



KUWAIT URGES U.N. TO BAN USE OF STARVATION AS WEAPON

Gaza suffers unprecedented losses



Palestinians rescue a survivor of Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Nusseirat refugee camp, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023. (AP)

Kuwait sends more aid as medical facilities forced to close

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24, (Agencies): The second relief aid plane for the Gaza Strip departed Kuwait on Tuesday carrying ten tons of materials and supplies.

This batch of relief aid was made possible due to the cooperation between the International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) and the Al-Salam Islamic charitable society in line with the Kuwaiti leadership's directives.

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said Monday official and civilian agencies are working together for an air bridge to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The minister made the remark while briefing a customary cabinet meeting on Kuwait's humanitarian initiative to help Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Earlier in the day, Sheikh Salem Abdullah announced the launch of relief operations through an air bridge to Palestinians in Gaza.

During the cabinet meeting, the minister said the initiative, which reflected Kuwait's principled and relentless stance on the Palestinian cause, was directed by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

He added that the Kuwaiti air bridge would be overseen by the ministries of foreign affairs, defense and health and the Air Force, in collaboration with Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Kuwait Relief Society and other humanitarian charities.

Kuwait urged on Tuesday the international community, represented by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), to prevent the use of starvation as a military and political weapon against Palestinians in Gaza, and to ensure delivering humanitarian aid to them.

Kuwait's permanent representative to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Yousef Jheil made the remarks during the UN committee's annual meeting, which was held at FAO's headquarters addressing the starvation and the siege imposed by the Israeli government on the people of Gaza.

Jheil also said that Kuwait appeals to the member states of CFS to adhere to the right to food for all and without discrimination in accordance with the Charter of the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations.

He also called on member states and the international community to accelerate the delivery of food and humanitarian aid to the besieged Gaza Strip, calling on FAO and all its member states to search for urgent solutions to confront the acute shortage of food and water in the Strip.



Kuwait relief aid heading to the Gaza Strip. KUNA photo

Representatives of member states from various regions of the world supported Kuwait's position in support of saving the Palestinian people from the threat of starvation.

Meanwhile, the Turkish Defense Ministry said on Tuesday that two relief aid planes were on their way to Egypt to deliver relief aid to the Gaza Strip.

In a statement, the ministry revealed that the plan left Ankara at 6:00 am and 7:30 am respectively as part of the continuous efforts to deliver necessary aid to the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip who are persistently bombarded by the vicious Israeli occupation forces.

The number of Palestinians killed in Gaza since beginning of Israeli occupation aggression surged to 5,792 martyrs on Tuesday, reported the local health authorities in Gaza, adding that 2,360 of those killed were children, 1,292 were women and 295 elderly.

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Day by Day

THE meeting between His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., on the sidelines of the ASEAN and Gulf Cooperation Council summit held in Riyadh - and as the news report says - touched on the issue of Filipino workers, many of whom work in Kuwait as well as in Gulf countries and are in high demand. Now, the First Deputy Prime Minister

and Minister of the Interior, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled, is required to expedite the implementation of what was agreed upon to help these workers to return to Kuwait.

Your Excellency the Minister, this agreement is a joy for Kuwait, and the return of these workers is needed and welcomed.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Opinion

'Hamas' ... what's next?

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

WHEN a faction acts alone without realizing the consequences, it must have calculations for every reaction, instead of just deliberately awakening a monster like the Israeli monster that is thirsty for blood and destruction.

In doing so, it commits a foolishness that no one can justify, no matter how glamorous it is to excite the masses. Chants do not restore the soul of a dead person, or build a house that gets destroyed. Therefore, lessons must be present in the mind of the leader when he plans any event.

In this regard, I remember when the Arab Summit Conference was held in Baghdad, after the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had signed the Camp David Agreement. I met him on the same day and he told me, "The important thing is that I get the Israelis' signature. The Arab reactions can be overcome later, when the Arabs realize what benefit they and Egypt will get from this agreement."

At that time, the international atmosphere was comfortable about such a big step, and US President Jimmy Carter put pressure on it to succeed. He linked it to the conservative Christian religious dimension. However, Carter paid the price for this by not winning the elections for the second time, as the Jewish lobby was the echo of the voice of Jewish extremism in Israel that rejected a solution based on two states - Palestinian and Israeli.

That day, Cairo stood firm in its position, and years later, the Arabs returned to it when they realized that it had overcome Israeli arrogance with peace.

It is true that the scene in some of its details is different from what it was in the 1973 war, and the apparent results to date are different from what was in that war.

However, what is certain is that everyone must sit at the negotiating table and realize that solutions through fire, killing and destruction will be a loss for both parties, especially the weaker party, which is the Palestinian.

Today, Gaza has been destroyed, and the demand for the displacement of its residents to Sinai has become a general Western position. When the number of people displaced from their homes reaches 1.4 million people, the number of dead and wounded reach more than 20,000, and the number of homes destroyed is about 17,000, victory will become dull and costly. Neither the Al-Qassam Brigades nor Hamas will benefit from it, while the Israeli government insists on eradicating them.

This is because the official Arab position was not up to the level of the event, and there was no help, given the magnitude of the tragedy that the people of Gaza are experiencing.

On the other hand, the areas controlled by the National Authority are living in peace, despite the skirmishes caused by the Jihad and Hamas groups in the West Bank. This is due to the fact that the authority was not involved in this process.

The world rejected the Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, and mobilized to support Israel. Tel Aviv was crowded with Western visitors, including presidents, foreign and defense ministers, and now the United States is mobilizing its military forces to support it.

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NewsWatch

RIYADH: The 7th meeting of the Future Investment Initiative (FII) kicked off in Riyadh on Tuesday, with the participation of Kuwaiti Finance Minister Fahad Al-Jarallah.

In the opening speech at the event, FII CEO Richard Attias said that the future of human values are a top priority, as the world is rapidly changing in this era, alongside these values, "that organized our societies for centuries."

The current challenges facing the world, including climate change, conflicts and diseases, require cooperation to find solutions, he noted.

It is important that all societies accept diversity and encourage innovation and creativity. "Enhancing education and knowledge is key to keep up with this age of fast technology growth," said Attias. (KUNA)

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday signed Sweden's NATO accession protocol. The protocol was submitted to parliament to set a date for vote during a general assembly, according to Turkey's Communications Directorate.

After Russia had launched its military action in Ukraine in February 2022, Finland and Sweden applied for NATO membership.

All NATO members, including Turkey, must approve any new members of the alliance. (KUNA)

BANGKOK: Zhang Hongliang, a former restaurant manager in central China, took various gigs in and outside China to support his family after losing his job during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In March, a job offer to teach Chinese cooking at a restaurant led him into a cyber scam compound in Myanmar, where he was instead ordered to lure Chinese into giving up their savings for fake investment schemes via social media platforms.

Zhang is one of tens of thousands of people, mostly but not all Chinese, who have become ensnared in cyber scam networks run by powerful Chinese criminal syndicates in Southeast Asia. Regional and Chinese authorities have netted thousands of people in a crackdown, but experts say they are failing to root out the local elites and criminal networks that are bound to keep running the schemes.

When scam operations are shut down in one place they often just resurface elsewhere. The problem is an embarrassment for Beijing and is discouraging ordinary Chinese from traveling to Southeast Asia out of fear they might be duped or kidnapped and caught up in a cyber scam operation. (AP)

DHAKA: The bodies of at least 17 people were recovered from a train crash outside the Bangladesh capital that may have occurred after one of the trains disregarded a red signal, officials said Tuesday.

The rescue operation was halted early in the morning a day after rescuers and residents together extracted passengers from the wreckage, said fire official Mosharrif Hossain at Bhairab, in the central district of Kishoreganj. He said 26 others were injured. (AP)



HH the Crown Prince is greeted upon his arrival in UK.

Crown Prince arrives in UK

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation arrived in the UK on Tuesday at the official invitation of King of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland Charles III.

His Highness the Crown Prince was received at the airport by Kuwaiti Ambassador in the UK, Bader Mohammad Al-Awadi, UK Ambassador in Kuwait Belinda Lewis, UK Military

Attache in Kuwait Paul Mulvaney, Kuwaiti Embassy staff and chiefs of accredited attached and technical offices in London. (KUNA)



Crown Prince Diwan photos

Lawmaker questions ministry building rental procedures

MPs leave IPU session over Gaza remarks

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh
Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Head of the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation to the 147th International Parliaments Union (IPU) Assembly MP Muhammad Al-Mahan walked out of the session hall during the speech of IPU President Duarte Pacheco who expressed support for the Israeli attacks on Gaza.

The delegation included Kuwait's Inter-Parliamentary Group Treasurer MP Hamad Al-Obaid and member MP Fahd Falah Bin Jame'e.

The IPU Assembly is being held in Angola from Oct 23-27 with the theme: "Parliamentary Action for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions".

The Kuwaiti delegation submitted a proposal to hold an emergency IPU Assembly to discuss the ongoing violent acts in Gaza, Palestine.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary committee tasked to investigate violations in the distribution of industrial and craft plots met with representatives of the State Audit Bureau (SAB) on Tuesday. They discussed the report of SAB for fiscal 2022/2023, particularly the comments or observations against the Public Authority for Industry (PAI).

They also talked about the committee's report on the issue, which will be presented to National Assembly at the beginning of the upcoming session.

In addition, the Education, Culture and Guidance Affairs Committee on Tuesday discussed the Media Bill submitted by the Ministry of Information in the presence of Minister of Information, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi; senior officials at the Ministry of Information; and representatives of Kuwait University (from the College of Law and College of Arts - Mass Media Department).

On the other hand, MP Fahd Falah Bin Jame'e forwarded queries to all ministers about the procedures they adopted for renting buildings from the private real estate sector. He wants to know the number of buildings rented and amount of rent paid annually by every ministry. He requested for copies of rent contracts signed by every ministry and their subsidiaries from Jan 1, 2020 till date. He inquired if the rent procedures are completed by the ministries or by certain committees. If the procedures are completed by committees, he asked about the criteria in forming such committees and demanded for copies of the minutes of relevant meetings. He wants to know if the ministries are conducting studies to dispose the rented buildings and replace them with permanent buildings owned by each ministry in order to save public money. He then requested for copies of the comments or observations recorded by SAB about the rent contracts and the response of the ministries.

MP Jenan Bu Shehri asked Minister of Justice and Housing Affairs Fahd Al-Raqaba if the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has contacted the Legal Advice and Legislation Department to request for its definition of the term 'local or national product'. If yes, she requested for copies of all relevant correspondences. She wants to know if there are contradictions in the procedures adopted based on the department's definition.

MP Hamad Al-Medlej asked Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Mane'e to provide him with the number of Kuwaiti students who graduated from the secondary stage in the last five years classifying them according to their grades, number of Kuwaiti students who enrolled at Kuwait University in the last five years, and number of Kuwaiti students facing problems in completing their studies in medical colleges in the last five years classifying them into those who studied in public, private and other schools.

He also wants to know the criteria for the recruitment of university staff.

MP Hamad Al-Matar forwarded queries to Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah about the number and names of companies which transferred one percent of their annual profits to the ministry as per Zakat Law number 46/2006. He wants to know the total amount collected, share of every company, and way of spending the collected Zakat in the last five years.



## Prayer Timings

Fajr ..... 04:36 Asr ..... 14:44  
 Sunrise .. 05:56 Maghrib .. 17:09  
 Zohr ..... 11:32 Isha ..... 18:27

# Local

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

## Expected weather for the next 24 hours:

**By Day:** Rather hot and cloudy with light to moderate freshening at times northeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 12-45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times and a chance for rising dust over

## Weather

open areas.

**By Night:** Mild and cloudy with light to moderate northeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 10-42 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times and a chance for fog forming over some areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	35	26
Kuwait Airport	35	20
Abdaly	34	20
Jahra	35	22
Salmiyah	32	27
Ahmadi	33	29
Nuwaisib	36	21
Wafra	36	19



Indonesia's Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Lena Maryana (left) and the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Dr. Amani Bouqammaz at the ceremony.



US Charge d'Affaires to the country James Holtsnider and other diplomats.

## 78th Independence Day marked

## 'Indonesia, Kuwait relations strong, see steady growth'

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Indonesia's Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Lena Maryana, said cooperation between her country and Kuwait has not stopped at any moment, but is witnessing a steady growth in all fields, whether at the bilateral, regional or international levels.

She was speaking during a reception at the Regency Hotel to commemorate the 78th anniversary of her country's Independence Day, in the presence of the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Dr. Amani Bouqamz.

The Indonesian envoy added that at the regional level, Kuwait and Indonesia adopt common positions on many issues, and the mutual visits of leaders of the two countries and senior officials reflect the strength of relations between the two friendly countries.

She said this year also witnesses the celebration of the 55th anniversary of the inauguration of diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Kuwait, which began on February 28, 1968. This year also marks the 78th anniversary of the establishment of the Indonesian Armed Forces, which fell on October 5, 2023. October 22 marks the anniversary of Santri Day, which symbolizes the students of Islamic law at the Pesantren Boarding School in Indonesia.

She stressed that Kuwait is one of the most important trading partners with Indonesia, as Indonesia is working to increase trade exchange with it, which recorded 316 million US dollars in 2022, representing a 150% increase compared to the previous year.

She pointed out that the Indonesian Embassy, in cooperation with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is scheduled to organize the industrial trade exhibition scheduled to be held in Kuwait on November 14, 2023.

Indonesia, she said, also provides a promising investment opportunity in the new capital, Nusantara, which will depend on sustainable development and environmentally friendly technology, and who is targeted? To become a global capital by 2045. She said that there are 6,154 Indonesian residents in Kuwait, who consider it their second home, some of whom spent most of their lives in Kuwait, and work in various fields of health, oil and gas, hotels and industry.

The Indonesian Ambassador, confirmed that in response to the instructions of the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers, and in view of her country's positions in support of the Palestinian cause, it was decided to cancel the concerts held by the embassy as an expression of solidarity with the Palestinian people who are subjected to Israeli aggression.



Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah receives German lawmaker Dr. Christoph Bloss.

## Deputy FM receives German lawmaker

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Al-Sabah held talks on Tuesday with the chief of a German parliament committee on relations with Arab countries Dr. Christoph Bloss, focusing on bilateral ties.

The German lawmaker, accompanied by a parliamentary delegation, also discussed with the Kuwaiti diplomat current happenings around the world. (KUNA)

## Kuwait to see 3 'astronomical' phenomena during November

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Al-Ujairi Scientific Center said Monday, that Kuwait will witness three astronomical phenomena during the month of November, including the Leonid meteors that will decorate the sky in the middle of next month.

The center added that the most prominent of these phenomena and the most important for monitoring and follow-up is the Leonid meteors into the skies of Kuwait, which will be at their peak between Nov 14 and Nov 17.

The center added that the Leonid meteors are active annually between Nov 6 and 30 and their source is dust particles from the comet (Tempel-Total). They are medium-sized meteors, producing on average at their peak between 10 and 15 meteors per hour.

In the same context, the center indicated that on November 3, observers and those interested in astronomy will

be able to view Jupiter throughout the night.

The center stated that the moon will be full on November 27, while the crescent of Jumada al-Awal will be born on the Nov 14, and the beginning of that month will be on Wednesday, November 15.

**New emergency room:** The Farwaniya Hospital has officially commenced the trial operation of its new emergency room, assessing its emergency preparedness as it gears up for its opening next Monday.

The trial run was conducted under the watchful guidance of Dr. Muhammad Al-Rashidi, Director of the Farwaniya Health District, Dr. Ali Al-Mutairi, the Hospital's Director, and Dr. Ahmed Al-Dosari, the Head of the Kuwait Medical Authority, reports Al-Rai daily.

## Housing Crisis -- Part III (Last)

# 'No homes after 25 years'

'Banks must join fray; need to spike loans'

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

## KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Different communities called for the involvement of local banks and real estate developers to solve the housing crisis.

They stressed that, "The government and the National Assembly did not achieve anything to solve the crisis. Some people waited for more than 19 years, and some even 25 years, but they did not receive housing care."

According to an investigative report by Al-Seyassah, they called for exploiting the rent allowance, which amounts to about KD 250 million annually, to solve the housing crisis or build towers in which citizens can live until they obtain housing care.

They stressed that the idea of a mortgage is not feasible for several reasons.

According to former Municipal Council member Eng. Maha Al-Baghli, the entry of local banks would contribute to solving the problem in terms of raising the value of the loan so that citizens can build their houses, especially since the housing loan of KD 70,000 that the state provides to citizens is not enough to build the plot.

She affirmed that the entry of banks will move the banking sector as well as the contracting companies, indicating that the municipality is doing its duty in terms of allocating land and cooperating with all the concerned authorities, due to which the issue of non-availability of lands does not constitute an obstacle in solving the housing crisis.

Eng. Al-Baghli said she believes the expansion of construction in areas near the border is a good idea, provided that construction is done gradually, and all difficulties are overcome.

She revealed that the residents of Sabah Al-Ahmad are still suffering from the lack of government services and other services.

## Crisis

In this context, Head of a contracting company Ahmad Al-Khasnam affirmed that the government and the National Assembly have not realized any significant achievement in resolving the housing crisis, and all their promises are evaporating in the air.

He lamented that local contracting companies cannot solve the housing crisis due to the government's lack of support for private companies.

Al-Khasnam said, "I have been waiting for residential care for 19 years, and perhaps I will get it after 25 years. In fact, the majority of citizens suffer because of the delay in obtaining residential care. I wonder how long this suffering would continue? Has the property become the property of the heirs of the citizen? Doesn't a newly married citizen have the right to enjoy his housing right?"

He explained that his brother-in-law obtained a housing loan of KD 70,000 five years ago but has not been able to complete the construction until now due to the lack of both the loan and experience. The solution lies in relying on international companies specialized in construction.

Meanwhile, a real estate expert Hamad Abdul Wahab said he considered the housing problem is one of the largest aggravating crises that successive governments have failed to solve, which led to the accumulation of about 100,000 applications. This means that there are 100,000 Kuwaiti families waiting in line for housing care. This confirms that more than one third of the Kuwaiti population suffer from moving from one residence to another.

He stated that new housing requests increase annually by about 8,000 requests.

Abdul Wahab called on the state to exploit the rental allowance, which amounts to about KD 250 million annually, to solve the housing crisis or build residential towers in which citizens can live until they receive housing care.

He explained that the reason for the increase in land prices in Kuwait is the state's monopoly of more than 90 percent of the lands, which leads to a lack of supply in the market and an exorbitant increase in real estate prices. Since the government stopped allocating areas for investment housing, it has contributed to converting residential properties into investment ones and transforming some model areas into investment areas.

