to the early 1990s. A spokesperson for Combs denied the allegations.

Harvey Weinstein, already convicted of rape in New York and Los Angeles, was sued in October by Julia Ormond, who accused the movie producer of bringing down her movie career after a sexual assault in 1995.

Weinstein, who is in prison in New York, "categorically" denied the accusations through his attorney.

Among the rush of lawsuits filed in the last days of the law was one against performer **Jamie Foxx**.

A woman who says she asked him for a photo at a New York City rooftop bar in 2015 accuses him of groping her under her clothes.

A representative for the actor said the alleged incident never happened.

In an accusation dating back to the 1970s, a woman has accused Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler of forcibly kissing and groping her.

The woman says she was 17 when she met Tyler in Manhattan in the summer of 1975, and that he assaulted her twice during that day.

Tyler has made no public comment on the accusation.

Bill Cosby was sued by Joan Tarshis, who said she was a young comedy writer when Cosby drugged and assaulted her on two occasions in the years around 1970. She had first made the accusations in 2014, but her ability to sue him was previously limited due to the statute of limitations.

A representative for Cosby didn't respond to questions about the claim, instead citing the number of well-known figures named in lawsuits filed under the act and asking, "When is it going to stop?"

The British comedian and actor was sued under the law by a woman who said she was an extra on the set of the movie "Arthur" in 2010, in which Brand was starring. The woman accused Brand of exposing himself and assaulting her in a bathroom.

He has not commented on the suit, but in connection to claims in British media outlets in September by four women who said he assaulted them, he said his relationships were "always consensual."

Antonio "L.A." Reid was sued by a woman who worked for the Grammy-winning music executive when he was the head of Arista Records.

The woman, Drew Dixon, said Reid sexually assaulted her twice in 2001, and derailed what had been a promising career in the music industry. He hasn't commented on the lawsuit, but denied Dixon's claims when she first made them in 2017.

Guns N' Roses singer Axl Rose was accused by a former model of raping her in 1989 in a New York City hotel room.

Sheila Kennedy said she was diagnosed with anxiety and depression because of the attack, which she has referenced before.

An attorney for Rose said it was a false allegation and never happened.

Boxer Mike Tyson was sued by a woman who said he raped her in Albany, New York, in the early 1990s after she met him at a club and was in his limousine. There was no comment from representatives for Tyson.

The heavyweight boxer spent three years in prison after being convicted of rape in 1992.

Former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who resigned in 2021 after being accused of sexual misconduct, was sued by his former executive assistant. Britany Comisso said she faced sexual harassment and unwanted touching from Cuomo and was punished when she reported the incidents.

Cuomo's attorney called the suit a "cash grab." Cuomo has denied the sexual misconduct allegations. He initially faced a criminal charge but it was dropped by a prosecutor, who cited lack of proof.

Former Grammy Awards CEO Neil Portnow faces a lawsuit filed by a woman who said he sexually assaulted her in 2018. His accuser, a musician who wasn't named in the suit, accused Portnow of drugging her in a hotel room and assaulting her.

A representative for Portnow, who stepped down in 2019, called the accusations "completely false."

Rudy Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City and personal attorney for Trump, is being sued by a woman who says he coerced her into sexual activity while she did work off the books for him.

The woman, Noelle Dunphy, said Giuliani made suggestive comments and demanded sex while she worked for him as a business development director and public relations consultant between 2019 to 2021.



This image released by Beall Productions shows Palestinian actress Hiam Abbass (left), and Lina Soualem in a scene from the documentary 'Bye Bye Tiberias'. (AP) — Details Page 11



Greta Gerwig (left), and Margot Robbie pose together with their global icon and creator tribute awards at the Gotham Independent Film Awards at Cipriani Wall Street on Monday, Nov. 27, in New York. (AP) — Details Page 11



Der Plas



Hilton

## Variety

**ST. PAUL, Minn.:** Iris Logan was having a hard time growing grass in the front yard of her St. Paul, Minnesota, home, so she covered the space with stones, statues and decorative art. More than 30 years later, it's something of a local landmark.

But to a city inspector, it's a nuisance. Logan, 70, has been given notice to clean up the "planters, wood, metal cans, large rocks and miscellaneous debris" cited after a recent inspection, the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported. The City Council will take up the matter Dec. 6.

Logan says the city's actions forced her to create the mosaic in the first place because workers on a road repair project dug so deep around one of her trees that its roots were exposed. She brought in bricks and dirt, planted flowers and added stones — and just kept adding.

"I'm a rock lover," said Logan, a former cotton sharecropper from Mississippi. "I'm not going to lie. If I see a rock I like, I try and roll it in my car on a two-by-four."

Logan recently received written notice that a city official will recommend to the City Council that she be given until Dec. 22 to clean things up. She appealed the order in careful handwriting that filled six pages of a short spiral notebook. The stones don't extend into the street or impede plow trucks or other city vehicles, Logan wrote in addressing one of the inspector's concerns.

"I just want to make a stand for the next person," said Logan, interrupted by a supportive honk and wave from a neighbor driving by. (AP)

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands:** Historical treasures that were stored for years at an Amsterdam museum during an ownership dispute sparked by Russia's annexation of Crimea have been safely transported to Ukraine, the museum announced Monday.

Their transport ends a nearly decade-long legal tug-of-war over the artifacts including a solid gold Scythian helmet from the 4th century B.C. and a golden neck ornament from the second century A.D. that weighs more than a kilogram (two pounds).

"This was a special case, in which cultural heritage became a victim of geopolitical developments," Els van der Plas, director of the Allard Pierson historical museum, said in a statement.

## Music

## Unwrap joy with Ella, Cher, Brandy and more

## Dive into the latest holiday hits

LOS ANGELES, Nov 28, (AP) — What is a holiday season without festive music? The classics are great, but the classics performed by some of the best performers across pop, R&B, rock, opera, soul and beyond? That's a real reason to celebrate.

In honor of the most wonderful time of the year, The Associated Press' Music Writer Maria Sherman has compiled some of the best new holiday releases for your listening pleasure. Because sometimes the best thing that can happen to an old classic is revitalizing it with a new performance.

Don't bore us, get to the chorus — or in the case of this collectible vinyl release of "Ella Wishes You A Swingin' Christmas," give us the hits! Ella Fitzgerald's 1960 holiday record is largely considered by critics to be one of the greatest of all time — so why not celebrate the best of the best on a new piece of wax? It's not a bad gift idea, either.

Somehow, "Christmas" is Cher's first holiday album — not that she hasn't been asked to do one in the past. "I just didn't want to do one," she told the AP. "I didn't know how I was going to make it a 'Cher Christmas album.'" The secret, it turns out, was to get a bunch of A-list collaborators on her album, something she's never done before. There's Cyndi Lauper on "Put A Little Holiday In Your Heart," Stevie Wonder on "What Christmas Means to Me," Darlene Love on "Christmas (Baby, Please Come Home)," Michael Bublé on "Home," and even the rapper Tyga on "Drop Top Sleigh Ride." There's something for everyone, and then some.

For those looking for a seductive holiday album: the search is over. R&B great Brandy has released "Christmas with Brandy," a collection of sultry — and in other moments, soulful — imaginations of Christmas classics and originals. Like on "Christmas Gift," which features her daughter Sy'Rai, and "Feels Different."

Elsewhere, Brandy offers a PG-13

holiday special. "Help me undress, oh, yes / I'll be your present / Just give me your presence / That's all that I'm askin' of you," she sings on chorus of the lead single, "Christmas Party for Two." "Take my body / Boy, you know you got it / Just look what you started / It's a Christmas party for two."

Lifelong fans of the rock band with horns are familiar with Chicago's extensive holiday discography: starting with 1998's "Chicago XXV: The Christmas Album," (reissued in 2003 as "Chicago Christmas: What's It Gonna Be Santa" with six additional tracks), 2011's

## Collection

"Chicago XXXIII: O Christmas Tree," and 2019's "Chicago XXXVII: Chicago Christmas." But the only way to complete the collection — or begin your own, and with just the singles — is to check out "Chicago Greatest Christmas Hits," which pulls from all those releases and is sold in festive red and green vinyl.

Italian opera singer Andrea Bocelli got the whole family together for a new, deluxe edition of their first album together, "A Family Christmas." Andrea, his 26-year-old son Matteo and his 11-year-old daughter Virginia teamed up for the release, adding four new recordings to the collection: "Let It Snow," "Silver Bells," "E' Natale!" and "Winter Wonderland." If you can listen to the famed tenor harmonize with his children and not shed a tear, you're a stronger person than most.

Far too often, holiday albums carry an air of seriousness. But the most wonderful time of the year requires moments of levity — as well as deep existential thought about the nature of love and family and what really matters on this Earth. Enter Wheaties, the '90s radio rock band best known for their ubiquitous hit, "Teenage Dirtbag." "Just a Dirtbag Christmas" plays into the single's popularity, featuring a string quartet version of "Teenage

Dirtbag," as well as a rewritten, holiday-appropriate version of the song. Humor abounds, like in the pop-rocking comedic additions of "You Made Me Believe in Christmas," "Feels Like Christmas," "Mean Christmas." Break out the bucket hat and the Yule log for this one.

No strangers to holiday albums, the dynamic duo of David Foster and Katharine McPhee released their completed "Christmas Songs" collection earlier this year. This is one for the traditionalists among us: jazz-y, theatrical interpretations of Christmas classics that deliver a nostalgic satisfaction, amplified by their combined, immense talent. Well, theirs, and the skills of The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square, whose reimagined "Amazing Grace," arranged by Foster, is a song to behold.

Released nearly two decades after the R&B and soul giant's death, "Luther Vandross Classic Christmas," is a short but memorable modern day Christmas classic: a three-track EP built off the never before released "At Christmas Time," "May Christmas Bring You Happiness," and a special bonus a cappella mix of "At Christmas Time." There's no better time of the year to hear the velvet voice do what he does best.

All is fair in love and war and girl groups. Emmy Award winner Ally Brooke, formerly of Fifth Harmony, is back with a brand-spanking-new Christmas EP titled "Under the Tree." Anchored by the shimmering retro-pop title track, "Under the Tree" is a Brooke original that has her repeating "You can find me under the tree (Under the tree) / I'll be waitin' on Christmas Eve (Christmas Eve) / Baby, unwrap me," in its cheeky chorus. It is light-hearted, amorous fun. And it quickly does a 180, rounding out the tracklist with "White Christmas," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and of course, the classic, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

The museum displayed the 300 artifacts from four museums in Crimea in an exhibition that opened a month before the Russian annexation in 2014.

Both the Ukrainian government in Kyiv and the four Crimean museums that had loaned bronze swords, golden helmets, precious gems and other artifacts to the Allard

Pierson demanded the objects back.

After a series of lower court decisions, the Dutch Supreme Court ruled in June that the museum must return the treasures to Ukraine and not to the four museums from which they originally came for an exhibition titled "Crimea - Gold and Secrets of the Black Sea."

Judges cited the lack of national recognition for the Russia-annexed Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

"Although the museum pieces originate from Crimea and can therefore also be regarded as Crimean heritage, they are part of the cultural heritage of Ukraine," the Supreme Court ruled.

"We are pleased that clarity has emerged and that they have now been returned," Van der Plas said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov reaffirmed Russia's view that the trove should be returned to Crimea.

"It belongs to Crimea and it should be there," Peskov told reporters. (AP)



Members of Riize pose for photos on the red carpet of the Mnet Asian Music Awards (MAMA) at Tokyo Dome Tuesday, Nov. 28, in Tokyo. (AP)

**LOS ANGELES:** In recent years, Paris Hilton has been determined to (somewhat) drop the cutesy facade and show her layers. The second season of "Paris in Love" on Peacock, dropping Thursday, leans into that effort.

First, it introduces Hilton as a new mom. Hilton and husband Carter Reum welcomed son Phoenix via surrogate earlier this year and just revealed a daughter, London. She managed to keep both births a secret, even from her family, until Hilton was ready to announce the news. "It's been really important for me to keep this a secret. It's just the first time that something is just mine," Hilton says in the trailer. New motherhood is never easy though and Hilton must adjust to the needs of her growing family conflicting with her busy schedule. (AP)



The Conversation

Dozens of adolescents dying from drug overdoses every month

US overdose crisis claims over 112,000 lives in 1 year

By Ty Schepis

Texas State University

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

Drug overdose deaths in the United States continue to rise. Overdoses claimed more than 112,000 American lives from May 2022 to May 2023, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a 37% increase compared with the 12-month period ending in May 2020.

The vast majority of those who died were adults. But drug overdoses are killing young Americans in unprecedented numbers: The monthly total rose from 31 in July 2019 to 87 in May 2021, the period with the most recent data.

As a scholar of substance use who focuses on patterns that vary between age groups, I'm struck by how adolescents' overdose deaths differ from adults' in terms of gender, race and ethnicity and the drugs causing these fatalities.

These differences mean that the groups considered to be at high risk and the strategies needed to prevent overdoses in adolescents should not be the same as for adults.

When the CDC examined data for Americans 10 to 19 years old, it found that, as is the case for adults, most adolescents dying from drug overdoses are male. However, the share of girls among these fatalities is larger than the share of women.

More than twice as many boys who are teens or teens are dying of a drug overdose for every girl in that age group.

Fatal

Among adults, three men die of a drug overdose for every two women.

The share of fatal overdoses of white, non-Hispanic adolescents is vastly greater than for their nonwhite peers - more so than for adults.

Another difference is what's causing these fatal overdoses.

Among adults, those who use more than one drug are more likely to die from an overdose than those who use a single drug. The most common combinations are fentanyl with another opioid, like a prescription medication, and fentanyl with a stimulant, like cocaine or methamphetamine.

Fentanyl on its own is the key culprit in adolescent overdoses. For teens, 84% of fatal overdoses involved fentanyl, and 56% of all overdoses involved only fentanyl.

This is consistent with my team's research indicating that rates of prescription opioid misuse fell from 2015 to 2019 in both adolescents and young adults. It also squares with other data that shows deaths from heroin-involved overdoses have declined in recent years.

Fentanyl is among the most potent opioids available. It's estimated to be roughly 100 times more potent than morphine - a very strong opioid typically used in hospital settings. Teens and tweens usually have little tolerance to opioids because they often have not been exposed to them before, and fentanyl's high potency makes them more likely to overdose.