Abdul Wahab attributed the delay in resolving the housing crisis to several factors, the most prominent of which is the failure to appoint housing ministers from the category specialized in this field, as selection is made according to favoritism and to satisfy sectarianism, tribalism, and partisanship, in addition to the lack of sufficient interest by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry to solve this crisis, and the government's failure to market the idea of housing in remote areas.

## Developer

He stressed that if the real estate developer had been activated effectively, it would have contributed to resolving the crisis, indicating that his idea is to provide housing care for citizens through cooperation with the private and banking sectors and real estate development companies.

Furthermore, Secretary of the Real Estate Owners Union Qais Al-Ghanim affirmed that the Hessa Al-Mubarak housing project is an experiment that was applied in some areas, including the Jaber Al-Ahmad area.

He revealed the existence of views that see the importance of having these investment and commercial projects in private residential areas to enjoy vitality.

Having a real estate developer is not only about citizens obtaining loans for construction, but it can be through a company or legal person who obtains lands from the state and builds real estate projects on them, provided that the state markets them. Those real estate projects can be sold through the person who built them.

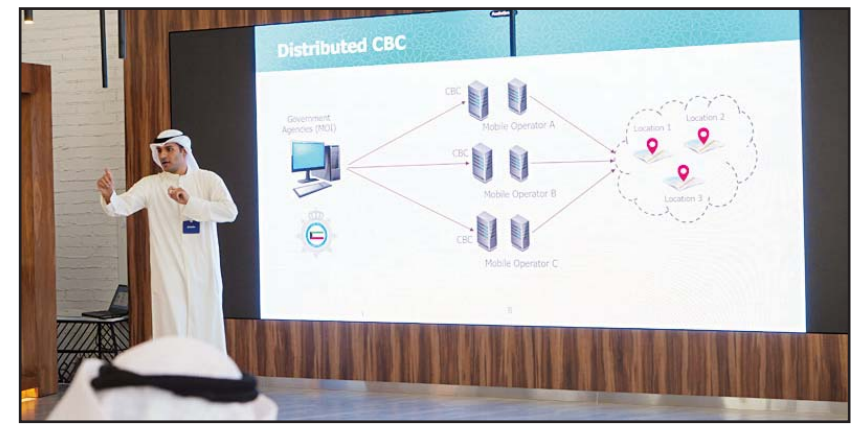
There is no law that allows foreign companies to build through a real estate developer, but what happens on the ground is that foreign companies build housing cities through tenders only.

He added, "Expanding the construction of housing cities in remote areas first requires the citizen's acceptance of this, especially since the Sabah Al-Ahmad area, for example, still suffers from a lack of services."

In addition, Turki Al-Osaimi, Chairman of the Sabah Al-Ahmad Residents Committee, indicated that the residents of the area continue to suffer from the absence of services until now. He stressed that the state provided only housing to citizens in Sabah Al-Ahmad area.

Al-Osaimi asked, "Where are the ministries and agencies that obtained land from the state to build government services since 2014 and until now? Why have courts, schools, hospitals, clubs, technical inspection of cars, etc. not been built?"

If the state is serious about solving the housing crisis by building in remote areas, it must implement services in conjunction with building housing cities so that residents do not suffer from what we suffer."



Zain's team demonstrated the network's readiness for the system.



Al Hasawi and Hayat with Malek Al Sabah, Zain's team, and CITRA & Mol officials.

## Zain, Mol, CITRA successfully check early 'warning system'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Continuing its proactive approach in adopting the latest socially impactful technologies, and in line with its journey to empower full digital transformation in Kuwait, Zain today announces that it has successfully tested the early warning system (EWS) with the Ministry of Interior and the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA). The move aims to strengthen the nation's security system during major crises.

The test was conducted at the Zain Innovation Campus (ZINC) in the company's headquarters in Shuwaikh, attended by CITRA board member Dr. Waleed Al Hasawi, CITRA Chief of Telecommunications Sector Amer Hayat, Zain Kuwait Chief Government Affairs and Business Development Officer Malek Jaber Al Sabah, and a number of officials from the Ministry of Interior.

After the test was successfully completed, Zain's Core Networks team showcased in a presentation the company's full readiness for the rollout of the early warning system as soon as it is officially introduced by Kuwait's authorities, allowing them to send out instant warnings via smartphones to alert citizens and residents of any major crises or emergencies.

The announcement comes in line with Zain's unwavering efforts to adopt the latest

and most advanced digital applications and solutions to contribute to achieving the nation's developmental goals, strengthen its security, and help protect and save lives. The company will not spare any efforts to make its tech capabilities and expertise available to serve the nation's needs.

The early warning system is an essential digital tool that contributes to saving lives during major crises and emergencies and can complement the currently used siren systems. EWS allows authorities to instantly send visual and audible alerts directly to every smartphone within any given geographical area as long as it is connected to a network. The system can be used to warn users of any imminent or ongoing natural crises like major fires, floods, hurricanes, air and water pollution, or tremors and earthquakes. EWS use cases also include incidents like crimes, industrial accidents, missing persons, epidemics, evacuations, or any other significant public announcements.

Zain steadily continues its journey towards empowering full digital transformation in all of Kuwait's most vital sectors, leveraging on its leadership and solid infrastructure. The company will always seek to serve the nation's needs, reflecting the private sector's role as a strategic partner and a main pillar of the New Kuwait vision.



Othman Tawfeeq, General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB, and Bader Al-Mubarak, Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Kuwait Association for Needy Families (KANF), in a group photo with employees of KIB and KANF after the signing of the MoU. From the right: Fahad Al Sarhan, Senior Manager of External Communication at KIB, Ahmed Al-Hussain, Head of the Oversight and Development Department at KANF. Eng. Bader Al-Mubarak, Chairman of the Board of Directors at KANF. Othman Tawfeeq, General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB. Musab Al-Shalan, Deputy General Manager of the Retail Banking Department at KIB. Ali Alhashash, Head of Collections at KIB.

## KIB signs 1-year MoU with KANF

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced signing a one-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kuwait Association for Needy Families (KANF). The MoU aims to strengthen cooperation between the two parties, in line with the goals of the Bank's pioneering social responsibility program.

Commenting on the agreement, Ali Alhashash, Head of Collections at KIB, said: "Signing this MoU is a testament to the mutual interests of both the Kuwait Association for Needy Families, as a public welfare entity, and KIB, as an organization that plays a leading role in promoting community welfare. Both parties aim to enhance their role in promoting cooperation and collaboration between all official and civil entities to help those struggling financially and incapable of paying off their liabilities. Under a long-term vision that seeks to boost social safety, the MoU will provide this segment of people with an opportunity to overcome their social and financial hardships in accordance with specific controls. The Bank and the Association also seek to further solidify their roles in advancing the true concept of social responsibility among the synergistic Kuwaiti society."

On his part, Eng. Bader Al-Mubarak, Chair-

man of the Board of Directors at the Kuwait Association for Needy Families, elaborated that the agreement with KIB was a result of the Association's expansive experience in Kuwait and specialization in helping those with

limited to no income in society. "KANF's main goal and overall strategy is attempting to solve all humanitarian issues related to distressed families, and the project to help people struggling with debt is a true testament to our slogan 'Your Families Comes First', one that calls on understanding the needs of all those living in Kuwait," he said.

Al-Mubarak asserted that KIB will strive, along with KANF, through this MoU to find radical solutions to the problems and challenges faced by disadvantaged families. These solutions will be in accordance with the Association's rules and regulations, and compatible with the regulations of the Ministry of Social Affairs, in order to provide aid following appropriate mechanisms and correct procedures.

Al-Mubarak noted the great social value embodied in the Association's cooperation with major players in the private sector, within the framework of social responsibility and sustainable development, to achieve the mutual, essential goals of enhancing social security in the beloved Kuwaiti society.



Ali Alhashash



Al-Mubarak



# diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

## 'Saddam-smitten Kuwait will always support Palestinian cause'

"The Kuwaiti Progressive Movement called for a solidarity stance to support the Palestinian resistance in the battle of the "Al-Aqsa Flood." The public benefit organizations announced their support for this call and participated in it. Hundreds of citizens and residents (women, men and children) flocked to Al-Irada Square to participate in this stand in solidarity with those steadfast in Palestine, and to denounce the Zionist attacks on the Palestinian people," columnist Dr Bahija Behbehani wrote for Al-Qabas daily.



Dr. Behbehani

"Representatives of civil society institutions and Kuwaiti political groups delivered speeches affirming the support of the Kuwaiti people and their standing alongside those stationed in Al-Aqsa and the resistance in the West Bank and Gaza, and demanded "the necessity of supporting and assisting the Palestinians so that they continue to defend their land."

"The Council of Ministers also directed the cessation of artistic celebrations in solidarity with the Palestinian people. The Ministry of Social Affairs also launched an urgent relief campaign for the Palestinian people, and the presence of ministers and representatives from the National Assembly in solidarity with the Palestinians.

"Thus, Kuwait has always supported the Palestinians and morally and materially supported the Palestinian cause for more than 7 decades. Kuwait now considers itself a state of war with the Zionist entity because of its brutal aggression against the Palestinians.

"I was impressed by the words of the Kuwaiti children and youth present at the Al-Irada Square who were in solidarity with Palestine and showed the intense anger in their hearts towards the Zionist entity and its criminal actions in the West Bank and Gaza, and its burning of the Baptist Hospital, as it is an unforgivable crime.

"The words of the Kuwaiti youth and young people confirmed their full political awareness of the importance of supporting the Palestinian cause, and their support for this cause means their support for freedom and peace in the world.

"The Zionist entity even went so far as to cut off electricity to hospitals, causing the death of patients. Kuwait called on the international community to work to provide protection for the Palestinian people and stop the Zionist attacks on them and the seizure of their lands.

"The period of the brutal Iraqi invasion left martyrs in every Kuwaiti family decades ago -- experienced the loss of members of their family and witnessed the horrors of torture from the brutal usurper.

"Therefore, they strongly and resolutely reject what the Zionist entity is do-

ing to Palestine and its killing and torture of the defenseless people. The Amiri decree issued in 1967 states that: "Kuwait is at war with the Zionist gangs in occupied Palestine," and it is still in effect until now and confirms Kuwait's steadfastness in championing truth. This is how Kuwait was and will always be."

Also:

"In the midst of intricate global circumstances and the evolving regional dynamics in foreign policy, we take pride in the address delivered by the representative of His Highness the Amir, Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He spoke before the inaugural gathering of the Gulf Cooperation Council leaders and the ASEAN leaders in Riyadh, conveying a series of clear and poignant messages," columnist Dr Ghadeer Muhammad Asiri wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Sheikh Mishal emphasized Kuwait's commitment to fostering good neighborly relations and underscored the imperative for the Iraqi government to take swift and resolute actions in accordance with international law, respecting the principles governing navigation and its regulation in Khor Mina Abdullah, which had been a subject of dispute and engendered multiple interpretations of political concepts.

"This agreement delineates the international border between Iraq and Kuwait, having been ratified in Baghdad in 2013, pursuant to Security Council Resolution No. 833 from 1993, which mandated the demarcation of borders between the two nations.

"In light of this speech coinciding with global political developments and border disputes that may have significant implications for several countries, there are those who downplay its significance. However, these events could potentially result in the reevaluation of certain currencies within the global basket and potentially reshape the economic or political landscape of some nations, if not triggering profound change.

"The ongoing fast-paced political developments demand careful scrutiny and the presence of prudent statesmen, which, unfortunately, seem to be in short supply on the contemporary stage. It is paramount to delve into the nuances of the matter and adopt an analytical perspective that interprets the rapid changes occurring behind the scenes in the histories of some ancient nations, which have undergone political or economic crises in the past.

"In bygone eras, the world was governed by a confluence of political, cultural, and civilizational elements. The current phase is a sensitive one, and what is required is a deep comprehension of the present circumstances. Throughout the ages, we have found ourselves intricately entwined in the ongoing narrative of our world, owing to our geographically strategic and economically significant location.

"Thus, a cautious anticipation of future political developments is crucial,

particularly given the current global conflicts, as they may yield unintended or unforeseen consequences."

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"Last September, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled issued a ministerial decision on linking the renewal of an expatriate's residency or transferring to another employer or sponsor with the payment of dues to any government agency," columnist Tariq Hamada wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"The ministerial decision and its amendment are considered very successful, considering the reduction of pressure on service centers at the air, land and sea ports. This facilitates the departure of expatriates or those whose travel procedures are halted due to debt. Their number is small compared to the collection of late fees once they are at the ports.

"Before coming to Kuwait, expatriates are obligated to undergo medical examinations and prove that they are free of contagious and dangerous diseases -- a procedure applied in most countries around the world. I believe that the tests conducted include ensuring they are not using drugs. I hope this belief is correct.

"Many expatriates spend years, if not decades, in Kuwait, yet they are not required to undergo new tests despite their frequent travels and the possibility of contracting serious and contagious diseases whether they are infected in Kuwait or outside. It is also possible that some expatriates have entered the tunnel of addiction and are taking narcotic substances. This is a scourge we have been suffering from a lot.

"The Ministry of Interior agencies are exerting commendable efforts to confront this devastating scourge and arresting hundreds of drug users -- whether citizens or expatriates.

"Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled's adoption of a project requiring any expatriate to attach laboratory examination results to the payment of arrears will not cause any harm to normal expatriates. On the contrary, this measure is in their interest and in the interest of all of us. This measure will also prompt all expatriates to refrain from engaging in any illegal activity that exposes them to non-renewal of residency. It will reveal tens of thousands of expatriates who live among us and are infected or drug users who can spread the disease.

"Reducing the number of drug users and those with infectious diseases is not as difficult as some may think. The matter is very simple, which is requiring expatriates to submit a medical certificate from an accredited Kuwaiti laboratory that shows they are free of infectious diseases and do not use narcotic substances.

"The private sector is capable of establishing new laboratories for this purpose, while the ministries of Interior and Health can be consulted before adopting a decision in this regard."

— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary

### Other Voices

## Mean media, poor thinking

By Ahmad alsarraf

The Western stance on the recent tragic events in Gaza has surprised many. Some have observed a perceived bias in European and American media outlets towards Israel. Furthermore, there have been instances of refusal to permit pro-Palestinian demonstrations in Western cities, and cases of individuals facing punishment or job terminations for expressing dissenting opinions. This has led some commentators and analysts to label these actions as double standards and Western hypocrisy.



alsarraf

However, it's crucial to consider several key points. First, many Western governments and legislative bodies have previously classified "Hamas" as a "terrorist" organization, and this classification remains unchallenged. Consequently, any military actions carried out by "Hamas" are viewed as acts of terrorism from their perspective, and condemnation is seen as appropriate.

Second, the majority of critics of Western media are often accused of bias and lack of credibility. Still, they are quick to praise these media outlets when their reporting aligns with their own viewpoints. This inconsistency can erode the credibility of these criticisms.

Third, it's important to acknowledge the numerous Western thinkers, including a significant percentage of Jews and even Israelis, who have consistently supported the Palestinian cause and related issues. However, their efforts often go unnoticed or unappreciated by those who could benefit from their support. This lack of recognition can contribute to a sense of neglect.

Israeli best-selling science author Yuval Harari says the dead cannot be brought back to life, and personal traumas will never be completely healed. But we must prevent further escalation. The conflict is currently being led by "religious fanatics," and this makes reconciliation and understanding very difficult, and external powers must intervene to calm the conflict.

As for Uri Avnery, the Israeli journalist, writer and peace advocate, he was one of the first to stand with the Palestinian right, as did the late great Israeli writer Amos Oz, who came up with the idea of the two-state solution and author of "In the Land of Israel." There is Yossi Beilin, the former Israeli politician, and Gideon Levy, the columnist for Haaretz, a staunch defender of Palestinian rights. Tzvia Greenfield, Member of the Knesset, known for her positions on human rights and the Palestinian issue.

There is also the British Jewish historian Avi Shalem, and Ilan Pappé, a professor of history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and hundreds of other enlightened thinkers and free people of the world. This is in addition to several Israeli organizations concerned with human rights, which have long defended the rights of the Palestinians, inside and outside Israel. Among them are former Israeli fighters who previously refused to participate in any wars.

The government thanked the charitable organizations for their approval to organize a fundraising campaign to provide relief to the afflicted people of Gaza.

In order to make the benefit greater, as we and our colleague Khaled Al-Bahr have previously called for, the government must prevent associations from deducting the percentage of "those in charge of them," especially since the victims of Gaza are more deserving of this money than the associations.

□ □ □

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## KD15 mln stolen from fund

Govt staffer caught taking bribe red-handed

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Public Prosecution is currently probing a recent case of embezzlement, involving the misappropriation of 15 million dinars from the 'treatment abroad' fund. An Egyptian national is under suspicion, although it is widely believed that he has fled the country.**

The Al-Qabas daily has learned that the Ministry of Health, through its representatives during the Public Prosecution's inquiries, affirmed that the accused, an Egyptian travel agency director national fabricated invoices associated with foreign medical treatment and hotel bookings for citizens.

He exploited the absence of a health office in a particular European country, and managed to accumulate over 15 million dinars.

The source clarified that the Ministry of Health detected the malfeasance by scrutinizing invoices related to overseas medical treatment. It was revealed that the accused had counterfeited invoices for hotel reservations and medical treatments in the European nation, subsequently submitting these falsified documents to the Ministry of Health in his capacity as the head of a tourism and travel company.

The source also indicated that the relevant authorities will establish contact with the Egyptian authorities to arrest and extradite the suspect to initiate legal proceedings against him after furnishing evidence of his involvement in the misappropriation of funds.

Furthermore, the source noted that parallel to the ongoing investigations, efforts are underway to identify other individuals implicated in the case to glean further insights.

Meanwhile, the Government Communication Center the government will continue to provide labor support to the patient working in the private sector during treatment abroad, reports Al-Rai daily.

The daily added, the same applies to the patient's companion.

The center explained that this is based on a letter issued by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled.

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**Caught taking bribe:** Investigation officers from the Residence Affairs Department have referred an employee from a government agency to the prosecution, following allegations of accepting a financial bribe in exchange for the cancellation of a violation.

The Al-Anba daily has learned, an officer from the Residence Investigation Department received information indicating that an Asian was involved in the practice of canceling violations issued to restaurants in return for monetary bribes.

Subsequent investigations revealed that this expatriate was collaborating with an employee engaged in these illicit activities, prompting the authorities to get a warrant issued by the Public Prosecution for the arrest of the suspect.

The source indicated the officer contacted the expatriate to seek assistance to cancel a violation that had been issued to a restaurant. The expatriate requested a sum of 2,000 dinars as payment for the service, following which marked currency was paid to him, and the employee was placed under surveillance.

As soon as the exchange was executed, with the full knowledge of the prosecution, the employee was arrested and the money was seized from her.

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**Passport office shifted:** The General Administration of Nationality and Travel Documents has officially announced the shift of its operations from the Dajeej area to a new administrative facility in Shuwaikh, beginning today.

It should be noted that operations will be temporarily suspended, and visitors will not be accommodated on Wednesday and Thursday at the Dajeej office, reports Al-Anba daily.

The General Administration encourages visitors to avail themselves of the national ID centers situated across various governorates in the country for the completion of their transactions or to utilize the electronic services accessible through the Sahl government application.

The Ministry of Interior, in a statement, reaffirmed that this relocation is part of the security institution's strategy to enhance public service offerings.



Contraband seized by police.

### Stunt driving promoters nabbed

## Drugs, airgun found on addicts

By Mansour Al-Sultan  
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

Drugs Control.

□ □ □

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24:** Patrol men supporting the Al-Ahmadi Security Directorate arrested two people in a state of drug use and in possession of narcotic substances and abuse tools at a checkpoint in the West Abdullah Al-Mubarak area.

The Al-Seyassah daily said the men were travelling in a Japanese-made car and when they approached the checkpoint it was evident they were under the influence of drugs.

During initial interrogation, the officer discovered the men were wanted by law. Police then searched their car and found in their possession of drugs -- Shabu - Chemical - 15 hashish cigarettes, tools for use, an "air" weapon, and 160 round of ammunition.

The men and the contraband have been referred to the Directorate-General for

**Promoting stunt driving:** The General Department of Criminal Investigation, represented by the Department of Combating Cybercrimes, has arrested 31 people who documented and published acts of recklessness on the social media sites, and also published content inciting others to drive recklessly -- a practice that endangers the lives of others intentionally in violation of traffic laws.

The Al-Rai daily has learned all those arrested have been referred to the competent authority to take legal measures against them.

The daily quoting sources from the General Administration of Security Relations and Media confirmed that the Criminal Security Sector continues to launch expanded campaigns on various social media sites to monitor, follow up and refer accounts that publish and document acts that violate to the Prosecution.

### Rights body launches initiative

## Better life sought for prisoners

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24 :** The National Bureau for Human Rights has announced the commencement of the "Support Them" initiative, geared towards enhancing the quality of life for inmates, upholding their rights, and promoting the fair management of correctional facilities.

The initiative treats these facilities as centers for rehabilitation, where the fundamental principles for the treatment of prisoners, as outlined by the United Nations in 1955, are diligently applied, reports Al-Rai daily.



Al-Mubarak

In a statement Ambassador Jassim Al-Mubarak, president of the National Bureau for Human Rights, said, "Since its inception, the National Office for Human Rights has remained committed to supporting all national and community initiatives that contribute to the advancement of human rights, the safeguarding of civil and political rights, in accordance with inter-

national agreements and conventions, as well as Kuwaiti legislative requirements."

He further stated, "Today, the Bureau, through the Complaints and Grievances Committee, takes great pride in participating in the launch of a national initiative in collaboration with the community to bolster projects and programs within the correctional institution sector, benefiting the inmates under the banner 'Support Them.'"

This initiative is a result of a strategic partnership with the Human Construction Society for Social Development and the Ministry of Interior, signifying a genuine call to action based on our national and humanitarian responsibility to enhance the delivery of humanitarian services to this demographic and provide a humane and dignified environment during their time in correctional institutions.

Al-Mubarak expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Interior for their facilitation of the participation process in this notable initiative, which is expected to bolster Kuwait's standing in international human rights assessments.

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HH Premier congratulates President Hichilema

HH Crown Prince cables Zambian president on National Day

Move to Kuwaitize pharmacy sector remains distant reality

Statistics reveal notable disparity in pharmacy workforce

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: As efforts persist to promote Kuwaitization across various professions, it appears that the pharmacy sector may face challenges in achieving the same level of nationalization as other medical fields, and a significant period may elapse before meaningful progress is observed, reports Al-Rai daily.

Statistics reveal a notable disparity in the pharmacy workforce. In the public sector, there are approximately 1,170 Kuwaiti pharmacists in contrast to around 1,555 non-Kuwaitis. The imbalance is even more pronounced in the private healthcare sector, where the number of non-Kuwaiti pharmacists exceeds 2,950, while only 420 Kuwaitis are employed.

In the pursuit of nationalizing this sector, health sources have affirmed that several initiatives have been implemented. Key measures include the approval of Law 30/2016, which permits Kuwaiti pharmacists to obtain licenses for opening pharmacies. They can also run pharmacies in cooperative societies, provided the license is issued in the name of a Kuwaiti pharmacist.

Efforts

Additionally, efforts encompass the formation of a committee to assess professional practices, a review of the regulations governing the pharmacy profession, and providing Kuwaiti pharmacists with opportunities to compete in the private sector.

Moreover, considerations are being made to restrict licenses for opening pharmacies to Kuwaiti pharmacists only, with a commitment not to lease or sell them to expatriates. There is also a move to incorporate pharmacy specialization within the programs of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Spe-



Al-Rai photo  
Sculpture symbolizing victory

Token of love, loyalty to 'Heroes of Stones'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Kuwaiti sculptor Maytham Abdal has finished designing his new artwork, to present it as a token of love and loyalty to the "Heroes of Stones," stressing that this is the least that a Kuwaiti artist can offer to the people of Palestine in general, and to the residents of Gaza in particular.

Abdal explained to Al-Rai that the work was completed in 3 days, and clay was used as the basic material and then it will be coated with bronze to give it solidity and beauty.

cialties, enabling qualified national pharmacists to pursue further studies.

Despite these affirmative steps, there will still

be a continued demand for foreign pharmacists, similar to other medical professions. This is primarily due to the limited number of Kuwaiti pharmacy graduates, the expansion of healthcare services in both the government and private sectors, the continual launch of healthcare projects, and the ongoing need for qualified pharmacists, particularly in the establishment of clinical pharmacy units within hospitals and specialized centers.

Figures

Regarding the figures of pharmacists, sources indicate that a substantial gap persists between national and non-national personnel. Kuwaiti pharmacists amount to about 1,590 in both public and private sectors, while non-Kuwaitis number around 4,505, indicating that Kuwaiti pharmacists constitute only about 26 percent of the total.

In the government sector, Kuwaiti pharmacists make up less than 43 percent of the workforce, with more than 57 percent comprising non-Kuwaiti pharmacists.

Meanwhile, the disparity in the private sector is even more significant, with approximately 420 Kuwaiti pharmacists compared to over 2,950 non-Kuwaitis, making up about 12 percent of the sector, compared to 88 percent non-Kuwaiti pharmacists.

The sources attribute the widening gap in the private sector to the disparity in salaries between most non-Kuwaiti pharmacists and local employees, as this factor significantly influences pharmacy owners' considerations, impacting operational expenses.

The sources have cited five reasons preventing the Kuwaitization of the sector – the limited number of Kuwaiti graduates, the expansion of government and private health services, the successive opening of health projects, the creation of a clinical pharmacy unit in hospitals and specialized centers and the decline in the salary rate of most non-Kuwaiti pharmacists in the private sector.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations to President of Zambia Hakainde Hichilema on occasion of the country's National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished President Hichilema good health and well-

being, and friendly Zambia progress and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations to President Hakainde Hichilema on occasion of the country's National Day.



HH the PM receives Egyptian Ambassador Shaltout.

KUNA photo

HH PM receives invitation to visit Egypt

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace, Tuesday, Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Osama Shaltout, who handed him an invitation

from Egyptian counterpart Dr. Mustafa Madbouly to visit Egypt.

Head of His Highness Prime Minister Diwan Hamad Bader Al-Aamer attended the reception. (KUNA)



Photo by Mohammed Jaded  
The Undersecretary of Defense visiting one of the booths.

Event held under patronage of MoD

Handicrafts forum and exhibition of Expo 965 Group get underway

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The activities of the 3rd Youth and Handicrafts Forum and the 5th annual exhibition of the Expo 965 Group for heritage and craft exhibitions and Kuwaiti innovators were inaugurated on Sunday under the patronage of His Highness the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah, on behalf of the sponsor of the ceremony, affirmed the keenness of Kuwait about creative youth who understand the country's wealth, and that caring for them is a national duty.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Sabah stressed that the state's strategies are based on building the Kuwaiti people.

Sponsorship

He highlighted that Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad's sponsorship of the forum and the accompanying exhibition emphasizes the importance of preserving the civilizational and cultural role in developing the new generation and calling for preserving the heritage of fathers and children.

Meanwhile, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information Dr. Nasser Al-Muhaisen, in his speech on behalf of the Minister of Information and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, praised the forum and the exhibition accompanying it, as well as the exhibits and crafts practiced by the youth of Kuwait.

He stressed that such heritage activities are a matter of pride and must be preserved, as they support the steps taken to preserve heritage, adding that these professions must be passed onto future generations.

Furthermore, the Kuwait heritage researcher, founder and general coordinator of the Expo 965 Group for heritage and

Mol honors officer from Tech Inspection Dept

By Munaif Nayef

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security, Operations and Traffic Affairs at the Ministry of Interior Major General Abdullah Al-Rujaib honored Brigadier General Ashraf Al-Amir from the Technical Inspection Department, in the presence of Assistant Director General for Technical Affairs at the General Traffic Department Brigadier General Muhammad Al-Adwani.

This honor is the result of successive attempts to close stores that sell noisy vehicle exhausts. It came against the backdrop of the discovery of a large warehouse that stored prohibited car exhaust devices in Shuwaikh Industrial Area, which was closed.

craft exhibitions and Kuwaiti innovators Muhammad Ali Kamal explained that the fifth edition of the exhibition includes six important and vital forums. They are the Third Youth Forum for Heritage and Handicrafts, the Third Forum for People with Special Needs and Orphans, the Forum for Educational Zone Directors and Mentors, the Third Forum for Accomplished Volunteer Teams, the Forum for Leaders of Popular Bands, and the Fourth Gulf Forum for Heritage and Handicrafts.

The Expo 965 Group was launched in 2016 and includes 175 members under its umbrella who practice 77 different heritage, crafts, professional and creative fields. The exhibition accompanying the forum this year includes 150 team members.

Seminar focuses on Atrial fibrillation

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Salman Al-Dabbous Heart Center organized an awareness seminar under the slogan "Regulate your pulse... Save your heart" to introduce Atrial fibrillation (AFib). The seminar was held with the cooperation of experts in the field in the Gulf region and the United States, in order to learn about its symptoms, possible treatment methods, and ways to overcome it.

During the seminar, Head of the cardiology department at the Dabbous Heart Center in Adan Hospital and a member of the Kuwait Heart Association Dr. Samah Al-Kharji said the incidence of atrial fibrillation in Kuwait is estimated at 4.2 percent, and in the Middle East it is 8 percent.

She explained that an initial study had been conducted on about 500 patients being treated at the center and the hospital. Their average age was 65 years, and their body mass index was 31.7, which is class 2 obesity. The study revealed that 41 percent of them suffered from heart failure, 50 percent suffered from

diabetes, and about 60 percent of them are undergoing regular check-ups in the hospital.

Atrial fibrillation is one of the most common diseases of cardiac electrical disorders. Approximately 43 million people around the world suffer from it, that is, one out of three people aged 55 years or older is afflicted with the disease.

Atrial fibrillation increases the chance of strokes by five times more than those without it. Atrial fibrillation is a disturbance in the heartbeat and irregularity that may occur at the beginning of the disease in intermittent periods or in "episodes". It develops into permanent in other cases.

The symptoms of the disease may not be clear to the patient, as the patient feels extreme stress and fatigue for no apparent reason, shortness of breath, dizziness or loss of consciousness. Also, sometimes there may be no symptoms and the patient is diagnosed through a periodic check-up.

The people most at risk of contracting this disease are those suffering from obesity, diabetes, and heart and stroke attacks, and it is also linked to sleep apnea.

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Some of the participants.

### Bank participates in AmCham Kuwait organized seminar

## Gulf Bank showcases its pioneering experience in Sustainability and Women's Empowerment

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Gulf Bank participated in a seminar organized by the American Business Council AmCham Kuwait at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The seminar, titled "Diversity, Inclusion and Sustainable Practices", saw active participation from numerous representatives from both the public and private sectors.

Gulf Bank was represented at the seminar by Ms. Salma Al-Hajjaj, the General Manager of the Human Resources Department, Ms. Mai Al-Owaish, Chief Data & Innovation Officer, Ms. Nada Al-Sabbagh, the Deputy General Manager of the Finance Department, and Ms. Maysoon Al-Attar, Assistant Manager of Corporate Communications and Sustainability.

The seminars' discussions delved into policies and practices implemented by both public and private sectors to attain sustainable development and foster the ideals of diversity, equality, and inclusion in workplaces. Gulf Bank's notable expertise in upholding sustainability principles, particularly concerning women's empowerment, was spotlighted during the discussion.

Ms. Salma Al-Hajjaj highlighted that Gulf Bank made history by ensuring complete equality in job benefits between women and men. This initiative aligns with the United Nations Women's Empowerment Principles and supports the bank's 2025 strategy, a cornerstone of which is



Salma Al-Hajjaj

fostering social sustainability within and beyond the bank.

She further stated, "In Kuwait, three girls graduate from university for every young man annually. Consequently, women possess ample talent, making it crucial to not only attract, but also retain this talent. Thus, our focus at Gulf Bank remains on fostering a diverse, inclusive, and equal work environment."

Al-Hajjaj further highlighted that statistical data demonstrates the initial appeal of the private sector to young graduates. However, the allure of the public sector, with its enticing factors such as early retirement options, often diverts their attention. This, in turn, poses a significant chal-

lenge for women in their pursuit of leadership roles, despite the substantial efforts made by the bank to foster a conducive work environment and provide extensive training and development opportunities.

She concluded by affirming, "Gulf Bank remains dedicated to involving its employees actively. We continuously strive to engage, empower, and enhance their skills because they are the foundation of excellence in customer service and community outreach."

Gulf Bank's vision is to be the leading Kuwaiti Bank of the Future. The Bank is constantly engaging and empowering its employees as part of an inclusive and diversified workplace in recognition of every employee's role in delivering customer excellence and serving the community at large. With its extensive network of branches and innovative digital services, Gulf Bank is able to give its customers the choice of how and where to conduct their banking transactions, all while ensuring a simple and seamless banking experience.

Gulf Bank is committed to maintaining robust developments in sustainability at environmental, social and governance levels through diverse sustainability initiatives, strategically selected to benefit the Bank both internally and externally. Gulf Bank supports Kuwait Vision 2035 "New Kuwait" and works with various parties to achieve it.

### 'Hamas' ... what's

Continued from Page 1

I beg to ask - Did the Hamas leadership believe that the world would stand idle when it saw that all peace attempts had gone in vain?

Today everyone realizes that what happened on October 7 was a mistake, and the barbaric Israeli reaction was also a mistake.

However, this reminds us of what the leader of Hezbollah said after the end of the war in 2006 - "If I had known that kidnapping two Israeli soldiers would lead to this war that lasted 33 days, we would definitely not have undertaken it."

This is not how the destinies of people are managed, especially when the weaker party has no support.

This is why it is necessary to learn the Egyptian lesson in 1979 when Cairo won peace over Israel, and learn how leaders should be.

### Gaza suffers

Continued from Page 1

In a statement, the health authorities mentioned that in the 18th consecutive day of hostilities number of those injured reached 16,297, stating that occupation massacres over the past few hours alone killed 305 children.

The authorities expressed concern over the health system as some 12 hospitals and 32 medical centers are no longer in working order.

Israeli occupation warplanes continue to strike residential spaces killing tens of victims. They also targeted the perimeter of Al-Amal hospital in Khan Younis and a mall in Nuseirat camp.

Rapidly expanding Israeli airstrikes across the Gaza Strip killed more than 700 people in the past day as medical facilities across the territory were forced to close because of bombing damage and a lack of power, health officials said Tuesday.

The soaring death toll from Israel's escalating bombardment was unprecedented in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It could signal an even greater loss of life in Gaza once Israeli ground forces backed by tanks and artillery launch an expected offensive into the territory aimed at crushing Hamas.

Gaza's 2.3 million people have been under increasing bombardment and running out of food, water and medicine since Israel sealed off the territory following the devastating Oct. 7 attack by Hamas militants on towns in southern Israel.

On Tuesday, Israel said it had launched 400 airstrikes over the past day, killing Hamas commanders, hitting militants as they were preparing to launch rockets into Israel and striking command centers and a Hamas tunnel

shaft. The previous day, Israel reported 320 strikes. Witnesses and health officials said many of the airstrikes hit residential buildings, some of them in southern Gaza where Israel had told civilians to take shelter.

An overnight strike hit a four-story residential building in the southern city of Khan Younis, killing at least 32 people and wounding scores of others, according to survivors.

The fatalities included 13 from the Saqallah family, said Ammar al-Butta, a relative who survived the airstrike. He said there were about 100 people there, including many who had come from Gaza City, which Israel has ordered civilians to evacuate.

"They were sheltering at our home because we thought that our area would be safe. But apparently there is no safe place in Gaza," he said.

Fifteen members of another family were among at least 33 Palestinians buried Monday in a shallow, sandy mass grave at a Gaza hospital after being killed in Israeli airstrikes.

As the death toll in Gaza spiralled, facilities to deal with the casualties were dwindling. A total of 46 out of 72 health care facilities - including 12 out of 35 hospitals - stopped functioning, the World Health Organization said. Palestinian health officials said the lack of electricity and fuel to power generators from the Israeli blockade, as well as damage from airstrikes, has forced many of the facilities to close.

While Israel has allowed a small number of trucks filled with aid to enter, it has barred deliveries of fuel to Gaza.

Israel says it does not target civilians and that Hamas militants are using them as cover for their attacks. Palestinian militants have fired over 7,000 rockets at Israel since the start of the war, Israel said, and Hamas said it fired a new barrage Tuesday morning.

"We continue to attack forcefully in Gaza City and its environs, where Hamas is building up its terrorist infrastructure, where Hamas is arraying its troops," said Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari. He again told Palestinians to head south "for your personal safety."

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees said six of its staff were killed in bombings, bringing to 35 the death toll of its workers since the war started.

Amid fears the fighting to spiral into a wider regional war, French President Emmanuel Macron arrived in Tel Aviv on Tuesday and told top Israeli officials that he came "to express our support and solidarity and share your pain" as well as to assure Israel it is "not left alone in the war against terrorism."

In a joint news conference with Macron, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would make every effort to fight the war quickly, "but it could be a long war."

On Monday, Hamas released two el-

derly Israeli women who were among the more than 200 people Israel says were taken to Gaza during the attack.