Many adolescents accidentally take fentanyl when they ingest coun-

terfeit pills that they believe are prescription opioids or stimulants, or other illicit drugs that are laced with the drug.

This unintentional use can make an overdose even more likely, because people who are unaware they are taking fentanyl are less likely to have the overdose-reversal medication naloxone or fentanyl test strips on hand.

In 67% of adolescent overdose deaths, a bystander was present who could have intervened. Naloxone was administered in less than half of cases where a bystander was present.

Only 1 in 10 teens and tweens who died from a drug overdose had a history of treatment for a substance use problem, and only 1 in 7 had ever experienced a prior nonfatal overdose. Adolescents who fatally overdose do not necessarily show the warning signs generally expected beforehand, such as problems with alcohol or other drugs or prior substance use treatment.

This pattern underscores the importance that all parents proactively talk with their children about substance use by the time they are 12 years old.

Parents

Parents who express their disapproval of substance use tend to prevent or delay it in their kids. Having children who never use substances may be an unnecessary and unrealistic goal - after all, most adults drink alcohol at least occasionally.

However, parents can emphasize that their child's brain is changing rapidly and significantly and that not using drugs or alcohol while young helps promote healthy development.

Having naloxone available can also be important. It prevents fentanyl and other opioids from causing an overdose by blocking access to opioid receptors in the brain. This potentially lifesaving drug is easy to use, but the cost of the over-the-counter version, which can exceed \$50 for two doses, makes it out of reach for some of the people who need it most.

Think of naloxone like car insurance: You don't want to use it, but it's important to have in case something goes wrong.

Even if your child never tries an illicit drug, they may be able to intervene and save a friend who overdoses. Everyone should know the signs of an opioid overdose - they include shallow or no breathing, problems staying conscious, and cold, clammy skin - and be ready to intervene when they see someone of any age who appears to be experiencing one.

Finally, more than 4 in 10 adolescents who died from an overdose had a history of mental health conditions. That's consistent with research from my colleagues and me linking poorer mental health and opioid misuse in adolescents.

There's also a strong link between mental health conditions and drug overdoses among adults.

For this reason and many others, such as the rising rates of adolescent depression, I recommend that all adults - whether caregivers or other people in an adolescent's life - check in on their mental health regularly and recommend or seek treatment for any concerns as early as possible. (AP)

Climate

A long push for progress and energy to fuel it

How human actions shaped climate crisis?

NEW YORK, Nov. 28, (AP) - Amid record-high temperatures, deluges, droughts and wildfires, leaders are convening for another round of United Nations climate talks later this month that seek to curb a centuries-long trend of humans spewing ever more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

For hundreds of years, people have shaped the world around them for their benefit: They drained lakes, deforested lands and mined for metals and minerals to grow wealth and economies. They dug up billions of tons of coal, and then oil and gas, to fuel empires and economies. The allure of exploiting nature and burning fossil fuels as a path to prosperity hopped from nation to nation, each eager to secure their own cheap energy. Over hundreds of years, that impulse has remade the planet's climate, too - and brought its inhabitants to the brink of catastrophe.

Anya Zilberstein, a historian of climate science at Concordia University in Montreal, highlighted Europeans colonizing the Americas in the 16th and 17th centuries as major factor of today's climate and environmental crises.

"They bring with them this idea that conquest and then the development of the cultivation of landscapes, like taking down trees, opening up lands to European-style agriculture, that the draining of swamps ... will also change the climate, usually for the better," Zilberstein said.

Forests

Jan Golinski, a professor of history at the University of New Hampshire, said Europeans of the time thought that their changes - cutting down forests, draining swamps, plowing land - would change the climate as well, to something closer to their homelands. He said they saw this engineering as positive.

"They believed that their society was making progress," Golinski said.

That early modern period solidified notions of industry, progress, productivity and growth that make it harder to tackle the current climate crisis, Zilberstein said.

Then, in the 18th and 19th centuries, the balance tipped dramatically in coal's favor as an energy source, through technological advances like steam power, new transportation routes like canals and later railroads, and a desire to better control how, when and where energy was used.

Steam power made it easier for factory owners to control labor and nature than an economy based on water power, for example, because they could be set up anywhere and weren't vulnerable to floods or droughts said Andreas Malm, an associate professor of human ecology at Lund University in Sweden.

The British then "forcibly exported this model and integrated other countries such as India or Egypt or what became Nigeria into a kind of an economy that was dependent on fossil fuel," said Malm.

Other nations then began "searching for fossil fuels in various places in the Ottoman Empire, in the Indian subcontinent and elsewhere," said On Barak, a historian at Tel Aviv University and co-founder of the Laboratory for the History of Climate Change.

Then came oil. Oil use grew in the late 19th century because it wasn't as



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (left), talks to journalists, accompanied by Chile's President Gabriel Boric at Chile's Eduardo Frei Air Force Base on King George Island, Antarctica, Friday, Nov. 24. Guterres' visit to Antarctica comes days before nations converge in Dubai for COP28 to address climate change. (AP)

Action urged ahead of COP28 climate talks

UN chief sounds alarm on Antarctic ice melt

KING GEORGE ISLAND, Antarctica, Nov. 28, (AP) - On the cusp of the COP28 climate talks, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited frozen but rapidly melting Antarctica and said that intense action must be taken at the conference where countries will address their commitments to lowering emissions of planet-warming gases.

"We are witnessing an acceleration that is absolutely devastating," Guterres said about the rate of ice melt in Antarctica, which is considered to be a "sleeping giant."

"The Antarctic is waking up, and the world must wake up," he added.

Guterres is on a three-day official visit to Antarctica. Chilean President Gabriel Boric joined him for an official visit to Chile's Eduardo Frei Air Force Base on King George Island.

Guterres also was scheduled to visit the Collins and Nelson glaciers by boat.

He described the U.N. climate change conference that begins in Dubai next week as an opportunity for nations to "decide the phase-out of fossil fuels in an adequate time frame" to prevent

the world from warming 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial temperatures.

Guterres said the COP28 conference also gives nations the chance to commit to more renewable energy projects and to improve energy efficiency of existing grids and technologies.

Responsibility

The U.N. chief also said he thinks that Sultan al-Jaber, the president of the upcoming climate talks and head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, has a "bigger responsibility" to encourage the fossil fuel industry to make more clean energy investments because of his ties to the sector.

"He needs to be able to explain to all those that are responsible in the fossil fuel industry, and especially to the oil and gas industry that is making obscene profits all over the world, that this is the moment to use those profits instead of doubling down on fossil fuels," Guterres said.

Warming air and ocean temperatures are causing Antarctic ice to melt.

The frozen continent plays a significant role in regulating Earth's climate because it reflects sunlight away and drives major ocean currents.

For years, scientists and environmentalists have kept an eye on the West Antarctic Ice Sheet as an important indicator of global warming. A study published in Nature Climate Change last month said warming has increased to the point that the ice sheet will now experience "unavoidable" melting regardless of how much the world reduces emissions of planet-warming gases like carbon dioxide.

The study's lead author, Kaitlin Naughten, estimated that melting ice in Antarctica's most at-risk areas could raise global sea levels by about 1.8 meters (5.9 feet) over the next few centuries.