Appearing weak in a wheelchair and speaking softly, 85-year-old Yocheved Lifshitz told reporters Tuesday that the militants beat her with sticks, bruising her ribs and making it hard to breathe as they kidnapped her. They drove her into Gaza, then forced her to walk several kilometers (miles) on wet ground to reach a network of tunnels that looked like a spider web, she said.

Once there, though, her treatment improved, she said. The people assigned to guard her "told us they are people who believe in the Quran and wouldn't hurt us." Lifshitz, whose husband remains a hostage, said conditions were kept clean, she received medical care, including medication, and was given the same one meal a day of cheese and cucumber that her captors had.

Lifshitz and 79-year-old Nurit Cooper were freed days after an American woman and her teenage daughter were released. Hamas and other militants in Gaza are believed to have taken roughly 220 people, including an unconfirmed number of foreigners and dual citizens.

On Monday, Hamas released a video showing the handover, with militants giving drinks and snacks to the dazed but composed women, and holding their hands as they are walked to Red Cross officials. Just before the video ends, Lifshitz reaches back to shake one militant's hand.

Around the same time, Israel's internal security service, Shin Bet, released a recording showing Hamas prisoners - most in clean prison uniforms, but one in a bloody T-shirt and at least one wincing in pain - sitting handcuffed in drab offices talking about the Oct. 7 attack. The men said they were under orders to kill young men, and kidnap women, children and the elderly, and that they'd been promised financial rewards.

The Associated Press could not independently verify either video, and both the hostages and the prisoners could have been acting under duress. The Israeli military later dropped leaflets in Gaza asking Palestinians to reveal information on the hostages' whereabouts. In exchange, the military promised a reward and protection for the informant's home.

Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas. Iranian-backed fighters around the region are warning of possible escalation, including the targeting of U.S. forces deployed in the Mideast, if a ground offensive is launched.

The U.S. has told Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon and other groups not to join the fight. Israel and Hezbollah have traded fire almost daily across the Israel-Lebanon border, and Israeli warplanes have struck targets in Syria, Lebanon and the occupied West Bank in recent days.

# Pact to hire Ethiopian domestic workers awaits authorities sign

Hope to see breakthrough in Filipino issue: Al-Dakhnan

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24:** The head of the Union of Domestic Workers' Offices, Khaled Al-Dakhnan, said the agreement to recruit Ethiopian workers has been ready for a long time and approved by the two countries, pointing out that implementation awaits the signature of the authorities responsible for it.

Al-Dakhnan told Al-Seyassah that he met with the Ethiopian ambassador, who assured him that if Kuwait sets a date for signing the agreement, the minister responsible for signing will be in Kuwait within 24 hours, indicating that the agreement is approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is awaiting a date to be set to sign it by the Public Authority for Manpower.

Al-Dakhnan appealed to the competent authorities to quickly sign the agreement to recruit domestic workers so that there are several options in the market, pointing out those Ethiopian domestic workers are well-qualified and trained in all private household chores.

He pointed out that Ethiopia agreed to all the conditions set by Kuwait, and approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 6 months ago, wondering why the signing of the agreement was delayed.

He explained that 4 months ago, the Union visited Ethiopia and inspected the training camps for domestic workers and their equipment before traveling to Kuwait, indicating that the methods they have are very advanced, as the workers are trained, over a period of 60 days, on household tools and dealing with children. He stressed that the value of recruiting Ethiopian domestic workers will be according to what is specified by the Ministry of Trade and Industry or less, and that the monthly salaries will be around 90 dinars.

Regarding Filipino domestic workers, Al-Dakhnan explained that there is no official body that confirms whether recruitment is open or not. But we hope to see a breakthrough in this issue as long as there is intervention at a high level.

## 5 reckless motorists held during campaign in Taima

By Mansour Al-Sultan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24:** Security patrols supporting the Jahra Security Directorate launched a traffic campaign against reckless motorists and violators of the traffic law in Taima, Jahra residential areas, and took into custody five young motorists for causing inconvenience to the residents of the area.

According to security sources the five men have been referred to the General Traffic Department for driving recklessly sports cars without a license, causing disturbance to the residents of the area and issued 20 citations for various reasons including installing exhaust that made annoying sounds.

This is in addition to non-compliance with security and safety conditions, the patrols impounded 4 cars and towed them to the traffic detention garage.

### News in Brief

**Labor support continues:** The Government Communication Center has confirmed the continuation of the disbursement of labor support for nationals working in the private sector and are undergoing treatment abroad. This also applies to their companions during the treatment, reports Al-Rai daily.

The center affirmed that this is in response to the letter of First Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled.

**Tickets from official platforms:** The Ministry of Interior's Anti-Cybercrime Department has advised that Winter Wonderland tickets should be purchased only through the official platforms of Touristic Enterprises Company on Google Play and App Store, reports Al-Jarida daily. The department urged the public to report any social media account selling such tickets through WhatsApp number 97283939.

**Dog carcass abandoned:** A security alert was triggered when someone left behind the carcass of a canine wrapped in a sheet of cloth and placed inside a travel bag on the beach near the Abu Al-Hasaniyah area.

### «Mujezat Al-Shifa»: A study reveals the importance of bee larvae in reducing malnutrition in children

The nutrition consultant at Mujezat Al-Shifa Company explained that most children during the weaning period do not obtain essential nutrients, which exposes them to malnutrition, infections, poor brain development, and poor learning. This is a global problem due to the lack of availability of animal protein, which provides more essential amino acids than plant protein. Therefore, the professor Amanda Adegboye at the College of Health and Life Sciences, UK, conducted searches in two electronic databases and reference lists of included studies to research and study this issue.

She added: Twelve studies were included whose review aims to explore an alternative source of protein and micronutrients in complementary foods for children and their ability to treat their malnutrition. Among these, Professor of Nutrition Chiwangzao Mikuriya at Jomo Kenyatta University in Kenya in 2021 prepared nutritional formulas for children with malnutrition patients based on larvae. bees and had great results.



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## World News Roundup

## Europe

**'Tusk candidate for PM':** The leaders of three opposition groups that collectively won the most votes in Poland's recent elections said Tuesday that **Donald Tusk**, the leader of the largest group, is their candidate to be prime minister.

"We are ready to create a government," Tusk, a former prime minister and former president of the European Council, said as he and other opposition party leaders stood together in parliament to announce their decision to cooperate.

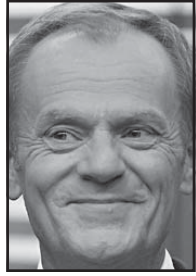
The announcement came just before President Andrzej Duda was scheduled to open two days of postelection consultations with the heads of parties that won seats in the new parliament.

Tuesday's developments mark important steps on the path to the formation of a new government after the national election on Oct. 15, though it is still unclear when a new government can take over in the Central European nation of 38 million people.

Much depends on the actions of Duda, whose constitutional role includes calling the first meeting of the new parliament, something which must happen no later than 30 days after the election, and tapping a candidate for prime minister to try to build a government that can win a vote of confidence in the Sejm, the lower house of parliament.

It might not be until December that a new government is sworn in if Duda chooses to wait the full 30 days to summon parliament and if he first asks the ruling Law and Justice party - the party he is loyal to - to try to build a government.

Law and Justice won more votes than any other single party in the election but it lost its majority and will not hold enough seats to govern the country. (AP)



Tusk

(AP)



**Navalny refuses to leave cell:** Imprisoned Russian opposition leader **Alexei Navalny** on Monday refused to leave his cell and skipped a court hearing, protesting after prison officials took away all of his writing supplies, his allies said.

Navalny, who is serving a 19-year prison term, was due to participate via video link in a court hearing on one of many lawsuits he had filed against his prison. His ally Ivan Zhdanov said the politician refused to leave his cell after prison officials took away all of his writing supplies.

After that, "security operatives in helmets entered the cell and, using force, dragged him to the investigator," Zhdanov said, as the politician was also expected to attend unspecified "investigative procedures." He didn't clarify why Navalny's supplies were taken away and didn't say whether he was then returned to his cell.

Russia's independent news site Mediazona reported that after Navalny's refusal to appear, the court hearing was adjourned until Nov. 2.

Navalny is President Vladimir Putin's fiercest foe, campaigning against official corruption and organizing major anti-Kremlin protests. He was arrested in 2021, after he returned to Moscow from Germany where he had recuperated from nerve agent poisoning that he blamed on the Kremlin. He has since been handed three prison terms, most recently on charges of extremism, and has faced unrelenting pressure, including months in solitary confinement after being accused of various minor infractions. (AP)



**'Extend jail stay':** A Russian court on Monday ordered a Russian-American journalist who was detained last week on charges of failing to register as a foreign agent to remain in custody until early December, her employer reported.

Alsu Kurmasheva, an editor for the US government-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Tatar-Bashkir service, appeared in a closed session in a court in the city of Kazan, the capital of the Tatarstan republic.

The radio service said the court ordered her to be held until Dec. 5, rejecting her lawyer's request for preventive measures other than incarceration.

She is the second US journalist detained in Russia this year, after Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was arrested on espionage charges in March. Gershkovich remains in custody.

The state-run news website Tatar-Info said Kurmasheva faces charges of failing to register as a "foreign agent" and was collecting information on Russian military activities. Conviction would carry a sentence of up to five years in prison.

Kurmasheva, who lives in Prague, was stopped June 2 at Kazan International Airport after traveling to Russia for a family emergency May 20, according to RFE/RL. (AP)



**'Criminal gang behind attack':** Kosovo's prime minister on Monday claimed that a criminal gang from northern Serbia was behind a September attack in Kosovo that killed a police officer and involved a daylong gunbattle with Kosovo police that left three gunmen dead.

Prime Minister Albin Kurti also alleged that Serbia's Defense Minister Milos Vucevic heads the gang known as the "Novi Sad Clan," named after the Serbian city of Novi Sad, and further compared Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic to a mafia boss.

Kurti offered no evidence to back his claims and did not elaborate. He described the gang as a "paramilitary terrorist group."

Belgrade swiftly dismissed the claims. Serbia's Defense Ministry said it "absolutely rejects the heinous and blatant lies told today by Kurti" and appealed to the international community to act to stop the "incendiary and dirty" campaign by Kosovo's leadership.

Tensions between Serbia and Kosovo flared anew on Sept. 24 when some 30 heavily armed Serbs barricaded themselves in an Orthodox monastery in northern Kosovo, setting off the fighting. (AP)



**Ancient gold jewelry confiscated:** Spanish police said Monday they have confiscated 11 pieces of ancient gold jewelry that were taken out of Ukraine illegally in 2016.

A police statement said five people who were attempting to sell the pieces in Spain had been arrested in recent weeks. Those arrested included two Ukrainians, one of them an Orthodox Church priest, and three Spaniards.

The jewelry was said to be worth 60 million euros (\$64 million) and dated from between the eighth and fourth centuries B.C.

Police said the items were part of Ukraine's national heritage. They went missing after being put on display between 2009 and 2013 in a museum in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital. The pieces included a belt, earrings and necklaces.

An ornate gold belt was seized in 2021 and the rest of the pieces were seized in recent weeks. Police said the investigation continued.

The pieces are being studied by Spain's National Archeological Museum and the country's Cultural Heritage Institute. (AP)

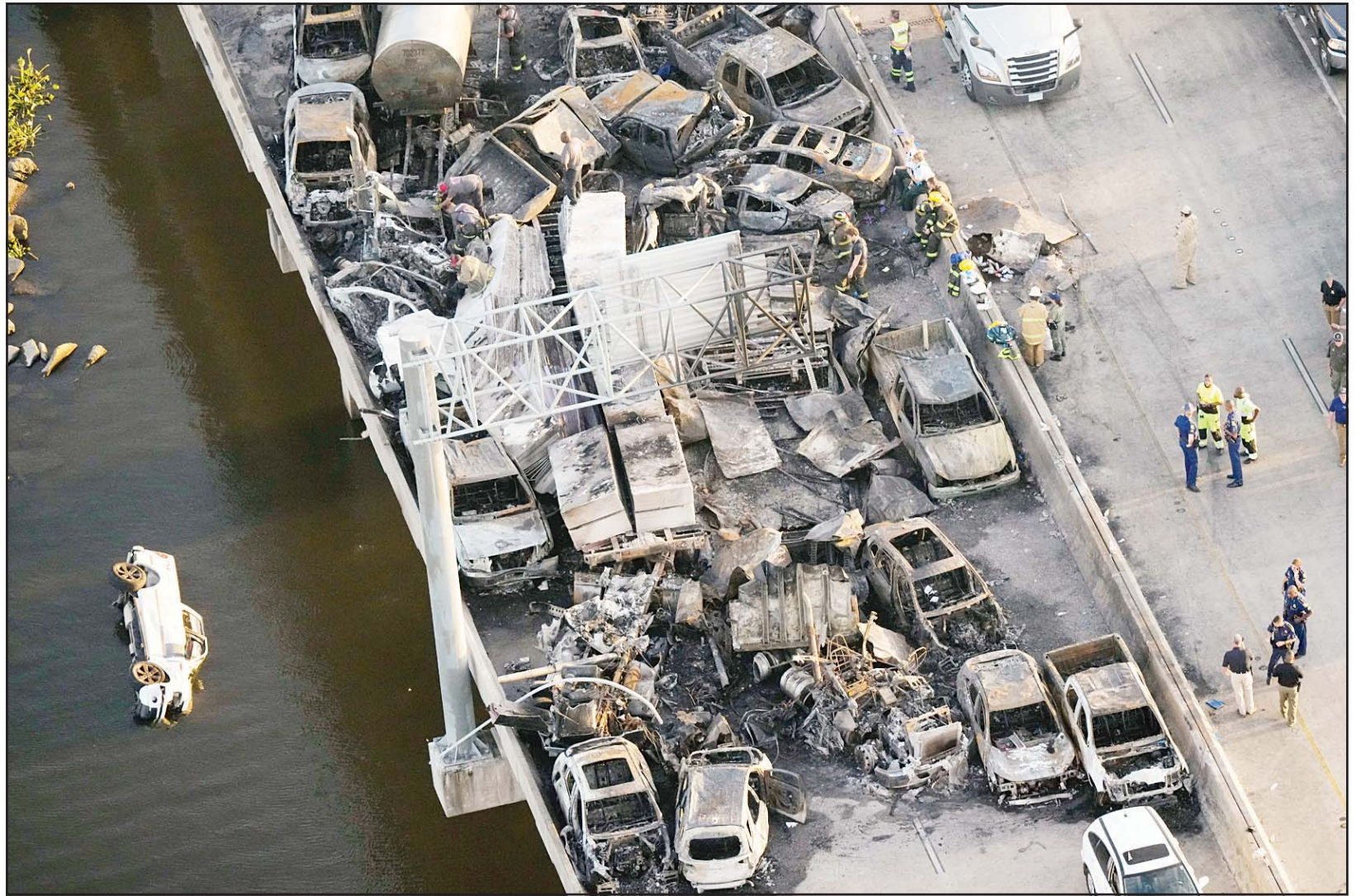


**314 migrants arrive in Canary:** Some 314 migrants arrived in Spain's Canary Islands in two boats early Monday, bringing to more than 1,600 the number of migrants to reach the islands since Friday, emergency services said.

The service said one boat carrying 229 migrants was escorted to El Hierro island while another with 85 was taken to Tenerife.

Of the boats that arrived over the weekend, one on Saturday was carrying 320 migrants. The state news agency EFE said it was the largest number in a single boat since human traffickers began to regularly use the Canary Island route in 1994. The previous record of 280 was recorded earlier this month.

Most of the boats arrived at El Hierro, which has received several thousand migrants in recent weeks. The Canary Islands are located off the northwest coast of Africa. (AP)



In this aerial photo, responders are seen near wreckage in the aftermath of a multi-vehicle pileup on I-55 in Manchac, La. on Oct. 23. A 'superfog' of smoke from south Louisiana marsh fires and dense morning fog caused multiple traffic crashes involving scores of cars. (AP)

## Louisiana 'super fog' kills 7 in massive car pile-up

At least seven people were killed Monday after a "superfog" of smoke from marsh fires and dense morning fog caused a series of wrecks on Interstate 55 near New Orleans that left a long stretch of mangled and scorched cars, trucks and tractor-trailers.

An estimated 158 vehicles were involved and 25 people injured, according to the Louisiana State Police, who warned the death toll could climb as first responders worked into the night looking for victims, the smell of burnt wreckage still heavy in the air.

Vehicles were crushed, piled atop each other and

engulfed by flames. Some people got out of their vehicles and stood on the side of the road or on the roofs of their cars looking in disbelief at the disaster, while others cried out for help.

Clarencia Patterson Reed was driving with her wife and niece and could see people waving their hands for her to stop, but when she did her car was hit from behind and on the side by two other vehicles, she told The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate.

"It was 'Boom. Boom.' All you kept hearing was

crashing," Reed said. She was able to scramble out of her car, but her wife was pinned inside and injured her leg and side.

Another driver Christopher Coll, said he was already braking when a pickup truck "drove up on top of my work trailer and took me for a ride."

Coll could smell smoke as he heard the sounds of crashing cars and popping tires. He was able to kick open his passenger door to escape and then helped others - pulling out one person through a car window. (AP)

## Politics

## Former US president rails against Biden

## Trump compares himself to Mandela

CONCORD, N.H., Oct. 24, (AP) - Former US president Donald Trump compared himself to anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela on Monday as he cast himself as the victim of federal and state prosecutors he alleges are targeting him and his businesses for political reasons.

Returning to New Hampshire to register for its presidential primary, Trump held a rally where he railed against President Joe Biden's response to the Hamas attack on Israel and vowed to build an Iron Dome-style missile defense shield over the US.

## Focused

But he focused much of his dark and at times profane speech on the criminal and civil cases against him, at one point suggesting he would go to prison like the former South African president who spent 27 years in prison for opposing South Africa's apartheid system and was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize.

"I don't mind being Nelson Mandela because I'm doing it for a reason," Trump told an amped-up crowd of supporters at a sports complex in Derry, New Hampshire. "We've got to save our country from these fascists, these lunatics that we're dealing with. They're horrible people and they're destroying our country."

Trump is facing four criminal indictments as well as civil trials that span allegations that he inflated his worth, misclassified hush money payments to women during his 2016 campaign, illegally tried to overturn his 2020 election loss and hoarded classified docu-

ments at his Mar-a-Lago club.

The comments came after Trump formally filed for the first-in-the-nation primary, becoming the first person who has served as president to do so in person more than once.

"Vote for Trump and solve your problems," he wrote on the commemorative poster at the statehouse in Concord that all the candidates are asked to sign.

Candidates this year have until Oct. 27 to officially sign up, and dozens are expected to do so. The process is easy: They only need to meet the basic requirements to be president, fill out a one-page form and pay a \$1,000 filing fee. In 2020, 33 Democrats and 17 Republicans signed up. The all-time high was 1992, when 61 people got on the ballot.

After signing up for the 2016 contest on the first day of the filing period eight years ago, Trump sent then-Vice President Mike Pence to file his paperwork for the 2020 contest. That was in keeping with a tradition of other incumbents who also sent surrogates, but his return on Monday was something new.

## Also:

**DES MOINES, Iowa:** South Carolina Sen **Tim Scott's** presidential campaign announced Monday that the Republican was shifting staff and money from New Hampshire to Iowa in an effort to boost his standing in the lead-off caucus state with less than three months until the first votes of the 2024 election are cast.

Walker family attorney **Bobby DiCello** told WKYC-TV that the family is "saddened by the way in which they continue to be ignored" by the city of Akron, whose leaders, he said, have "never once reached out to discuss the employment of the eight officers or explain why the officers are be-



ing reinstated." (AP)

**Body ID'd thru DNA tech:** A body found wrapped in plastic inside a Georgia dumpster 35 years ago has been identified as that of a South Korean woman, officials announced



US Republican presidential candidate former president Donald Trump talks to reporters after signing papers to be on the 2024 Republican presidential primary ballot at the New Hampshire Statehouse on Oct. 23, in Concord, NH. (AP)



Walker



DiCello

## America

**Officer no longer employed:** An off-duty St. Louis County officer accused of displaying his badge and firing into the air at a trick-or-treating event no longer is employed at the agency, a police spokesperson confirmed Monday.

Matthew McCulloch was no longer working at the department as of Thursday, St. Louis County Police officer Adrian Washington said in an email. He had been on unpaid administrative leave. Washington declined to comment on whether McCulloch was fired or quit, describing it as a personnel matter. McCulloch is charged with child endangerment, unlawful use of a weapon, armed criminal action and making a terrorist threat during a school-sponsored trunk-or-treating event attended by hundreds of parents and children Oct. 15 in the St. Louis suburb of Kirkwood.

Police said McCulloch told multiple attendees that "you are all going to die," according to the probable cause statement.

After a man responded by pushing McCulloch to the ground, police said McCulloch lifted his shirt to show a handgun and his badge. (AP)



**8 officers back on duty:** The eight Ohio police officers who fired scores of shots that killed **Jayland Walker**, a 25-year-old Black man, after a car and foot chase last year are back on active duty, officials said.

Akron Capt Michael Miller, in a statement, cited a state investigation and an Ohio grand jury's decision against indicting any officers in the June 2022 shooting death of Walker. As a result, he said, "all eight officers are back on full-time, active duty."

Miller also said the department's internal probe of the shooting is going through a final legal review and is expected to be released at the end of November.

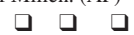


Migrants wait to disembark from a small boat in La Restinga on the Canary Islands of El Hierro, Spain on Oct. 21. Emergency services on Spain's Canary Islands say 314 migrants have arrived in two boats, bringing to more than 1,600 the number of migrants that reached the islands since Friday. (AP)

Monday. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said they used DNA analysis, paid for by donors, to determine that Chong Un Kim, 26, was the person whose body was discovered in rural Millen in February 1988.

Kim died from asphyxiation, but it's unclear whether someone killed her or who dumped her body. She was wrapped in plastic and duct tape, naked inside a brown canvas suitcase that had been placed in a trash bin. A man trying to collect aluminum cans from the dumpster found the body. Investigators said Kim had been dead four to seven days when her body was found.

Kim had moved to the United States in 1981, investigators said. She had lived for several years in Hinesville, which adjoins Fort Stewart and is 70 miles (110 kilometers) south of Millen. (AP)



**Man charged with murder:** A Georgia man has been charged with murder after police said he killed his girlfriend, stuffed her body in a suitcase and stashed it in the closet of the apartment they shared.

Frederick Durham of Thomaston was being held without bail in the Upson County jail. Durham appeared before a judge on Monday, a Thomaston police investigator said by phone, but Durham does not yet have a lawyer who can speak for him.

Officers and relatives had gone to Margaret Dubignon's apartment Friday in the town about 60 miles (100 kilometers) south of Atlanta, but didn't find her, after last speaking to her on Thursday. (AP)



## Lat/Am

## Venezuelan foe of Maduro

## Machado dominates presidential primary

CARACAS, Venezuela, Oct 24, (AP): María Corina Machado, a former lawmaker and longtime government foe, continued to dominate the primary election held to pick the opposition's candidate to challenge Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro next year, holding her support above 90% in the latest partial returns announced Monday.

Machado, a strong proponent of free-market economic policies, already declared herself the winner in the early hours of the day after the independent National Primary Commission, which organized the primary, released the first results.

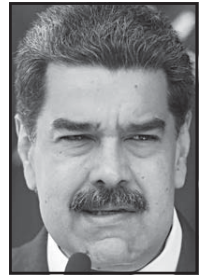
The organizers did not declare Machado the winner, but she was far ahead of the nine other candidates.

The commission said Monday afternoon that about 65% of the ballots had been tallied, and Machado had 1,473,105 votes, or nearly 93% of the total. Her closest competitor had just under 70,819 votes, a little over 4%.

The strong turnout by Venezuelans in and outside their homeland showed their strong desire for an alternative to Maduro's decade-long, crisis-ridden presidency. Those voters defied repression, censorship and the weather to participate in the primary.

Maduro, during his weekly TV show Monday, accused the opposition of inflating results. His comment came after state-owned television sought to present the contest as an "electoral farce" - an assessment far from reality.

Venezuelans gathered at voting centers - set up in schools, homes and businesses volunteered by their owners as well as parks and plazas - and waited in line for hours to be able to vote, even in areas once considered strongholds of the governing United Socialist Party of Venezuela.



Maduro

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## Find

They downloaded apps to circumvent internet censorship and helped each other find their voting center. They carried umbrellas, folding stools and coffee to ease the wait and flags to add a patriotic feel to the event.

Organizers did not forecast participation figures, but logistical issues, fuel shortages, government threats and repression led people involved or familiar with the effort to initially estimate turnout of around 1 million. That projection doubled as more and more people arrived at the polls in Venezuela and other countries, including Spain, Mexico and the US.

"The projection for overall turnout, both internally and externally, looks like it's going to be anywhere between 6% and 9% of the register, and that's pretty big," said Ryan Berg, director of the Americas Program at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. "That's greater than many people expected."

The country's voting rolls include 22 million people, but the number is widely considered outdated.

Holding Venezuela's first presidential primary since 2012 required the deeply fractured opposition to work together. That was a feat onto itself. But what voters and the opposition saw as a monumental exercise in democracy could still prove futile, if Maduro's government wishes.

While the administration agreed in principle to let the opposition choose its candidate for the 2024 presidential election, it also has already barred Machado from running for office. Maduro's government has in the past bent the law, retaliated against opponents and breached agreements as it sees fit.

## Accomplish

Machado, speaking early Monday to supporters gathered outside her campaign headquarters in Caracas, sought to assure voters that she will be on the 2024 presidential ballot, while acknowledging that it will not be easy to accomplish it.

"What awaits us is an arduous road, we know it. We are all very clear about the nature of the regime we face, and this primary full of obstacles and challenges proved it," she said. "(But) the bigger the obstacle they put in front of us, the bigger we get because we are going to overcome all the obstacles."

State television on Monday falsely accused the opposition's primary of not having "witnesses." It also tried to discredit the contest for a lack of electoral "observers," but it failed to mention that some elections run by the National Electoral Council have also taken place without independent oversight.

The primary's organizers blamed internet censorship for taking so long in releasing results. Jesús María Casal, head of the National Primary Commission, said early Monday that once vote counting began, organizers detected the "server that functioned as a transmission channel was blocked, preventing us from completing this process as scheduled."

The London-based internet monitoring firm NetBlocks tweeted metrics showing "a disruption to internet connectivity in #Venezuela with high impact to Caracas." It added that a state-owned internet service provider claimed "an issue with its energy backup system."

David Smilde, an expert on Venezuelan politics at Tulane University, said the primary was a "significant achievement" for several reasons, including forcing political leaders and parties within the opposition "to reach out and speak to the people."

"And it has generated considerable enthusiasm and mobilization in a population that has been skeptical of the opposition leadership of late," he said.

## Also:

**MEXICO CITY:** A local security secretary and 12 police officers were shot dead in Guerrero state Monday, authorities said, the worst episode in a day of violence across southwestern Mexico that killed at least 19 people.

Another person was slain in the Guerrero state capital and five people, including a police officer, were killed in the neighboring state of Michoacán, officials said.

Eleven people were initially reported killed in the attack in El Papayo, which is in the Guerrero township of Coyuca de Benítez on the Pacific Coast. Hours later, the state prosecutor's office said two more police officers had died.

The secretary for security of Coyuca de Benítez was among those slain, said Gabriel Hernández Mendoza, state deputy prosecutor for investigations. He gave no further details.

Rigoberto Acosta González, an academic and community leader, was reported shot to death in Chilpancingo, the Guerrero state capital 60 miles (95 kilometers) northeast of Coyuca de Benítez.



A small wooden boat, (center), is towed into a port in Yangyang, South Korea, on Oct 24. Four suspected North Korean defectors were found in the small wooden boat near the two Koreas' sea border Tuesday, South Korean officials said. (AP)

## Asia

## Washington state senator arrested in HK

## China's foreign minister to visit US

WASHINGTON, Oct 24, (AP): China's top diplomat will come to the United States on Thursday for a three-day visit, the latest move by Washington and Beijing to keep high-level talks open amid tense bilateral relations.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is scheduled to meet with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and national security adviser Jake Sullivan over a range of issues, including the Israel-Hamas conflict, the Ukraine war and a recent vessel collision in the South China Sea, according to senior administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to preview the trip.

Wang's trip to Washington will come just about three weeks ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco, where it's possible that President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet. The officials did not confirm the leaders' meeting, nor did they say if Wang's visit would prepare for such a meeting. Instead, Wang's trip was described as reciprocal to Blinken's visit to Beijing in June.

Beijing has yet to confirm if Xi will travel to San Francisco for the annual APEC summit.

Wang plans to make clear China's "position and principles on the relationship with the U.S. and our legitimate concerns," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a daily briefing on Tuesday.

China hopes to "jointly push the bilateral relationship back to the track of sound and stable development," Mao said, reflecting a more upbeat tone than the one heard from Beijing in recent weeks.

US-China relations have deteriorated rapidly since 2018 over issues such as trade imbalance, human rights in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, the militarization of the South China Sea, the rising pressure on the self-governed island of Taiwan and the pandemic. Last November, Biden and Xi met in Bali, Indonesia, on the sidelines of the Group of 20 meeting of leading rich and developing nations. The two sides agreed to resume talks, set up work groups on specific issues and expand person-to-person exchanges.

## Also:

**TAIPEI, Taiwan:** China has replaced Defense Minister Gen. Li Shangfu, who has been out of public view for almost two months with little explanation, state media reported Tuesday.

2009 peace deal, which it accuses the Congo government of not implementing. The rebel group was dormant for nearly a decade before resurfacing late last year.

Failed peace talks and broken cease-fires have led to continued violence that has displaced tens of thousands of people.

During Sunday's attacks, officials say victims were killed with machetes or shot when M23 launched attacks against the Wazalendo, a local self-defense group. (AP)



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, (center), arrives at an opening ceremony of the diplomatic symposium at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing Oct 24. (AP)

## 4 suspected N.Korean defectors found in boat in S.Korea waters

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 24, (AP): Four North Koreans were found in a small wooden boat in South Korean waters on Tuesday in what is likely a rare case of North Koreans taking a risky sea voyage to flee to the South, Seoul officials said.

More than 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea to avoid poverty and political oppression since the late 1990s. A vast majority of them have come via China and then Southeast Asian countries, and defecting by sea is uncommon because it's more dangerous.

A South Korean coast guard ship found the boat south of the two Koreas' eastern sea border on Tuesday morning, after a report by a fishing boat. The four people on board identified themselves as North Koreans, coast guard officials said.

South Korea's military said it secured the custody of the North Koreans in coordination with the coast guard, after chasing their boat along the sea border. A military statement said the North Koreans were suspected of defecting to South Korea, but gave no further details.

South Korean public broadcaster KBS, citing an unidentified government

official, reported that the four North Koreans - a man and three women - are members of one family. KBS said they weren't armed and didn't wear military uniforms when they were found.

South Korea's Unification Ministry declined to provide personal details of the four, saying an investigation was underway.

Defecting by sea is much more dangerous and many North Korean escapees were believed to have ended up dying after their boats sank amid bad weather.

But some still opt to use a sea route because they can defect in a group and it takes much shorter time than the China-Southeast Asian route, which typically takes weeks or months before coming to South Korea, according to Ahn Kyung-su, head of DPRKHEALTH.ORG, a website focusing on health issues in North Korea.

Ahn, who has interviewed many defectors, said that North Koreans typically slip across their country's border with China alone or in pairs without sharing their escape plans with anyone, including their family members, because of fears about arrests.

at the Hong Kong International Airport on Saturday. Wilson was traveling with his wife for a five-week vacation in Southeast Asia, his website said.

His gun was not registered in the financial hub but is registered in Washington, the statement added.

According to Hong Kong's public broadcaster RTHK, Wilson appeared in court Monday to face the charge of possession of arms without a license and was granted bail.

"It was an honest mistake, and I expect the situation to be resolved shortly," he was quoted as saying on his website. It said Wilson's next hearing is due on Oct. 30.

After Monday's hearing at the Shatin Magistrates' Courts, Wilson had to surrender his travel documents, the local newspaper The Standard reported. It said the next hearing will take place at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts.

## Troops withdrawal completed:

France has completed the withdrawal of troops from a northern base in Niger as part of a planned departure from the West African country in the wake of July's military coup.

Nearly 200 troops, 28 trucks and two dozen armored vehicles left the Ouallam military base, which has been handed to Niger, a junta spokesman, Col. Maj. Amadou Abdramane, said Sunday.

France's withdrawal is expected to be complete by the end of the year. Some 1,500 French troops have been operating in Niger, training its military and conducting joint operations.

The announcement comes weeks after French President Emmanuel Macron announced that France will end its military presence in Niger and pull its ambassador out of the country as a result of the coup that removed President Mohamed Bazoum.

Bazoum has been under house arrest with his wife and son for nearly three months, and the junta has cut off his electricity and water.

Last week, people close to Bazoum were unable to reach him for several days and the junta accused him of trying to escape with his family, sparking concern as to his whereabouts. On Monday, a lawyer for Bazoum told The Associated Press he was able to make one phone call on the weekend to say he was OK, but that they no longer had regular contact with him. (AP)



Opposition presidential hopeful María Corina Machado celebrates her victory in the opposition primary election, at her campaign headquarters in Caracas, Venezuela on Oct 23. Machado will run against President Nicolás Maduro in the 2024 presidential elections. (AP)



Bazoum



Ruto

## Africa

**Kenya court extends order:** A court in Kenya has extended orders blocking the deployment of Kenyan police to Haiti to lead a U.N. Security Council-approved mission to combat gang violence in the Caribbean nation.

The High Court on Tuesday said that it would rule on the case on Nov. 9.

Former presidential candidate, Ekuru Aukot, filed a petition on Oct. 9 against the deployment of Kenyan forces, arguing that the law allowing the president to do so conflicted with articles of the constitution.

Aukot's petition also faulted President William Ruto for agreeing to lead the international peacekeeping mission while Kenya struggles with security issues arising from militant attacks and most recently ethnic clashes.

The UN Security Council resolution, drafted by the United States and Ecuador, authorizes the force to deploy for one year, with a review after nine months.

Kenya's national assembly has yet to schedule a debate on the motion to deploy the contingent, which is expected to be made up of about 1,000 police officers. The non-UN mission would be funded by voluntary contributions, with the US pledging up to \$200 million. (AP)

**16 killed in boat fire:** At least 16 people were killed Monday when a boat caught fire on the Congo River, local officials said.

The boat was carrying fuel and was on its way to the city of Mbandaka from the eastern part of the capital, Kinshasa, said Papy Epiana, the provincial deputy. At least 11 people were rescued and it's unclear if more are missing.

The accident comes two days after a boat capsized also on the Congo River, killing at least 40 people.

Boat accidents are common on the Congo River and on the nation's lakes because of the prevalent use of makeshift boats that are often overloaded. The majority of the population in the country's northwest use the rivers to travel because of a lack of good roads and because it is less expensive.

The accidents in the country's west come amid rising insecurity in the conflict-riddled east.

At least 30 people were killed and their homes burned Sunday night in Rutshuru Territory in North Kivu province, according to local authorities.

The attack was perpetrated by the M23 rebel group, said Justin Kaleghesere, vice president for the Rutshuru Territory Youth Council.

The M23 rebel group, largely comprised of Congolese ethnic Tutsis, rose to prominence 10 years ago when its fighters seized Goma, eastern Congo's largest city on the border with Rwanda. Its name derives from a March 23,





Some photos from 'The 50 Women in Cybersecurity in Kuwait' program held at The American University of Kuwait.

## US Embassy, US Dept of State back Vazquez's pioneering program

# Kuwait launches '50 Women in Cybersecurity' for a digital future

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: "The 50 Women in Cybersecurity in Kuwait" is a first-of-its-kind skilling initiative created by Mercedes Vazquez as an award-winning technology executive known for her public actions in innovation, economic and community-development, in an increasingly interconnected world to address the role of women in a field that is ever-growing and to boost the economic inclusion as a baseline for active economic participation, addressing the role of women to bridge a digital divide for a resilient and thriving digitized prosperous future for all. According to public statistics released in 2023, women held 25% of roles in cybersecurity globally and only 1% of them were in cybersecurity leadership roles.

"The 50 Women in Cybersecurity in Kuwait" pioneering skilling initiative created by Mercedes Vazquez, is organized by ESK Holding, funded by a grant from the US Embassy in Kuwait with local Kuwaiti Government alignment of the National Center for Cybersecurity.

### Application

Over 200 applicants representing multiple public sector and private sector entities in Kuwait had submitted their application to register to this first-of-its-kind initiative in Kuwait and 50 diverse talents were selected, every application was subject to a thorough review process by a selection committee.

On October 20 and 21, 2023 the first phase of the "50 Women in Cybersecurity in Kuwait" took place at the American University of Kuwait.

The Department of State works together with partners to promote an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable information and communications infrastructure that supports international trade and commerce, strengthens international security, and fosters free expression and innovation.