Another study published in Science Advances, also last month, reported that nearly 50 Antarctic ice shelves have shrunk by at least 30% since 1997 and 28 of those have lost more than half their ice in that short period of time.

Other nations such as China, Japan and India began assembling their own energy regimes based on fossil fuels.

As Europe, the U.S. and Japan built their energy systems around internal combustion engines, it made the global investment in an oil-dominated fossil fuel regime "gigantic and harder, but not impossible, to reverse or replace," McNeill said.

Meanwhile, coal kept its place in the global economy.

In China and Japan, growing consumption was a signal and barometer

of developing economies, said Victor Seow, a historian of science at Harvard University. After the Communist Revolution in 1949, the Chinese government measured growth by its production of items like cloth, electricity, wheat, iron, steel - and coal, too. Japan studied Western mining to develop their own coal fields.

China is now the world's current largest greenhouse gas emitter, although the United States still trumps it historically. India has also become a major coal-burning nation.

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## Sanuja shines as Embassy officials attend event

## Red Dragons clinch victory in CA Sri Lanka's annual cricket tournament

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka Kuwait Chapter recently concluded its Annual Cricket Tournament successfully at Mishref Ground. The one-day event featured limited-over matches, with each innings comprising 8 overs. The tournament witnessed the participation of four teams, namely Green Gators led by Milhan Wahideen, Yellow Eagles by Thariq Ahamed, Red Dragons captained by Sanuja Karunaratna, and Blue Raptors led by Samantha Weerasekara.

## CRICKET

In the final, the Red Dragons emerged victorious over the Green Gators, with Sanuja's explosive batting earning him the title of the best batsman in the tournament. Sanuja, who opened the innings, played a pivotal role in leading the team to victory. The best bowler title was awarded to Firoz Ahmed Shafi Ul Farook of the Yellow Eagles, who secured four wickets throughout the tournament. Mohamed Rilwan Shahul Hameed, a member of the Green Gators who emerged as the runners-up, was honored as the man of the tournament for his consistent and impressive performances in batting, bowling, and fielding. The Yellow Eagles secured the 2nd runners-up position in the battle against the Blue Raptors.



Red Dragons and the organizers pose for a group photo during the awarding ceremony.

The final award ceremony was graced by His Excellency the Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Kuwait,

Kandeepan Balasubramaniam, Minister/Head of Chancery of the Sri Lankan Embassy in Kuwait Mr.

Abdul Haleem, Third Secretary Mr. Bandara Disanayaka, Acting Head of Labour Section Mr. Manjula

Batagoda, and Attaché Mr. Lakmal Weerasuriya.

The tournament was umpired

by Mr. Arshad Hussain Marikkar with the support of leg umpire Mr. Chinthaka Deshapriya Rathnayaka while the scoreboard was monitored and moderated by member Asoka Rupasinghe along with the assistance of Sachini Ariyawickrama, Neluja Fernando, and Isuru Dayaratne.

The President expressed gratitude, stating, "This year's tournament was graced by wonderful weather in Kuwait, and nearly all members, including their families, actively participated in the event. I extend my thanks to His Excellency and his staff for their presence and also express appreciation to the organizing committee, with special acknowledgment to the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Isuru Dayaratne." The success of the event can be attributed to the dedicated efforts of the Executive Committee of CA Sri Lanka Kuwait Chapter, comprising President Dimuthu Ethugala, Vice President Riyaz Jamaldeen, General Secretary Sachini Ariyawickrama, Treasurer Mohamed Murshid, Assistant Secretary Tharindu Rajapaksha, Assistant Treasurer Isuru Dayaratne, and Committee members Mohammed Baseer, Pasindu Karunathilaka, Neluja Fernando, and Chathura Jayasanka.

CA Sri Lanka Kuwait Chapter is an affiliated extension of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka through the patronage of the Sri Lanka Embassy in Kuwait, and the Chapter has 70 members working in Kuwait.

## Bologna return to winning ways as Verona salvage a draw with Lecce

## Girona miss chance to go top

ROME, Nov 28, (AP): Bologna returned to winning ways when second-half goals from Giovanni Fabbian and Joshua Zirkzee beat Torino 2-0 in Serie A on Monday.

Bologna had gone 10 games without defeat before losing to Fiorentina before the international break. It has risen two places to sixth in the league.

Fabbian broke the deadlock for the home side after 56 minutes. The midfielder had a relatively easy finish after goalkeeper Luca Gemello committed himself outside the box. Although Torino defenders scrambled back to

cover, Fabbian slotted the ball with aplomb.

Zirkzee doubled their lead two minutes into injury time. The Turin club matched Bologna for long spells but could not find the net. A win would have given it the honor of becoming only the eighth team in Serie A history to reach the milestone of 3,000 points. It remains in 12th place.

Earlier, Verona twice came from behind to salvage a point against Lecce in a pulsating 2-2 draw.

Verona beat the visitor in their previous four league matches without conceding a goal but it fell behind on the half hour mark when Rémi Oudin hammered in an unstoppable 25-meter strike into the top corner.

Cyril Ngonge levelled four minutes before halftime when he took advantage of slack defending and fired home from a tight angle.

Lecce got its nose in front again midway through the second half thanks to Joan González but Milan Djuric equalized nine minutes later for Verona when he headed home from a Filippo Terracciano free kick.

A point apiece meant Verona remained second from bottom on the table, while Lecce jumped one place to 13th.



In Madrid, Girona missed a chance to return to the top of the Spanish league when it was held at home by Athletic Bilbao to 1-1.

Girona is the surprise team in La Liga and won 11 of its previous 12 games.

## SOCCER

The Catalan side was the more spritely early on and had a first-half goal ruled out after a video review.

It took the lead 11 minutes into the second half when Ukrainian winger Viktor Tsygankov charged into a crowded penalty box and swept home a low cross from the left.

Girona's 19-year-old Brazilian Savinho was once again one of the best players on show and it was his pass that led to Tsygankov's goal.

However, the home side could not retain the lead. Twelve minutes after the opening score Girona defenders failed to halt a run from Inaki Williams and he got off a side-footed shot that sneaked inside the goalkeeper's left-hand post.

The result means Girona remained in second place, tied on points with leader Real Madrid, but four points ahead of Atletico Madrid and Barcelona, who were tied for third.

Bilbao moved to fifth, equal on points with Real Sociedad.

rankings who were not already exempt for the PGA Tour. He posted eight top-10 finishes, including the win in France, and is ranked No. 81 in the world.

"I'm so happy, it's such a surprise," Hisatsune said.

Nick Faldo, Colin Montgomerie, Sergio Garcia and Jon Rahm are among the previous recipients of the award.



Torino's Antonio Sanabria, left, fights for the ball with Bologna's Riccardo Calafiori during the Serie A soccer match between Torino and Bologna at the Renato Dall'Ara stadium in Bologna, Italy, Monday, Nov. 27, 2023. (AP)

## Hisatsune voted as European tour's top rookie

VIRGINIA WATER, England, Nov 28, (AP): Ryo Hisatsune was voted as the European tour's top rookie on Tuesday after a memorable season that saw the 21-year-old Japanese player win the French Open and earn dual membership with the PGA Tour.