"I am passionate about the transformative power of education and throughout my career I relentlessly advocate for the role of women in technology and we are thrilled to provide the cybersecurity tools that the selected 50 participants need to succeed & thrive while building cyber resiliency in a complex and ever evolving cyber landscape. The response received has far exceeded our initial expectations and it feels amazing to be able to touch upon the academic journey and future career of 50 women in Kuwait. Equipping tomorrow's leaders with future proof skills today, while fostering upskilling and reskilling for economic competitiveness and boosting the role of women as a baseline for active economic development, while removing the stigma and misperception traditionally linked to cybersecurity careers. I have thoroughly architected this initiative in over 10 months, to ensure the holistic, multi-layered & rigorous approach to cyber resiliency" Mercedes Vazquez, creator of the 50 women in cybersecurity in Kuwait and General Manager at ESK Holding.

"Cybersecurity, and innovation across the wider digital field, is the next great step forward for humanity. Women are an equal part of this step. So if we don't include them, we're all the poorer for it. This initiative cracks that glass ceiling, letting more light shine down and giving the next generation of young women the chance to learn, innovate, and excel" Austin May, American Public Affairs Expert

The first phase of the cybersecurity skilling initiative was delivered by the following experts who came to Kuwait from the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

- Mr. Mohamed Farid, Counselor for Public Affairs, US Embassy in Kuwait
- Chief Warrant Officer Shambrella S. McLendon, Advisor, Office for Military Cooperation - Kuwait
- Mr. Saad Mumen, CEO at QEB, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Mr. Austin May, American Public Affairs Expert
- Major Sandra Wright, Manager Spectrum Planning & International, Federal Aviation Administration

In a wider context, the "50 Women in Cybersecurity in Kuwait" nation-wide skilling initiative is also addressing Kuwait's Vision 2035 through the pillars of human capital, tech-enabled GDP growth & world-class education.

The second phase of the "50 Women in Cybersecurity in Kuwait" will take place on October 27 and 28, 2023 with an innovative hackathon with the posture of innovation, enabling cyber resilience and securing based on the holistic & rigorous academic impact that the 50 Women in Cybersecurity had acquired during the first phase.



A group photo from the India-Kuwait Information Technology Conference.

## Indian firms seek collaborative opportunities in Kuwait

# India-Kuwait foster tech ties at IT Conference

By Paul Francis X. Fernandes  
AI Seyyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Indian Embassy in Kuwait in collaboration with the Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) and National Association of Software and Services Company of India (NASSCOM), organized the India-Kuwait Information Technology Conference featuring a high-level multi-company delegation from India with support from the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) and Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA).

Addressing the gathering, the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Dr Adarsh Swaika emphasized the Indian companies in the Gulf region are highly active in the technology sector, especially in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

He said the purpose of organizing this event was to bring together stakeholders from both countries face to face to explore greater collaborations between them. He added the Indian companies are known for their work in this sector, both in India and abroad.

Saying the NASSCOM delegates will give in detail and specifics about the Information technology sector and its dynamics, the Indian envoy highlighted some facts and statistics:

1. India's technology industry revenue is estimated to be \$245 Bn in FY 2023 with IT exports estimated at \$194 Bn and expected to grow at 9.4%. It contributed to 53% in India's service exports in FY 23.

2. India is the third largest and the fastest growing hub for technology startups. With 23 new unicorns, India became the 2nd highest country in terms of number of unicorns added in 2022. 1300+ new tech startups emerged in 2022.

3. Indian SaaS companies (Software as a Service) saw 2x growth in share of global markets. India has as many as 59 number of SaaS unicorns and potential unicorns.

4. In terms of FDI equity inflow, the sector attracted FDI equity inflow of \$93.58 Bn between April 2000 and Dec 2022. I must mention here for those Kuwaiti companies inter-

ested in investing in India's IT sector that up to 100% FDI is allowed in Data processing, Software development and Computer consultancy services; Software supply services; Business and management consultancy services, Market research services, technical testing and Analysis services, under automatic route.

5. India is one of the most preferred destinations when it comes to setting up Global Capability Centres (GCCs). Total number of GCCs in India are 1570+.

6. Over 45 new data centers are expected to come up in India by 2025. Data centers in India have attracted investment of \$10 Bn since 2020.

7. Google announced in June 2023 expansion of cloud services in India with a \$1 billion investment in new data centers and opening of its global fintech operation centre at GIFT City in Gujarat.

8. Amazon Web Services (AWS) announced in March 2023 plans to invest \$12.7 bn into India by 2030, bringing its total investment to \$16.4 bn over a period spanning almost a decade and a half.

### Transparency

Last week, Infosys expanded its alliance with Google Cloud to help enterprises build AI-powered experiences. Infosys will create the Generative AI Labs to develop industry-specific AI solutions, and train 20,000 employees on Google Cloud's gen AI solutions.

He went on to say the Indian industry is consistently strengthening its digital capabilities by adopting deep tech technologies and focusing on deploying emerging technology solutions such as AI, Cybersecurity, and IoT.

"Both central and state governments in India have taken steps towards developing technology solutions to digitally enable citizen services. With data costs of INR 10/GB (\$ 0.12/GB), India has one of the lowest data costs in the world," he said.

"Our online public procurement platform -- the Government e-Marketplace -- has brought transparency and probity into the process. The Open Network for Digital Commerce is democratizing e-Commerce. Fully digitized taxation systems are promoting transparency and e-governance. We are building Bhashini, an AI-pow-

ered language translation platform, to support digital inclusion in all the diverse languages of India," he said.

Saying, "Technology has connected us like never before. It holds the promise for inclusive and sustainable development for all, solution that succeeds in India, can be easily applied anywhere in the world, including in Kuwait." He disclosed, India is ready to share its experiences with the world and has created an online Global Public Digital Goods Repository - the India Stack.

"We are equally aware," he said, "of the focus of the Government of Kuwait on the information Technology sector. Through its Vision 2035 Economic Diversification Plan and the new government program, Kuwait is keen to modernize and digitalize its economy, and become a smart commercial hub in the region."

"The presence of a large number of government and private sector entities today, including CAIT, CITRA, KneT, Public Authority for Industry, KPC etc speaks of the importance Kuwait attaches to its digital transformation objectives. The leadership of both countries has also identified this area of cooperation as one of mutual interest. This is, therefore, a sector where we can consult, cooperate and collaborate for win-win partnerships."

Speaking on the occasion, Member of the Board of Directors of the KCCI, Wafa Qatami, said India is one of Kuwait's main trading partners, ranking fourth in terms of exports to Kuwait in 2021.

With the impressive growth of India's tech industry and Kuwait's willingness to embrace digital transformation, ties with Kuwait in the area of infotech are moving in the right direction.

Meanwhile, the IBPC later hosted an interactive evening with top Indian IT Industry delegates at the Crowne Plaza. Participating in the event was a large number of Indian business owners, senior executives and representatives of various companies. "This is our small endeavour to connect the Indian IT sector with Kuwaiti business house and industries", said IBPC Chairman Gurvinder Singh Lamba in his welcome address.

During the inauguration of the interactive session, the Indian envoy HE Adarsh Swaika said, "These delegations represent various domains within IT sector. We had very fruitful meeting with key stakeholders in Kuwait and I expect that Kuwait will take full advantage of India's growing IT story."

IBPC treasurer Sunit Arora introduced the companies and the delegations briefed about their field of expertise, which provided great opportunity for business people to interact with the Indian companies and explore various opportunities.

A booklet for the Nasscom conference was also released during the event. IBPC Vice Chairman Kaizar Shakir, Jr. Secretary Suresh K.P. also joined the booklet release along with the Indian delegations.

The companies including Epicenter Technologies Pvt Ltd, Mindmap Digital, XlscoutXlpat, Sanyak Infotech, SavizFz, Colan Infotech, Tantrayan Technology, Unikul Solutions, KrypC Technology, Posidex Technology, Inadev India, SEA Infonet, Qaagility Technologies, CTD Techs and Writer Business Solution.



Indian Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh Swaika addresses the audience.



## oil down

The price of Kuwait oil went down by USD 1.11 to USD 95.40 per barrel on Monday as opposed to USD 96.51 per barrel last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

The prices of the Brent crude and the West Texas Intermediate went down each by USD 2.33 and USD 2.59, to settle respectively at USD 89.83 per barrel and USD 85.49 pb. (KUNA)

The Saudi Export-Import (Saudi EXIM) Bank has signed an agreement with Trafigura, a market leader in the global commodities industry, to extend a three-year credit facility of USD 500 million.

In the presence of Mr. Jeremy Weir, Executive Chairman and CEO of Trafigura, the agreement was signed by Dr. Naif Al-Shammari, Deputy CEO of Saudi EXIM, and Christophe Salmon, CFO of Trafigura. This agreement shall facilitate the purchase of domestically produced commodities from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and enable Trafigura to connect Saudi producers to more than 156 markets worldwide.

Commenting on the agreement, Dr. Al-Shammari

said: "Such credit facilities come as part of our ongoing efforts to expand the global reach of Saudi exports. Our collaboration with Trafigura aligns with Vision 2030 goals and will play a pivotal role in unlocking promising investment and trade opportunities between the Kingdom and countries worldwide.

"This strategic endeavor will pave the way for driving global economic growth and advancing international trade."

"We are delighted to have signed this important financial agreement with Saudi EXIM Bank that will further develop our business relationships in the country," said Mr. Jeremy Weir. "This will enhance the opportunities for

Saudi producers of commodities such as copper, gold and downstream products to access global markets. We will facilitate this by harnessing our global resources, in-depth market knowledge and expertise in supply chain logistics."

Aiming to grow Saudi non-oil exports and enhance their positioning in global markets across diverse sectors, the Saudi EXIM Bank provides financing services, guarantees, and export credit insurance.

It was established in 2020 with the aim of promoting Saudi non-oil exports and enhancing its competitiveness across various sectors in global markets. (Business Wire)

## Market Movements

24-10-2023

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+62.80	31,062.35	UK	- FTSE 100	-5.17	7,369.66
EUROPE	- Euro Stoxx 50	+12.82	4,054.57	PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	-48.72	6,039.72
DUBAI	- DFM	+11.60	3,741.51	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-4.58	51,068.15
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+86.52	10,379.71	EGYPT	- EGX 30	-195.10	22,377.39

# Business

## Moving forward provides wider scope for banks to expand in pursuit of long-term growth

# 'GCC banks might consider global expansion amid home market saturation'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Marmore MENA Intelligence, a subsidiary of Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" released its research report which explores the avenues for long-term growth of GCC banks which are facing saturation in home markets and uncertainty in regional economies.

GCC banks are highly concentrated in their local countries, with 45% of their branches situated in GCC itself. GCC banks enjoy several advantages when it comes to serving their home markets. There are also restrictions on foreign ownership. This effectively creates a favorable captive market for the banks, which leads to higher margins and better cash flows. Government support, backed by significant deposits, is also a major advantage for the GCC banks. The GCC banks have exhibited exceptional resilience to macroeconomic headwinds in the recent past due to the structural and cultural differences, linked to their risk appetite, when compared to their US and European counterparts. Oil's strength and the currency's peg to US dollars ensure stability to the system against economic shocks. Such resilience ensures that the banks can deliver consistent returns to their shareholders.

However, GCC banks, due to their highly localized nature, face challenges, linked to their economies themselves. All GCC economies are dependent on hydrocarbon revenues to a significant extent. Downturns in oil prices, like the one we witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic, can adversely affect economic performance which will have a ripple effect on the financial sector. Further, being highly localized implies that the services of the GCC banks have been restricted to their respective countries or the GCC region. This has resulted in a stagnation of profit margins. Even though GCC banks have earned profits, every market does have a limit. Once it is reached, growth can be achieved only by venturing into foreign markets. Also, GCC banks are in a nascent stage when it comes to digitization, despite high penetration of internet in the GCC countries. Information Technology will not only assist banks to reach more customers but also enable them to provide different types

of products to them. Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE), the two largest economies in the Middle East, have been proactive in terms of their regulatory approach towards digitization progress of banks.

With respect to the geographic diversification of GCC banks, report highlighted common themes that could be observed. While there is considerable cross-border trade and business activity across the MENA region, only a few GCC banks even have a strong pan-regional presence, with 45% of their branches situated in GCC itself. Furthermore, few banks did venture outside their home markets, mainly into Turkey, Egypt and Pakistan. In terms of the number of branches, Turkey (25.5%), Pakistan (13.6%), and Egypt (8.8%) constitute 48% of GCC Banks' presence outside the region, as of 2022. The GCC banks have not tested the European and American markets, with only 56 branches in total. This implies that there is scope for expansion for GCC banks, into such markets.

### Macroeconomic assumptions

The main attraction for venturing into these countries is their large population and the low penetration of banking services as compared to the GCC economies. GCC countries have an average of 3.8 banks for every million people, whereas Turkey, Egypt and Pakistan only have 0.7, 0.3 and 0.1 banks, respectively, for every million people. However, the macroeconomic assumptions about these large economies faltered significantly as political uncertainty affected operations for the GCC banks in the past.

Going forward, there are some possible plays for the GCC banks, in pursuit of long-term growth. Most of the GCC banks are concentrated in their respective home countries, which are now considered as over-banked. This provides scope for the banks to expand into other MENA countries as they too exhibit cultural similarities. However, given the not-so-encouraging outcomes of trading into countries like Egypt, Turkey & Pakistan, GCC banks might be nudged to look beyond the MENA region for growth. The GCC banks,

positioned at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, are lately witnessing trade and finance flows. GCC banks can capitalize on such flows by setting up businesses in Europe and Asia. Further, the GCC banks have limited presence in America and Europe. This implies that there is scope for expansion into such markets. The competition in Europe and US would be very high, given that the world's largest banks are from those regions. However, given the low levels of penetration of Islamic banking in such regions, GCC banks could do well to position themselves in the lucrative Islamic Banking.

The presence of GCC banks, in terms of number of branches, in Turkey, Egypt, and Pakistan

Country	Turkey	Egypt	Pakistan
Bahrain	226	99	868
Kuwait	472	136	-
Oman	-	1	-
Qatar	480	232	-
UAE	670	277	235
Saudi Arabia	308	-	44
Total	2,156	745	1,147

Source: Latest available Annual Reports/Investor Presentations.

Note: The information and statistical data herein have been obtained from sources (Refinitiv, Capital IQ, Annual Reports by Banks) we believe to be reliable but in no way are warranted by us as to its accuracy or completeness. Markaz has no obligation to update, modify or amend this report.

## Transforming Saudi Arabia's future

### NEOM and DSV establish \$10b exclusive logistics joint venture

NEOM, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Oct. 24, (PR Newswire): NEOM and DSV announce a US\$10 billion exclusive logistics joint venture to support the development of the ambitious projects taking shape in NEOM, Saudi Arabia. The partnership will focus on providing logistics services for NEOM in the coming years.

Under the agreement, the joint venture will provide end-to-end supply chain management, development and investments in transport and logistics assets and infrastructure as well as transport and delivery of goods and materials within NEOM.

NEOM will hold 51% of the joint venture with DSV holding the remaining 49%.

#### Infrastructure development

NEOM envisions unparalleled demand for construction logistics through to December 31, 2031, with sustained growth in non-construction logistics thereafter. In addition to its impact on the logistics landscape, the venture is expected to boost the Saudi economy, through infrastructure development and creating more than 20,000 job opportunities.

Nadhami Al-Nasr, CEO of NEOM, said: "This partnership not only shows the reality of NEOM and its vision, but also the private sector's level of confidence to join us on this journey. The projected demand in both construction and non-construction logistics will make NEOM one of the largest customers in the world, and this partnership allows NEOM to create value from its demand. Working alongside one of the world's leading logistics companies, the joint venture

with DSV will build on expertise and know-how to drive innovation and sustainability throughout the logistics value chain. The economic benefit to this partnership will not only provide tens of thousands of jobs, but it will also enable growth to capture local and regional market share. It's a living example of Saudi Vision 2030 in action, fostering job creation and building a future-leaning economy."

Jens Bjørn Andersen, Group CEO, DSV, said: "NEOM is one of the largest and most complex projects in the world. It provides a unique opportunity for DSV to support a development that is at the forefront of innovation, technology and digital transformation. DSV already has a strong presence in Saudi Arabia, and this is a significant growth opportunity for us in the region and we look forward to working with NEOM Company and bringing our logistics capabilities to the table."

NEOM and DSV are committed to driving innovation and will allocate a portion of the JV's revenues to foster the development of groundbreaking technologies and commercialize new sustainable next-generation logistics solutions. The vision extends further by establishing a dedicated innovation center at NEOM. The new joint venture is a significant milestone demonstrating NEOM's commitment to revolutionizing Saudi Arabia's logistics sector, and paves the way for pioneering sustainable logistics solutions, marking a new chapter in its journey towards realizing Vision 2030.

# Central Bank reveals 0.9% increase in total deposits in first 9 months of 2023

## Government funds surge as personal loans shift

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Central Bank of Kuwait's monthly statistics for September highlighted a 0.9% increase in total deposits during the first nine months of 2023, equivalent

to about 432.5 million dinars. Total deposits grew from 46.91 billion dinars at the end of December 2022 to 47.342 billion dinars by the close of last September. Central Bank data for September categorizes total deposits into private sector, government, and public institution deposits. Over these

nine months, private sector deposits showed a 1.4% growth, reaching 37.467 billion dinars, up from 36.949 billion dinars in December.

Government deposits in local banks experienced remarkable growth, increasing by 25.2% during this period, reaching 4.183 billion dinars from 3.34 billion dinars in December. However, deposits of public institutions declined by 14%, amounting to 5.692 billion dinars in September, down from 6.62 billion dinars in December.

#### Credit facilities

Regarding credit facilities, the total cash credit facilities provided by banks across all sectors increased by 0.7% over the first nine months of 2023, reaching 52.828 billion dinars from 52.447 billion dinars in December. This balance increased by 0.4% on a monthly basis, equating to around 218.5 million dinars, following August's 52.61 billion dinars. On an annual basis, it marked a rise of approximately 1.36 billion dinars, exceeding the September 2022 figure of 52.1 billion dinars. Personal cash facilities advanced by 0.9% since the beginning of the year, amounting to 18.65 billion dinars, up from 18.477 million dinars in December.

Personal facilities are categorized into consumer, housing, private housing, and other types. Consumer loans decreased by 12.9 million dinars or 0.6%, totaling 1.954 billion dinars in September, down from 1.967 billion dinars in December. Housing facilities showed a 1.4% increase, reaching 15.96 billion dinars from 15.74 billion dinars in December, while private and typical housing loans fell by 8.1%, amounting to 299.7 million dinars, down from 326.3 million dinars. Facilities provided for purchasing securities increased by 1.5%, totaling 3.34 billion dinars in September, up from 3.291 billion dinars in December. This coincided with a decline in new credit facilities provided over nine months, decreasing by about 428.4 billion dinars or 2.45% from 17.474 billion dinars in the same period of 2022 to 17 billion in 2023. Personal facilities provided by banks on a monthly basis decreased by 32.5%, valued at 2.71 billion dinars compared to 4.02 billion dinars in the same period of 2022.