Hisatsune became the first Japanese golfer to receive the Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year award, beating a list of contend-

ers that included highly rated Swede Ludvig Aberg.

Hisatsune was outside the world's top 200 at the start of the 2023 season. Three years ago, he lost his card on Japan's leading tour.

Now he's preparing to play against the best in the world on the other side of the Atlantic after finishing among the top 10 players in the European tour's season-ending Race to Dubai

## Weber State routs Navajo Tech

## Madsen, Worster lead Utah to 78-71 victory over Saint Mary's

MORAGA, Calif., Nov 28, (AP): Gabe Madsen and Rollie Worster scored 17 points apiece to lead Utah to a 78-71 victory over Saint Mary's on Monday night.

Madsen made 6 of 11 shots with two 3-pointers for the Utes (4-2). Worster hit 6 of 16 shots with two 3-pointers, adding eight rebounds. Cole Bajema also sank two 3s and scored 14.

Aidan Mahoney scored 22 points on 9-for-13 shooting with four 3-pointers to lead the Gaels (3-4), adding five assists. Alex Ducas hit four 3-pointers and scored 16. Joshua Jefferson pitched in with 14 points and eight rebounds.

Mahoney had 14 points for Saint Mary's and Madsen scored 10 for Utah in a 38-all first half that saw five lead changes and four ties.

Lawson Lovering, who finished with nine points, and Madsen had layups to open the second half and the Utes never trailed again. Saint Mary's didn't score until Ducas hit a 3-pointer with 16 minutes remaining to get the Gaels within a point.

Utah answered with a layup by Keba Deita, a dunk from Madsen and a Lovering layup to take a two-possession lead.

Mahoney hit a jumper to pull the Gaels within 50-48 at the 9:45 mark, but Utah scored its next 12 points at the free-throw line to up its advantage to 62-52 with 6:20 remaining. The Utes maintained a two-possession lead from there.

Branden Carlson, the reigning Pac-12 player of the week after averaging 23.3 points and 6.7 rebounds in Utah's three games at the Charleston Classic, was held to seven points and seven boards.

**San Jose St 78, N. Dakota St 65**  
In San Jose, California, Trey Anderson scored 21 points to lead San Jose State to a 78-65 victory over North Dakota State.

Anderson made 7 of 10 shots with four 3-pointers for the Spartans (5-2), adding seven rebounds. Tibet Gorener scored 15, while Myron Amey Jr. pitched in with 14 points, 10 rebounds and four assists. Alvaro Caredenas added 10 points and seven assists.

Damari Wheeler-Thomas scored 18 to lead the Bison (4-4). Boden Skunberg had 13 points, while Andrew Morgan finished with 10 points and six rebounds.

**Weber State 107, Navajo Tech 45**  
In Ogden, Utah, Steven Verplancken scored 19 points to lead five players in double figures and Weber State cruised to a 107-45 victory over Navajo Tech.

Verplancken made 6 of 9 shots, including 5 of 7 from 3-point range, for the

Wildcats (4-2), adding six rebounds. KJ Cunningham and freshman reserve Marko Sarenac scored 14 apiece. Freshman Viljami Vartiainen came off the bench to score 13. Blaise Threatt pitched in with 10 points, 11 rebounds, seven assists and four steals.

Albrandon Bjoye led the Skyhawks with 11 points.

**San Diego State 71, PLNU 51**  
In San Diego, Jaedon LeDee scored 15 points as San Diego State beat Division II member Point Loma Nazarene 71-51.

LeDee also added 13 rebounds for the Aztecs (6-1). Reese Waters shot 4 for 9 (3 for 6 from 3-point range) and 3 of 3 from the free throw line to add 14 points. Lamont Butler had 10 points and shot 4 for 9 (1 for 4 from 3-point range) and 1 of 3 from the free throw line.

Luke Smith led the way for the Sea Lions with 19 points. Zack Paulsen added 13 points, six rebounds and two steals.

**Louisiana 78, Loyola New Orleans 54**  
In Lafayette, La., Kobe Julien had 19 points, Themus Fulks scored 18 and Louisiana rolled to a 78-54 victory over NIAA member Loyola New Orleans.

## BASKETBALL

Julien added three steals for the Ragin' Cajuns (5-2). Fulks made 7 of 12 shots from the field and 2 for 4 from the line. Michael Thomas had 12 points and shot 5 for 10, including 2 for 4 from beyond the arc.

Milan Mejia finished with 15 points for the Wolf Pack. Loyola-New Orleans also got 10 points, nine rebounds and two steals from Zachary Lee. Eddie Burgess also had six points.

**Washington St 82, E. Washington 72**  
In Pullman, Wash., Freshman Myles Rice had career highs of six 3-pointers and 28 points and Washington State pulled away inside the final nine minutes to beat Eastern Washington 82-72.

Mason Williams scored eight straight points on a pair of 3s and a jumper to pull Eastern Washington to 58-56 with 8:11 remaining. Washington State answered with 10-0 surge, highlighted by Andrej Jakimovski's three-point play and 3-pointer, that stretched the lead to 68-56 with 5:27 to play.

Jake Kyman hit a 3 for Eastern Washington that cut the deficit to 78-72 before Washington State sealed it at the free-throw line.

Rice finished 9-of-16 shooting from the field and 6 of 8 from long range as he continued his strong start, having scored in double figures in five of his first six games.

Oscar Cluff added 12 points for Washington State (5-1). Jakimovski and Rueben Chinyelu scored 11 points apiece and Isaac Jones had 10.



Japan's Ryo Hisatsune loses grip of his club after he tees off on the 11th hole during the Australian Open golf championship at Victoria golf course in Melbourne, Australia, on Dec 2, 2022. A life-changing few days await a number of globally unrecognized players in Dubai this week as they head into the World Tour Championship with far more than winning the season-ending European tour event on their minds. (AP)

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## SPORTS

## Transfer changes expected

## Al Arabi's coach criticizes players after AFC Cup exit

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Al Arabi's Bosnian coach, Darko Nestorovic, expressed disappointment with the performance of Nigerian professional players Anayo Iweala and Senegal's Mamadou Thiam in the recent match against Al-Zawraa of Iraq during the fifth round of the AFC Cup's third group competitions.

The match ended in a 1-1 draw, leading to Al-Arabi's elimination from the qualification race with only 5 points, placing them in third position, 3 points behind Al-Zawraa. Bahraini side Al-Riffa secured qualification for the group with 13 points after defeating Lebanese star 6-1 in the latest match.

## SOCCER

In the post-match press conference, Darko stated, "I removed Iwala and Thiam due to their unconvincing performance in the first half. I brought in the Moroccan Hamza Khaba, who is dealing with an injury."

Considering the upcoming winter transfer period in January, Darko indicated that Al-Arabi's professional players might face scrutiny, especially given the subpar performances of Iwala and Thiam, the decline in Sabar's

## Eager anticipation for the upcoming equestrian league: Al-Ali

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: The Kuwait Equestrian Federation, under the leadership of Masoud Johar Hayat, is gearing up for the commencement of the third edition of the local equestrian league. With the first round scheduled to kick off this Friday, local club riders are set to showcase their skills on the track.