As for bank assets, the total assets of local banks grew by 1.1% over nine months, reaching 85.428 billion dinars, up from 84.486 billion dinars at the end of December. The net foreign assets of local banks showed a growth of 2.9%, totaling 10.655 billion dinars in September, up from 10.354 billion dinars in December. Shareholders' equity in local banks decreased by 0.25%, amounting to 14.33 billion dinars in September, down from 14.37 billion dinars in December 2022.



A view of the Kuwait Central Bank building.

## Kuwait's official reserve assets increase by 3.98%

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The State of Kuwait's official reserve assets saw a 3.98% annual increase, equivalent to 560 million dinars (\$1.815 billion), by the end of September 2023, with contributions from its workforce. Last month, these assets amounted to 14.624 billion dinars (\$47.398 billion), in contrast to 14.064 billion dinars (\$45.583 billion) in September 2022. However, they experienced a minor decline of approximately 0.78% compared to their August 2023

level of 14.739 billion dinars, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In the course of 2023, Kuwait's official reserve assets have decreased by roughly 1.05%, as they stood at about 14.779 billion dinars at the end of 2022. It is important to note that these figures do not encompass the external assets of the General Investment Authority, estimated at \$803 billion, making them the world's fifth-largest assets held by a sovereign fund.

## Kuwait leads growth charge

# Gulf project market soars with 86% surge to \$41.8 bn in Q3 2023

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: Kamco Invest's recent report revealed a remarkable 86% surge in the value of projects awarded across Gulf countries during the third quarter of 2023. This figure reached \$41.8 billion, a significant rise from the \$22.2 billion recorded in the same period of 2022. This data underscores the ongoing growth of the project market in the Gulf nations, marking the third-highest quarterly project value over the past five years, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The report noted that all Gulf countries experienced year-on-year growth in project values during the third quarter of 2023, except for Qatar, which saw a

decline in awarded project value. Kuwait led the way in terms of annual growth, with the total value of contracts awarded increasing over 13-fold to \$2.3 billion compared to \$162 million during the same period in 2022.

Saudi Arabia alone accounted for more than 50% of the total project value in the Gulf countries in the third quarter. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar together represented 93.0% of the project values in the region.

Kuwait is set for a strong year of project awards, with the total value of annual projects anticipated to reach its highest levels since 2018. In the first nine months of 2023, the total

value of awarded contracts exceeded \$5.8 billion. This is a notable increase compared to the previous years: 2019 (\$3.3 billion), 2020 (\$4.3 billion), 2021 (\$5.1 billion), and 2022 (\$2.4 billion).

#### Project market

In terms of the overall project market size, the total value of projects in Kuwait reached an estimated \$169 billion by mid-October 2023, according to the "MEED" Gulf Projects Index. When it comes to project statuses, contracts under implementation totaled \$79.8 billion, with contracts under study at \$54.4 billion and contracts under

design amounting to \$54.2 billion by the end of the second quarter.

The transportation sector played a significant role in Kuwait, with projects in this sector amounting to \$1.9 billion during the third quarter of 2023, in stark contrast to \$50 million in the same period the previous year. The transportation sector represented approximately 83.6% of the total project value during this quarter. Following closely, the building and construction sector in Kuwait ranked second in awarded contracts with a value of \$134 million. Notably, the Kuwait Airport expansion project, valued at \$4.3 billion,

features the new Passenger Terminal 2 and is currently the largest project underway. It is followed by the project to expand the sewage treatment plant in Umm Al-Hayman, with a value of \$1.4 billion. The largest planned but as yet unawarded project is the new airport project in northern Kuwait, valued at \$12 billion, followed by the South Al-Mutlaa City project at \$11.6 billion.

According to MEED, the total value of contracts already offered or likely to be awarded in Gulf countries during 2023 is expected to exceed \$110 billion, with Saudi, Qatari, and Emirati projects leading the market.



**Russian oil imports to EU reduced by 90 pct**

The EU drastically reduced its dependence on Russian fossil fuel, phasing out coal imports, reducing oil imports by 90 percent, and reducing gas imports from 155 billion cubic meters (bcm) in 2021 to around 80 bcm in 2022, and to an estimated 40-45 bcm in 2023. This was stated in the 2023 State of Energy Union Report released by the European Commission on Tuesday.

The EU reduced gas demand in general by more than 18 percent compared with the previous five years, saving around 53 bcm of gas. The report noted that gas storage facilities were filled to 95 percent capacity ahead of the 2022-23 winter and now stand at over 98 percent, ahead of the coming winter. While gas prices peaked in August 2022 at EUR 294 (USD

312) per megawatt hour (MWh), they fell to an average of EUR 44 (USD 46)/MWh from January to June 2023. Electricity prices peaked at EUR 474 (USD 503)/MWh in August 2022 and fell to average of EUR 107 (USD 113)/MWh from January to June 2023. The share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption in the EU reached 21.8 percent in 2021. (KUNA)

**Malaysia gives nod for Lynas to import, process rare earths**

Malaysia's government said Tuesday it will allow Lynas Rare Earth to continue to import and process rare earths until March 2026, after the Australian miner proposed a new technology to extract radioactive elements from the waste it produces. The Lynas refinery in Malaysia, its first outside China producing minerals that are crucial to high-tech manufacturing, has been operating in central Pa-

hang state since 2012. But the company has been embroiled in a dispute over radiation from waste accumulating at the plant. The government had ordered Lynas to move its leaching and cracking processes - which produce the radioactive waste from Australian ore - out of the country by the year's end. It also was not allowed to import raw materials with radioactive elements into the country.

Science Minister Chang Lih Kang said the two conditions for renewing Lynas' license had been removed after the company proposed a way to extract thorium, the radioactive element, from the raw rare earths it imports and from the more than 1 million tons of waste sitting at its factory. The Atomic Energy Licensing Board has studied the Lynas proposal and found it feasible, he said. (AP)

**Subpoenas being issued for information**

**Tesla says Justice Department is expanding investigations**

DETROIT, Oct 24, (AP): Federal prosecutors have expanded investigations into Tesla beyond the electric vehicle maker's partially automated driving systems, and they have issued subpoenas for information instead of simply requesting it, the company disclosed Monday.

In a quarterly report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Tesla said the Department of Justice is looking into "personal benefits, related parties, vehicle range and personnel decisions," without giving details.

The additional investigation topics and the subpoenas suggest that prosecutors have broadened their inquiry, and they have found the need to force Tesla to disclose information, legal experts say. The filing indicates prosecutors may be investigating Tesla CEO Elon Musk, and whether the company has been candid in describing the features of its vehicles, they say.

In January, Tesla disclosed that the Justice Department had requested documents related to its Autopilot and "Full Self-Driving" features. Both features are classified as driver-assist systems, and the company says on its website that the vehicles cannot drive themselves.

Now, the company is disclosing a probe that is "a lot wider than just looking at Autopilot and FSD features," said Erik Gordon, a University of Michigan business and law professor. "The DOJ often starts with a formal written request and escalates to administrative subpoenas if it thinks it isn't getting full cooperation," he said.

Specifying additional items that prosecutors are looking at indicates that Tesla lawyers found them serious enough to change the company's public disclosures, Gordon said.

Tesla didn't respond to a request for comment, but the company based in Austin, Texas, said in its SEC filing that to its knowledge, no govern-

ment agency has concluded that any wrongdoing happened in any ongoing investigation. The Justice Department declined to comment.

For the first time, Tesla said in its filing that the investigations could damage the company's brand. "Should the government decide to pursue an enforcement action, there exists the possibility of a material adverse impact on our business, results of operation, prospects, cash flows, financial position or brand," the filing said.

Jacob Frenkel, a former SEC enforcement attorney and ex-federal prosecutor, said specifically pointing out "personal benefits and related parties" suggests a possible connection to Musk. Disclosing that vehicle range is under scrutiny "also reflects a concern about the company's representations about vehicle features," said Frenkel, now a partner with Dickinson Wright in Washington.

It's unclear if Tesla merely considered subpoenas as requests for information in prior quarterly disclosures, Frenkel said. "Now the broader inquiry including relating to the Autopilot and FSD features appears subject to subpoena," he said.

It is not possible to tell from the filing how far along the Justice Department is in its probe or whether it will result in any criminal charges, Frenkel said.

"Adding the notion of a material adverse impact on the company's brand does suggest a heightened concern as to the potential consequences that could flow from a federal civil or criminal action," Frenkel said. "It is reasonable to interpret these disclosures as suggesting an expanded continuing and even potentially more damaging investigation."

Tesla's "Full Self-Driving" hardware went on sale late in 2015, and Musk has used the name ever since as the company gathered data to teach

its computers how to drive. The company recently cut the "Full Self-Driving" price \$3,000 to \$12,000.

In 2019, Musk promised a fleet of autonomous robotaxis by 2020, and he said in early 2022 that the cars would be autonomous that year. In April, Musk said the system should be ready in 2023.

Since 2021, Tesla has been beta-testing "Full Self-Driving" using volunteer owners. On Tesla's third-quarter earnings conference call last week, Musk didn't directly answer a question about the timeline for Tesla vehicles to drive themselves and be deployed as robotaxis. "I guess I am very excited about our progress with autonomy," he said, adding that the system can drive him around Austin with no interventions.

But Tesla's partially automated driving systems have been under investigation by the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration since June of 2016 when a driver using Autopilot was killed after his Tesla went under a tractor-trailer crossing its path in Florida. A separate probe into Teslas that were using Autopilot when they crashed into emergency vehicles started in August 2021. At least 14 Teslas that have crashed into emergency vehicles while using the Autopilot system.

Including the Florida crash, NHTSA has sent investigators to 35 Tesla crashes in which automated systems are suspected of being used. At least 17 people have died. The agency also is investigating complaints that Teslas can brake suddenly for no reason.

Auto safety advocates and government investigators have long criticized Tesla's driver monitoring system as inadequate. Three years ago the National Transportation Safety Board listed poor monitoring as a contributing factor in a 2018 fatal Tesla crash in California. The board recommended a better system, but said Tesla has not responded.

**Gaza war could build more 'urgency' to shift to renewables, IEA head says**

Conflict has oil markets on edge

FRANKFURT, Germany, Oct 24, (AP): Tensions from the war in Gaza could help accelerate the move away from planet-warming fossil fuels like oil and gas and toward renewable energy, electric cars and heat pumps — similar to how sharp increases in the price of oil during the 1970s unleashed efforts to conserve fuel, the head of the International Energy Agency said.

"Today we are again facing a crisis in the Middle East that could once again shock oil markets," said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol. That comes on top of the stress on energy markets from Russia's cutoff of natural gas to Europe over its invasion of Ukraine, he said.

"Put these two things together, and no one can convince me that oil and gas are safe and secure energy choices for countries or consumers," Birol told The Associated Press in an interview ahead of the publication Tuesday of the IEA's annual world energy outlook, which analyzes the global picture of energy supply and demand.

"This could further accelerate the energy transition around the world," with renewable sources like wind or solar offering a "long lasting solution" to energy security issues as well as climate change, he said.

The attack on Israel by the militant organization Hamas and the ensuing Israel military operations has raised fears of a wider Mideast conflict. So far oil price rises have been relatively moderate. International benchmark Brent crude traded at \$90.17 per barrel Tuesday, up from around \$84 on the eve of the Hamas attack. So far the fighting has not led to a supply interruption.

Fossil fuel prices are down from 2022 peaks, but "markets are tense and volatile," said the IEA in the report.

"Some of the immediate pressures from the global energy crisis have eased, but energy markets, geopolitics, and the global economy are unsettled and the risk of further disruption is ever present," it said.

Birol pointed out that there was "a major government response" to the energy supply concerns that arose 50 years ago from the Arab oil embargo imposed during the 1973 Yom Kippur war.

It sent oil prices nearly 300% higher and led to the founding of



The BP oil refinery steams behind residential houses in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, Nov. 5, 2021. The IEA's annual world energy outlook, which analyzes the global picture of energy supply and demand, was released, Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023. (AP)

**Jordan's ambassador to China highlights the strengthened bilateral ties and collaborative efforts on global challenges**

BEIJING, Oct. 24, (PR Newswire): This is a report from China.org.cn: In talking about the notable advancements in the strategic alliance between China and Jordan over the past decade following the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative, Jordan's Ambassador to China, Hussam Al Hussein, noted, "The ties between China and Jordan are deeply rooted in history, dating back to the times of the ancient Silk Road some 2,500 years ago. Presently, the bond between our two nations is not only enduring but also strengthening."

In recent years, the China-Jordan relationship has been constantly evolving. Ambassador Hussein said: "Serving as Jordan's ambassador to China not only allows me to contrib-

ute to deepening the friendship between China and Jordan, but it's also an opportunity to understand Chinese civilization and history from various perspectives and witness China's development and progress."

Ambassador Hussein also mentioned that in addressing global challenges, Jordan and China can cooperate in more fields to jointly tackle many of the current issues. He said: "Responding to global humanitarian crises is an important topic of cooperation between China and Jordan. Jordan always receives support from our Chinese friends in this regard."

Thanks to Jordan's favorable business climate, Chinese companies have participated in numerous construction endeavors within the country. Ambassador

Hussein outlined several reasons why Chinese companies are willing to invest and do business there. Security and stability are among the primary considerations. Besides, Jordan boasts an impressive pool of human resources and a robust, dependable banking infrastructure.

Jordan, with its storied history and vibrant culture, stands as a premier travel destination. The nation has meticulously preserved vital cultural artifacts from epochs including the Arab and Roman periods. Given the surge in Jordan's cultural tourism sector, more Chinese travelers are opting for Jordanian getaways. Ambassador Hussein is confident that Jordan's rich tourism offerings will continually captivate Chinese tourists.

the IEA in 1974 to help shape a collective response to the disruption.

That was followed by the 1978 Iranian revolution, which added another price shock. At the time, the solutions included the rollout of nuclear power plants and the imposition of mileage standards for cars.

"This time, we have all of the available technologies," Birol said. "We have solar, wind, nuclear power, electric cars. They will extend significantly around the world and it will be an additional boost to the energy transition."

He pointed to the rapid rollout of electric cars, saying that in 2020 only one in 25 cars was electric but in 2023 it was one in five. Meanwhile the share of fossil fuels in electricity generation has fallen from 70% ten years ago to 60% today and should reach 40% by 2030, he said.

Concerted international action at the upcoming United Nations climate conference is needed to expand use of clean technologies and find new ways of financing the massive investment that is needed, especially in the developing world, the IEA said.

The report also pointed to a

shifting role for China, once a leading source of increased demand for energy due to rapid industrialization and growth. The report said energy demand there could peak as soon as 2025 amid slowing growth and "impressive" shifts to clean energy like solar and nuclear.

The IEA estimates that demand for fossil fuels will peak before 2030 under current policies but says governments will have to increase their efforts to speed up the transition if the world is to meet the global goal of keeping warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

**NerdWallet**

**Millennial Money: How to 'adjust' to prosperity after tasting poverty**

Growing up without money affects how you live on a daily basis in childhood, and it can have long-term effects into adulthood, even when you begin to have enough money to make ends meet.

When you move from experiencing poverty to maintaining financial stability, there can be some major opportunities to set yourself and your family up for long-term security. But there can also be challenges around changing your mindset and managing your emotions about money. Here are some things to expect when you move from one circumstance to another.

**How the experience of poverty can shape your money behaviors**

When money is tight on a continual basis, hard decisions often have to be made, such as, "Am I going to pay my light bill or am I going to buy groceries?"

"There's no right answer, and either way there's going to be a lack of safety," says Sandra Davis, a money coach and director of Sage Financial Solutions.

Davis says that lack of safety - i.e., not being able to fulfill all of your needs and living in fear that you'll lose your income, benefits or housing - "can create what is widely termed as 'financial trauma,' which is when an experience with money, or a message passed down from a previous generation, causes us to behave in response to the trauma rather than with thoughtful consideration."

Family relationships are typically an influential factor in your money habits, and they can also be a major consideration once your financial situation improves. Davis says that thought patterns about money can come from lived experience, but they also come from information passed down through family members.

There can be additional obstacles that might affect you or may have affected your family in the past, such as racial or gender discrimination, mental health issues, substance abuse or disabilities that may have hindered earning enough money for your household to cover its expenses. Systemic obstacles can also be a consideration, such as how public benefits might be cut off once you reach a certain income level, even if you still need financial assistance to pay for food or housing.

Assuming you've been able to overcome these challenges, there can be mental hurdles to get over once you're in a more financially abundant situation. But there are steps you can take to get on track toward achieving your financial goals.

**How to change your money mindset and management**

Venecia Robinson, a therapist and life coach, has personal experience in shifting her money mindset. She grew up in

a household that faced financial challenges, and she also became a mother at a young age. She recalls paying certain bills only after she had received a service shutoff notice. Once she started school to become an accountant, she decided that she wanted to change these habits and parent her children to understand credit, saving money and how to manage their spending habits. One of the early steps she took toward financial stability was to start keeping tabs on how much she was spending, which she recommends to anyone who's working to improve their financial situation.

"It can be terrifying to start tracking your money because once you know, you have to do something about it," says Robinson.

After she had a handle on her income and expenses, she was able to prioritize the financial goals she had created for herself and come up with a spending plan. For her, that looked like paying her bills first, then allocating the remaining money this way: setting aside money for discretionary spending; saving some money for a rainy day fund; and investing a percentage toward her future.

If you aren't sure where to start, in addition to tracking your spending, reach out to a fiduciary financial planner - ideally before your money comes in. Fiduciary financial planners have a legal duty to act in your best interest, which means they won't push you to buy a financial product or service. These financial planners can be found with an online search, or through referrals in your community.

You can also reach out to a financial therapist when thoughts about money are getting in the way of decision-making or if you're feeling stressed about money. Davis also suggests that people increase their knowledge by reading financial resources and thinking about their emotions around money. Financial education can be found in many sources, including books, classes and online. Start by checking out the personal finance section of your local bookstore or library, or you could look up financial terms online.

If family is a concern, a meeting can be a helpful step to set expectations around money and to discuss how the whole family could benefit from a financial shift. This might entail discussions around how money can be used to provide long-term security versus what it can do in the short term.

"You should give thought to the impact of financial decisions on your whole life," says Davis. "Recognize that resources can change lives for the better. You should be thinking, 'What do I want life to look like later?'"



# 'A Brief History of Intelligence' may help humans shape AI future

LOS ANGELES, Oct 24, (AP) — Ever wonder how Homo sapiens got so smart? How come we developed actual language when all the other animals didn't? How about what first made a nematode turn its body in a different direction? Or... what's a nematode?