Nabila Al-Ali, the Secretary of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation, expressed confidence in the federation's readiness for the championship. The inaugural round will take place at the Al-Masila Club track in the Subhan area. Al-Ali highlighted the exceptional preparation demonstrated by riders from local clubs, anticipating a season marked by intense competition among riders vying for top positions.

She further explained that each league form, and the challenges faced by Algerian player Sofiane Bouchard.

Highlighting the team's injury concerns and the unpreparedness of several players, Darko emphasized the need for more time to prepare and showcase a distinct performance. He commended the players for their double effort under the current circumstances, acknowledging the notable performances



Nabila Al-Ali, the Secretary of the Kuwait Equestrian Federation.

round spans two consecutive days, and the championship title goes to the rider

of Bandar Al Salama and Hamza Kha-ba despite challenges.

Darko stated that the team, despite having a high spirit, faced unfavorable circumstances. He emphasized that completing the ranks would enable the team to return to delivering strong performances.

On the other side, Al-Zawraa's coach, Egyptian Hossam El-Badry, expressed

accumulating the highest points by the tournament's conclusion. The competitions encompass categories for professionals, amateurs, and juniors.

## EQUESTRIAN

Notably, Ali Jassim Al-Kharafi, representing the Kuwait Equestrian Club, secured the title in the last two league editions. His successful recovery and recent victories in foreign tournaments, including the "Jabez" International Show Jumping Championship, position him as a formidable contender for the upcoming title. The championship event was a "three-star" category competition organized by the Saudi Equestrian Federation.



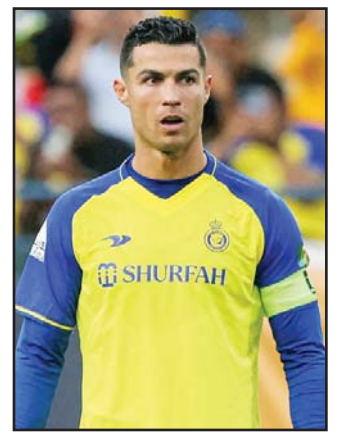
Al-Arabi injured player is attended to.

## Al-Ittihad move into KO stages

## Ronaldo 'rejects' penalty he is awarded in Champions League

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Nov 28 (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo's honesty helped to nullify a penalty he was awarded as his 10-man Al-Nassr side held on to draw with Persepolis of Iran 0-0 in the Asian Champions League.

Ronaldo went down in the box in the opening moments and the referee pointed to the spot, but Ronaldo joined Persepolis players in disputing the penalty. Referee Ma Ning checked the pitchside monitor and overturned his decision.



Al-Nassr Portuguese star Cristiano Ronaldo.

## SOCCER

Al-Nassr defender Ali Lajimi was sent off in the half for a dangerous challenge on Milad Sarlak, and Ronaldo gave his Saudi Arabia team a late scare when he excited with a neck injury.

But Al-Nassr had already qualified for the knockout stages as the Group E winner and advanced unbeaten. The Riyadh team came into the game having won 18 of its previous 19 games in all competitions.

In the same group, Qatar's Al-Duhail earned its first win after defeating Istiklol of Tajikistan 2-0. Prolific Kenyan striker Michael Olunga scored both goals.

Earlier in Group C, Argentine coach Marcelo Gallardo picked up his first win since being appointed by Al-Ittihad this month after the Saudi Arabian champion defeated

AGMK of Uzbekistan 2-1 to move into the knockout stages.

Two goals in four first-half minutes from Moroccan striker Abderrazak Hamdallah gave Al-Ittihad the lead after Karim Benzema missed chances.

Late in the game in Tashkent, Martin Boakye pulled a goal back for AGMK.

"We had to work hard from the first whistle but we kept trying to get forward as much as we could and Hamdallah came good with two well-taken goals," Gallardo said.

The top team from each of the 10 groups of four in the tournament, which is divided into two geographic halves until the final, advances to the round of 16 along with the six best-placed runners-up.

## Willian the hero, Fulham edge Wolves amid VAR controversy



Fulham goalkeeper Bernd Leno makes a save during the Premier League soccer match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Fulham at Craven Cottage, London. (AP)

## O'Neil laments Wolverhampton misfortune from refereeing decisions

LONDON, Nov 28, (AP): Willian converted two of the game's three second-half penalties - including the winner in the fourth minute of stoppage time - to help Fulham defeat Wolverhampton 3-2 in another English Premier League match dominated by VAR calls.

The former Brazil winger's first spot kick in the 59th minute made it 2-1, only for Hwang Hee-chan to win and then convert his own penalty in the 75th to leave an end-to-end game at Craven Cottage heading for a draw.

There was a late twist as Wolves midfielder Joao Gomes miscontrolled the ball in his own area and stuck out his leg, which brushed against Fulham substitute Harry Wilson as he nipped in to take possession.

## SOCCER

After a long video review, the on-field decision to not award a penalty was changed and Willian stepped up to send his kick into the bottom-left corner, giving Fulham a third league win.

Fulham held the lead three times in the match, firstly after Alex Iwobi steered in a cross by Antonee Robinson in the seventh minute. That was canceled out by Brazil striker Matheus Cunha's header in the 22nd.

It was only a second loss in their last eight games for Wolves, whose other defeat in that period - at struggling Sheffield United - also came after conceding a contentious stoppage-time penalty.

Wolves manager Gary O'Neil has lamented his team's misfortune from refereeing decisions this season, starting in the first round in August when Wolves was denied a late penalty against Manchester United for what appeared to be a clear foul by goalkeeper Andre Onana. O'Neil received an apology on that occasion and has been aggrieved at penalties given against his team in draws against Newcastle and Luton.

## Burgan, Kazma emerge victorious Al-Kuwait ascend to summit of volleyball league



Sulaibikhat player spikes the ball as Kazma players defend.



Fulham's Alex Iwobi celebrates scoring their side's first goal of the game during the Premier League soccer match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Fulham at Craven Cottage, London. (AP)

His post-match media duties at Fulham were delayed while he spoke to the match officials. When he did emerge,

O'Neil said referee Michael Salisbury "pretty much admitted that they made a mistake" in awarding the first penalty.

## Burgan, Kazma emerge victorious

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Al-Kuwait volleyball team secured a resounding victory over Al-Qadsia, clinching the match in straight sets 25-22, 25-18, 25-22.

The intense showdown took place at the Federation Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex, marking the third round of the General League. In parallel matches, Burgan dominated Al-Tadamon with an identical scoreline of 25-20, 25-22, 25-13, while Kazma emerged victorious against Al-Sulaibikhat 25-11, 25-15, 25-19.

## VOLLEYBALL

Following these outcomes, the "White" team ascended to the summit of the standings with 8 points, establishing a commanding lead.

Meanwhile, the "Yellow" team's tally remained at 6 points, causing them to slip to fourth place. Burgan joined the top position with eight points, while Solidarity remained scoreless.

The "Orange" team boosted its standing to 7 points, securing the third-place position, while Sulaibikhat remained without a score.

As per the tournament's scoring system, a team winning 3-0 or 3-1 earns 3 points, leaving the defeated team without any points.

In the event of a 3-2 score, the victor receives two points, and the losing side is awarded one point.

## National Guard takes on Industry team in Cup

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: At 8:00 pm today, the National Guard team, reigning champion of the Ministries, Institutions, and Government Bodies League, is set to face off against the Public Authority for Industry team in the Super Cup competition. The event will take place at the Friendship and Peace Stadium in Kazma Club. The Industry team, having secured the runner-up position in the league, will be competing against the Guard, the league and cup champions in the previous edition. According to the Ministries League regulations, if the league champion also clinches the cup title, the league runner-up earns the right to participate in the Super Cup.

## SOCCER

Hamed Al-Hazeem, Acting Deputy Director-General of the General Sports Authority for the Sports for All Sector and Head of the Supreme Committee, affirmed that the Super Cup match marks the commencement of the new season's competitions for the Ministries, Institutions, and Government Bodies League.



Hamed Al-Hazeem, Acting Deputy Director-General of the General Sports Authority for the Sports for All Sector and Head of the Supreme Committee.

The league, featuring 14 teams divided into two groups, is set to kick off in the coming days, with the top teams from each group qualifying for the semi-finals.

## Best of the Rest

**Yarmouk secure win:** Yarmouk Club emerged victorious in the concluding match of the General Tennis League competition, defeating Kuwait with an impressive 3-0 score. The decisive match unfolded on the Tennis Federation courts at the International Tennis Complex.

The final match drew notable attendees, including former National Assembly member Abdullah Al-Adwani, Yarmouk Club's Vice President Hussein Al-Gharib, Abdul-Rida Al-Gharib, Vice President of the Kuwaiti Tennis Federation, and Faleh Al-Otaibi, the Federation's Secretary-General. This distinguished group participated in the award ceremony to crown the deserving winners.

With a total of 16 points, Yarmouk claimed the coveted first place in the competition. Kuwait secured the second position with 15 points, closely followed by Khaitan in third place with 14 points. The league's conclusion marked a fitting end to a series of competitive tennis matches, showcasing the skill and determination of the participating teams.

**Pandya back at Indians:** India allrounder Hardik Pandya sealed his return to Mumbai Indians on Monday in a high-profile trade

ahead of the upcoming Indian Premier League season.

Pandya became a superstar in his home country during his first spell with Mumbai from 2015-21, when he won the title four times. He was released and joined new franchise Gujarat Titans, which he led to the IPL title in 2022 as the team's captain.

Under Pandya, the Titans lost the 2023 final to Chennai Super Kings.

Pandya will reunite with India internationals Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and Suryakumar Yadav in Mumbai, which described him as an "eternal fan favorite."

"From being a young scouted talent of Mumbai Indians to now being a Team India star, Hardik has come a long way and we're excited for what the future holds for him and Mumbai Indians," said Nita. M. Ambani, the team's co-owner.

Mumbai also has traded Australia allrounder Cameron Green to Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Financial details of the two trades weren't disclosed.

Pandya missed much of the recently completed Cricket World Cup because of injury.

The 2024 season of the IPL will take place from late March to late May. (AP)





Indian fans cheer on their team during the third T20 cricket match between India and Australia in Guwahati, India. (AP)

# Sports

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Players reunite at Diwan Al-Jassim

## Al-Arabi veterans' historic gathering: A pledge to restore Kuwaiti sports glory

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: In a groundbreaking initiative, veteran players of Al-Arabi convened at Diwan Al-Jassim in the Al-Qadisiyah area, responding to the invitation extended by Engineer Adel Abdul Aziz Al-Jassim. An esteemed figure, Engineer Adel is not only a former player for Al-Arabi Club and the national team but has also served as a member of the Al-Arabi Board of Directors. In the days of yore, he stood out as one of the prominent strikers and held the position of internal director of the Olympic Committee.

Representatives from various generations, who had previously elevated the stature of Al-Arabi locally, within the Gulf region, across the Arab world, and even in the national football team, gathered at this unique gathering. Reflecting on the sportsmanship of bygone eras in comparison to the present, the attendees noted a significant shift. They observed that in the past, athletes demonstrated compassion, tolerance, and a spirit of close collaboration among players and administrators. Their primary focus was on enhancing Kuwait's reputation, irrespective of personal names or interests. However, they expressed concern that these essential elements were currently lacking in contemporary sports, causing Kuwaiti sport to retract from global prominence to local and Gulf confines.

Among the former "Green" stars present, there was unanimous agreement that a return to the values and ethos of the past is imperative for sports. They pledged to work collectively towards reinstating the principles that had once propelled Kuwaiti sport to global recognition.

The meeting, attended by notable figures such as Engineer Adel Al-Jas-



Al-Arabi veterans pose for a group photo.

sim, Abdul Aziz Al-Amiri, Ali Najaf, Jawad Al-Maqseed, Ali Al-Mulla, Ali Faraj Al-Khudari, Dr. Khalifa Behbehani, Hussein Maqseed, Muhammad Karam, Badr Bu Abbas, Abdul

Redha Abbas, Ahmed Askar, Anbar Saeed, Hamad Abdul Qudus, Majid Sultan, Amer Yasser, Ahmed Khalaf, the esteemed journalist Muhammad Al-Misnad, and sports critic Fathi Al-

Sawah, delved into discussions about the championships each had secured with Al-Arabi or the national team.

Highlighting the impressive track record, it was noted that star goalkeeper

Abdel-Rida Abbas held the record for the most championships won with Al-Arabi and the national team. The meeting concluded with a commitment to future gatherings where all aspects

related to the club, as well as Kuwaiti sports in general, would be thoroughly discussed. The attendees then convened for a lunch graciously hosted by Engineer Adel Al-Jassim.

### Worst in Scotland

#### CL prices are best in Germany

NYON, Switzerland, Nov 28, (AP): When it comes to charging traveling fans for Champions League tickets, German clubs give the best value to away teams and Scottish clubs the worst.

Celtic and Rangers routinely charged visiting fans 70 euros (\$77) - the UEFA-mandated maximum for the away section at Champions League games - last season while Bayer Leverkusen asked for just 15 euros (\$16.50), according to research published Tuesday by Football Supporters Europe.

The FSE, UEFA's official fan liaison group, claimed safe standing areas for away fans at European games was key to driving down prices. The average cost for fans to stand was 28% lower than seated areas at Champions League games.

The average price for an away ticket in the Champions League was 47 euros (\$51.50) last season. Prices had peaked at 119 euros (\$130) five years ago before UEFA capped the ticket price for away fans.

German clubs had four of the five lowest average away prices. Bayern Munich was the exception of the five German teams in the

2022-23 competition.

The FSE wants UEFA to keep up the pricing pressure next season when clubs are set to get more prize money and overall match revenue when the Champions League expands from 32 to 36 teams, with each playing eight games instead of six.

### SOCCER

"It is FSE's firm position that clubs have a responsibility to reward the loyalty of traveling fans and to facilitate affordable pricing, especially considering the increase of revenue for all clubs," Football Supporters Europe Executive Director Ronan Evain said in a statement.

The price cap for away fans in the Europa League last season was 45 euros (\$49) and the average cost was 29 euros (\$32).

In the third-tier Europa Conference League the cap was 35 euros (\$38) and the average was 20 euros (\$22). The most expensive tickets were again in Scotland, charged by Hearts, according to FSE. UEFA lowered the cap to 25 euros this season.

## James suffers worst defeat in NBA career as Embiid, 76ers rout Lakers by 44 points

Wizards halt nine-game losing streak

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 28, (AP): Joel Embiid had 30 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists to help the Philadelphia 76ers rout LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers 138-94 on Monday night.

The reigning NBA MVP, Embiid notched his sixth career triple-double with 2 minutes left in the third quarter. It was Embiid's first of the season and his seventh career game with 10-plus assists.

Embiid's anticipated showdown with James never really materialized. James scored 18 points in 29 minutes but nothing he did could make a dent in the 76ers' lead. He has now played more minutes than any player in NBA

history, with playoff time included.

Tyrese Maxey scored 31 points for the 76ers. Anthony Davis had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers. Embiid sat out the entire fourth quarter and the 76ers still outscored the Lakers 40-14.

**Nuggets 113, Clippers 104**

In Los Angeles, Reggie Jackson scored 35 points, DeAndre Jordan had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and Denver rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Los Angeles without Nikola Jokic.

### BASKETBALL

Former Clippers Jackson and Jordan combined for 20 points in the fourth, when the Nuggets trailed by 11 to start. Jackson began and ended a 22-6 spurt with 3-pointers that put the Nuggets ahead 99-94. In between, he fed Jordan for two vicious dunks.

The Nuggets were missing starters Jokic, Jamal Murray and Aaron Gordon, who average a combined 58.2 points. Jokic sat out the second game of a back-to-back because of low back pain. Murray has a right hamstring strain and Gordon has a right heel strain.

Kawhi Leonard led the Clippers with 31 points and Ivica Zubac had 23 points and 14 rebounds. Paul George picked up his fourth and fifth fouls early in the fourth. He finished with six points on 2-of-13 shooting.

**Wizards 126, Pistons 107**

In Detroit, Kyle Kuzma had 32 points and 12 rebounds as Washington ended a nine-game losing streak with a rout of Detroit in a matchup of the NBA's worst teams.

Washington (3-14) won for the first time since a 132-116 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Nov. 8. The Pistons (2-15) have lost 14 straight after



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid (left) goes up for a shot against Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Philadelphia. (AP)

beating the Chicago Bulls 118-102 on Oct. 28.

Kuzma, playing in his home state, added eight assists while committing two turnovers. Deni Avdija and Danilo Gallinari scored 16 for the Wizards.

Cade Cunningham led the Pistons with 26 points and seven assists. Jalen Duren had 12 points and 14 rebounds.

**Trail Blazers 114, Pacers 110**

In Indianapolis, Jerami Grant scored 34 points and Deandre Ayton had 22 points and 13 rebounds to power Portland past Indiana.

Malcolm Brogdon added 24 points for the Trail Blazers, including a game-sealing basket in the closing seconds.

Tyrese Haliburton led Indiana with 33 points. Bruce Brown, Myles Turner and Bennedict Mathurin each had 11, but the Pacers were slowed by 20 turnovers and 8-for-33 shooting from 3-point range.

**Jazz 114, Pelicans 112**

In Salt Lake City, Rookie Keyonte George scored a season-high 19 points to lead Utah over New Orleans for a sweep of their two-game series.

Jordan Clarkson chipped in 16 points and 10 assists for the Jazz. Walker Kessler added 14 points and eight rebounds off the bench. Simone Fontecchio scored 14 points.

Utah beat New Orleans for the fifth straight time and second time in three days after making 17 3-pointers, including six in the fourth quarter.

### Galatasaray loom

Man United 'set' for another fiery match

ISTANBUL, Nov 28, (AP): If it wasn't the signs at the airport, it was the bell boy at the team hotel performing a throat-slitting gesture as the players arrived.

Or the deliberately timed phone calls during the night to disrupt sleep, and the mud and flags thrown at the bus to the stadium.

Or the riot police bundling players down the steps to the locker room with their shields after the match.

Manchester United's first Champions League match against Galatasaray at the Turkish team's Ali Sami Yen Stadium has gone down in lore. Thirty years later, United is back in Istanbul and again fighting to stay in the competition - something it failed to do back in 1993.

"It was probably the most intimidating atmosphere I ever played in," then-United midfielder Bryan Robson has said.

### SOCCER

United's players probably thought their Premier League match on Sunday against a fired-up Everton seething with resentment at the perceived injustice of a 10-point sanction for financial mismanagement was a tough gauntlet to run.

Wednesday's match against Galatasaray promises to be as - if not more - fiery.

There's plenty on the line, too, like there was in 1993 when United could only draw 0-0 and was eliminated on away goals after a 3-3 draw at Old Trafford to miss out on a place in the group stage.

This time, a defeat would end United's chances of reaching the round of 16, with Erik ten Hag's team having lost three of its first four Group A matches - including at home to Galatasaray on Oct. 3.

United starts the game in last place on three points, one behind both Galatasaray and FC Copenhagen. Bayern Munich is on 12 and has already qualified as group winner ahead of its home match against Copenhagen.

Al-Qadsia praised for exceptional organization of Asian Club Championship

## Kuwait Club's Hassan Safar named best goalkeeper as Asian Handball Federation honors outstanding players

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 28: Hassan Safar, the goalkeeper of the Kuwait Club handball team, was selected as the outstanding goalkeeper by the Asian Handball Federation in the recently concluded 26th Asian Club Championship. The tournament, which took place at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex, saw the Saudi Gulf team claim the championship title, with Qatari Al-Arabi securing the runner-up position and Al-Qadsia earning third place.

### HANDBALL

The Asian Handball Confederation also recognized Vladan from Al-Qadsia as the best right-hander and Kōsiko Yasuhira from Japan as the best playmaker. Other notable awards included Hussein Al-Sayyad from the Saudi Arabia's Al-Khaleej, who was named the tournament's best player, Youssef Bin Ali as the best player in the district, and Mujtaba Al-Salem as the best left back. The best left winger title went to Anis Zawawi from Al-Arabi-Qatari, while Nidal Issa was honored as the best right winger.

The closing ceremony, where the winning teams were crowned, was attended by key figures such as Badr Al-Dhiyab,

Vice President of the International Handball Federation, Youssef Al-Baidan, Director of the General Sports Authority, and Sheikh Fahad Talal Al-Fahad, Vice-President of Al-Qadsia Club.

Expressing gratitude, Badr Al-Dhiyab thanked Al-Qadsia Club for their exceptional organization and the effort invested throughout the tournament. He extended appreciation to the passionate fans and all participating clubs. Sheikh Khaled Al-Fahad, President of Al-Qadsia Club and Chairman of the Supreme Organizing Committee, thanked ministries, state institutions, working committees, and

volunteers for their contributions to the success of the tournament.

He praised the collaboration and effort that showcased Kuwaiti sports in a deserving light. Sheikh Khaled Al-Fahad congratulated the Al-Khaleej on clinching the Asian Championship title and extended congratulations to Al-Arabi, the Qatari club securing the runner-up position, and Al-Qadsia for achieving third place. Fadel Al-Nimr, President of the Arab and Saudi Handball Federations, commended Al-Qadsia's successful organization of the tournament, highlighting their consistent excellence in hosting major events.



The best players of the 26th Asian Club Handball Championship.