Answers to those questions and much, much more can be found in the pages of Max Bennett's new book "A Brief History of Intelligence: Evolution, AI and the Five Breakthroughs that Made Our Brains." At 365 pages plus 45 more with a glossary, chapter notes and a bibliography, readers can quibble whether it's indeed brief, but it is certainly thorough.

Bennett's premise — he's a software entrepreneur who founded a company called Bluecore that "helped predict what consumers would buy before they knew what they wanted" — is that humans won't ever create true artificial intelligence without understanding exactly what led to the real intelligence we already possess. So he begins with those nematodes — worms, to you and me — and painstakingly details the five breakthroughs that over the course of billions of years evolved into the three-pound brain that is folded into all of our skulls.

The first half of the book is a touch dry, detailing not only what caused worms to turn (food!), but how fish learn via trial and error and the pivotal role the basal ganglia plays in dictating behavior, among many, many other evolutionary developments. Bennett cites the work of psychologists and neuroscientists every step of the way and includes plenty of charts and graphs to make his points. It can feel like you're reading a textbook at times. But to his credit, he begins each new chapter with actual prose, as in this description of the Cambrian explosion

more than 500 million years ago: "The gooey microbial mats of the Ediacaran that turned the ocean floor green would have long since faded and given way to a more familiar sandy underbelly. The sensible, slow, and small creatures of the Ediacaran would have been replaced by a bustling zoo of large mobile animals as varied in form as in size."

When Bennett begins to connect the evolution of the human brain to where we are in the development of artificial intelligence is when the book, for this reader, gets more interesting. Why can't machines truly learn? Even ChatGPT, which every industry seems to be embracing these days, can't "learn things sequentially," writes Bennett. "They learn things all at once and then stop learning." We've trained ChatGPT using the entire contents of the Internet, but the software can't learn new things because of the risk that it will forget old things, or learn the wrong things.

### Evolution

Bennett is intelligent enough not to draw any conclusions about AI in a field that is changing daily, but he does end his book with a challenge. Evolution gave us our magnificent human brain, he writes, and now that we are in a position to play god and create a new form of intelligence, we must first decide on our goal — are we destined to spread out across the cosmos? Or will we fail, victims of pride or climate change or something yet unseen, just another branch on the evolutionary tree, which will grow on without humans and perhaps never add a limb called "Artificial Intelligence?" No reader alive today will live

long enough for that answer, but Bennett makes a solid case for why reverse engineering the human brain may lead to future breakthroughs in the science of AI.

### Also:

**NEW YORK:** The next book by Erik Larson, widely known for the best-selling "The Devil in the White City," is a work of Civil War history inspired in part by current events.

Crown announced Wednesday that Larson's "The Demon of Unrest: Subtitle: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War" will come out April 30. Larson sets his narrative over a short but momentous time span, from Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860 to the firing on Fort Sumter five months later.

During a recent telephone interview, Larson said he was initially inspired by his reading of historical documents and how he could weave them into a "tick-tock" chronology of the country's fracturing and descent into armed conflict, driven by "the human element — the hubris, the personalities, the ambitions, the egos."

"And then comes January 6," he added, referring to the 2021 siege of the US Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump. "I have to tell you, it was the weirdest thing watching this unfold on TV, because the documents I was going through could have been written today. Lincoln's primary concern had been about whether the electoral vote count would be disturbed, and then came the grave concern about the inauguration. It all has very contemporary resonance."

Books

## Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Layla Mohammadi, (foreground left), and Niusha Noor in a scene from 'The Persian Version.' (AP)

## Film

Next 'Mission: Impossible' delayed a year

# Laughter and tears in 'Persian Version'

LOS ANGELES, Oct 24, (AP) — Let nobody say writer-director Maryam Keshavarz doesn't know how to start a movie.

The first time we see Leila, her alter ego in the autobiographical, warm-hearted, personal, funny but also somewhat chaotic "The Persian Version," she's walking across the Brooklyn Bridge. Headed to a Halloween party, she's carrying a surfboard and wearing what she calls a "burkini" — a sexy bikini, but paired with a niqab, the face-covering garment worn by some Muslim women.

It's surely not an accident that Leila is crossing a bridge, because her film (and Halloween costume) is about bridging two identities — her Iranian heritage, and her American life. Leila (an engaging Layla Mohammadi) is a New York born-and-raised aspiring screenwriter (she wants to be an Iranian Martin Scorsese) who, we learn, has never been fully comfortable in either world. American kids would call her names at school; Iranians saw her as too Americanized.

There are other bridges to be crossed here, too. The most important is that between Leila and her formidable immigrant mother, Shireen (the wonderful Niusha Noor), who created a successful life in America out of sheer grit, educating herself and becoming an adept businesswoman while running a household full of boys and one girl. It's the girl, Leila, with whom Shireen has the fraught relationship, because — well, if you're a mother or a daughter you probably get it.

But there's a deeper backstory behind this troubled dynamic, and to learn all that, we must take a journey — a long journey, in terms of the film's run time — back to a remote village in 1960s rural Iran. But let's not get ahead of ourselves, because first adult Leila, gay and newly divorced from her wife, gets pregnant with the guy in drag who plays Hedwig on Broadway.

We told you this was chaotic. About that Halloween party: Leila wins the costume prize — justifiably! — and also hooks up in a back room with Maximilian (Tom Byrne, charming in a less roguish Hugh Grant way), who's starring in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" at the Belasco Theatre (where the show did actually run). And when she gets pregnant — profess-

ing she didn't know you could get pregnant from a one-night stand — Max says he's all in.

Keshavarz, whose film won the audience prize at Sundance, likes a flashback, and one of them takes us back to Leila's childhood summer trips to Iran, fooling guards at the airport looking for banned American music and videos, and bringing Cyndi Lauper to her Iranian relatives. Who, in turn, dance with abandon to "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" — a joyous scene.

Back in the States (the film toggles perhaps too frequently between eras, mostly 2000s New Jersey, 1980s Brooklyn and 1960s rural Iran) adult Leila's father needs a heart transplant. And Leila is hurting from her failed marriage. In flashback, we see her bringing her wife to Thanksgiving dinner and her mother, unable to approve of the gay relationship, ultimately kicking the couple out in disgust.

What has made her mother's heart so cold, particularly with her daughter? Leila's grandmother hints that a mysterious scandal long ago brought Shireen to America. To understand, we're taken back to that village in Iran, where Shireen was a bride at 14, coping with early motherhood and heartbreak. Luckily, this section of the film stars an extraordinary young actor, Kamand Shafieisabet in her first film, packing an emotional wallop into every scene.

### Portray

As vividly as Keshavarz portrays the country of her heritage, she is unable to return there — her first feature, "Circumstance," about sexual desire between two girls in Iran, won her her first audience award at Sundance but also got her banned from the country.

In any case we end "The Persian Version" not in Iran but back in the States, in a place not usually very comical but where most comedies involving a birth, even a dramatic comedy like this, eventually wind up: the maternity ward.

The scene here is intentionally crowded and yes, chaotic, just like the entire film. But it ends on a note that brings easy tears.

The rebelliousness of each of the strong women here — mother and daughter — somehow coalesces into under-

standing. Such moments can be sappy, but here, as with her lovely opening shot, Keshavarz does it well. She sticks the landing.

"The Persian Version," a Sony Pictures Classics release, has been rated R by the Motion Picture Association "for language and some sexual references." Running time: 107 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

### Also:

**NEW YORK:** The eighth installment of the "Mission: Impossible" franchise has been postponed a year, signaling a new wave of release schedule juggling for Hollywood studios as the actors strike surpasses three months of work stoppage.

Paramount Pictures on Monday shifted the release date of "Dead Reckoning - Part Two" from June 28 to May 23, 2025. Production on the second part of Christopher McQuarrie's "Dead Reckoning" was paused in July while Tom Cruise and company embarked on an international promotion blitz for "Part One."

That film ultimately grossed \$567.5 million worldwide, falling shy of 2018 installment "Fallout" (\$791.7 million globally) and the heady highs of Cruise's summer 2022 blockbuster "Top Gun: Maverick" (\$1.5 billion). The 163-minute-long action thriller, drew some of the best reviews of the 27-year-old movie franchise, but was quickly eclipsed by the box-office juggernauts of "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer."

As Hollywood's labor turmoil has continued, it's increasingly upended release plans not just for movies this fall that want to wait until their stars can promote them (like "Dune: Part Two," postponed to March), but some of next year's top big-screen attractions. A string of Marvel movies have previously shifted back, as did the third "Venom" film. "Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse," has been delayed indefinitely after being dated for March 2024.

Paramount also announced Monday that "A Quiet Place: Day One," a prequel to the post-apocalyptic horror series starring Lupita Nyong'o, will have its release pushed from March to when "Dead Reckoning" had been scheduled to open, on June 28.

**LONDON:** Photos of iconic celebrities and historic moments from the collection of Elton John and David Furnish will go on display at London's Victoria and Albert Museum next year.

The museum said Tuesday that the exhibition, titled "Fragile Beauty," will include 300 images by more than 140 photographers, including Diane Arbus, Cindy Sherman, Robert Mapplethorpe, William Eggleston, Zanele Muholi and Ai Weiwei.

The images, many of which have never been on public display, will be on show from May 18, 2024, until Jan. 5, 2025.

The exhibition will include portraits of stars including Marilyn Monroe, Miles Davis and Chet Baker, and photojournalism from historic moments including the Black civil rights movement of the 1960s, 1980s AIDS activism and the Sept. 11 attack.

The works cover the period from the 1950s to the present. The exhibition follows a show of earlier, black-and-white photographs from the collection held at London's Tate Modern in 2016.

John began collecting photographs after getting sober in the 1990s, and he and his husband Furnish now have one of the largest photo collections in private hands.

Duncan Forbes, the V&A museum's head of photography, said the images in the collection ranged "from the playful and surprising to the contemplative and thoughtful." "Fragile Beauty will be a truly epic journey across the recent history of photography, and a celebration of Sir Elton John and David Furnish's passion for the medium," he said.

The V&A has a collection of more than 800,000 photographs dating back to the birth of the medium. John and Furnish made a major donation to the museum's photography center in 2019. (AP)

**LONDON:** Prince William will travel to Singapore next month to name the winners of his Earthshot Prize, a global competition to find solutions to the challenges of climate change.

William created the prize three years ago to encourage inventors and entrepreneurs to develop technologies to combat global warming and mitigate its impact

on the environment. Singapore was chosen to host the latest annual awards ceremony because of its role as a "hub for innovation" in Southeast Asia, William's office at Kensington Palace said in a statement. During his four-day trip to Singapore, the prince will meet with local groups to learn how they are working to



John



William

protect and restore the planet. William will also attend the United for Wildlife global summit, featuring representatives of law enforcement agencies, conservation groups and corporations that are working to combat the trade in illegal wildlife products, which is estimated at \$20 billion annually. The Earthshot Prize is named

after the late President John F. Kennedy's 1962 "moonshot" speech, which challenged Americans to reach the moon by the end of that decade. The speech inspired William and his partners to set a similar goal for finding solutions to climate change and other environmental problems by 2030.

Earthshot offers 1 million pounds (\$1.2 million) in prize money to the winners in each of five categories: nature protection, clean air, ocean revival, waste elimination and climate change. The winners and all 15 finalists receive help in expanding their initiatives to meet global demand. (AP)

Features

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## People &amp; Places

## Books

## Rare original exhibits

## Shakespeare's first folio marks 400 yrs

NEW YORK, Oct 24, (AP): On the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio, rare originals are being displayed and publishers are offering collectors editions of Shakespeare's plays, including one that sells for \$1,500.

Scholars believe that between 200-300 copies still survive from the late 1623 release of "Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories & Tragedies." Presided over by two friends and former colleagues of Shakespeare, who had died in 1616, the Folio ensured that lasting texts existed for "Macbeth," "Twelfth Night" and other cornerstones of Western literature. In Shakespeare's lifetime, many of his works were unpublished or available only in cheap paperback editions.



Dench

"Without the First Folio we would have lost a world of words," Gregory Doran, artistic director emeritus of the Royal Shakespeare Company, writes in the introduction to "The Complete Plays" of Shakespeare, a new publication.

First folios have been on exhibit everywhere from the British Museum to the New York Public Library and at least two major book projects will mark the anniversary.

The British Library is collaborating with Rizzoli Books in New York on "Shakespeare's First Folio: 400th Anniversary Facsimile Edition," contained within a slipcase cover. With a list price of \$150, the book is 928 pages and includes an introductory booklet co-written by Adrian Edwards, head curator of the British Library's Printed Heritage Collections.

The most ambitious, and exclusive project, is "The Complete Plays," a limited edition from the Folio Society, an employee-owned company in London that puts out customized volumes ranging from "Beowulf" to George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" series. The Society has printed just 1,000 copies of the 3-volume box set, with a list price of \$1,500. Besides Doran's introduction, the Folio Society release includes a foreword by **Dame Judi Dench**. Each set is hand-numbered by illustrator Neil Packer.

## Classic

More than three-quarters of "The Complete Plays" have already sold, according to the publisher.

"In an era when everything seems disposable, I feel like there's a good market for fine editions of classic books," says Folio Society publishing director Tom Walker.

The First Folio was daring, even audacious for its time, when such publications were "reserved for learned treatises, hefty genealogical texts, books of religious or historiographical importance, or even works by monarchs," according to Shakespeare scholar Chris Laoutaris. Before Shakespeare the only playwright known to have been so honored was his contemporary Ben Jonson, who honored himself by overseeing "The Workes of Benjamin Jonson" in 1616. While the British Museum edition is relatively affordable, the Folio Society's production is closer to the intended market for the original release.

"Only those with deep pockets, and the space to read them, could afford such luxurious products," says Laoutaris, an associate professor at the Shakespeare Institute in the playwright's native Stratford-On-Avon and author of "Shakespeare's Book: The Intertwined Lives Behind the First Folio," which came out this year. "When it was released, the First Folio cost more to produce than any other collection of plays in history up until that point."

The Folio proved successful enough that an updated edition, the Second Folio, was published in 1632, a Third Folio in 1663 and a fourth in 1685. By the 19th century, the original Folio was becoming a valued piece of history, in part through the efforts of collectors Henry and Emily Folger, and a symbol of might for the British Empire. Sir George Grey, who had served as a colonial governor, established libraries worldwide that included copies of the First Folio.

"For Grey, the First Folio represented the pinnacle of culture, but specifically English culture," Laoutaris says. "He sought nothing less than the obliteration of the language and culture of the native populations in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, nurturing a desire to replace these with the English language and its literary products."

The United States is home to more than half of all existing copies of the First Folio, followed by the United Kingdom and Japan, with handfuls of editions also existing in Germany, France, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand among other countries. For antiquarians, the First Folio is the greatest of prizes: One sold for \$9.9 million in 2020. For scholars and countless admirers, the Folio is secondary to the plays themselves.

"Shakespeare's stature, for the past 400 years, is a reflection of his plays' staying power on the stage far more than their survival in a collected works," says James Shapiro, a professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University and author of several books on Shakespeare.

"You can buy a Ben Jonson folio for a few thousand dollars; a Shakespeare folio will cost you millions. The reason for this simple: the remarkable afterlife of his comedies, histories, and tragedies in theaters throughout the world."

## Also:

**MILWAUKEE:** A Milwaukee comic book shop is looking to sell a rare copy of the first appearance of Spider-Man.

Collector's Edge has acquired a copy of Amazing Fantasy No. 15, the Journal Sentinel reported. The comic book, written by **Marvel Comics** icon **Stan Lee** and published in 1962, tells the story of how **Peter Parker** was bitten by a radioactive spider, gained amazing powers and learns that with great power comes great responsibility.

The shop's owner, **Steve Dobrzynski**, first posted photos of the book on social media last Tuesday. He told the Journal Sentinel a couple found the book among a dead relative's possessions and brought it to him for help selling it. He did not name the couple.

A near-perfect copy of Amazing Fantasy No. 15 sold for \$3.6 million at auction in Texas in 2021. The Collector's Edge copy is worn and the edges have small tears.

Dobrzynski sent it to the Certified Guaranty Company, a Florida-based comics and collectibles grading service. The service rated the book at 3.0 on a scale of 0.5 to 10, with 0.5 being very bad condition and 10 being perfect condition. Dobrzynski said the book could fetch as much as \$35,000.

"It depends, if you put it up at auction, who's bidding on it," he said. "If nobody's bidding on it, it's obviously going to sell for a bit less."



Alia Bhatt (left) and Kareena Kapoor Khan in 'Speak Your Heart with Mine Diamonds', Malabar Gold &amp; Diamonds' TVC.

## Malabar Gold &amp; Diamonds TVC with Kareena and Alia hits 100m views

The latest TVC from Malabar Gold & Diamonds, "Speak Your Heart with Mine Diamonds", featuring their brand ambassadors Alia Bhatt & Kareena Kapoor Khan, has gone viral online, generating humongous interest among viewers and garnering over 100 million views across all platforms in 23 days. The views continue to grow exponentially.

Marking the first collaboration between the two Bollywood powerhouses and showcasing the exquisite collection from Malabar Gold & Diamonds' Mine Diamond jewellery collection, the video showcases the intrinsic value of diamond jewellery and how they are the perfect gift to communicate a myriad of emotions. The message is beautifully portrayed by Alia & Kareena walking viewers through numerous

scenarios were diamonds are gifted such as a proposal, anniversary, birthday, and other occasions/celebrations.

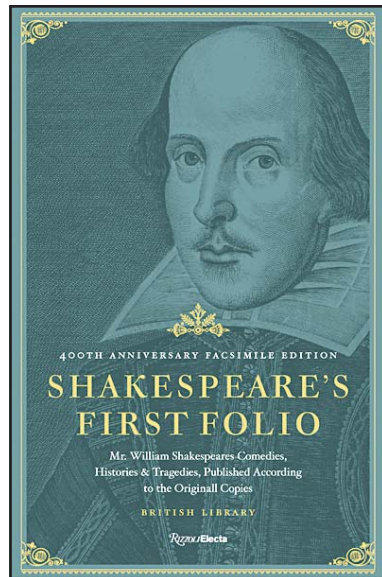
"It has been an absolutely enjoyable experience being a part of this video. It does a great job of highlighting the momentous nature of diamonds in all our lives and how they can increase the sparkle of any occasion," commented Kareena Kapoor Khan.

Speaking on the success of the video, Alia Bhatt said: "Diamonds do let us speak our hearts and this message could not have been conveyed more effectively. The fact that this video has crossed more than a 100 million views goes on to show how much people have connected with the message."

"Being the faces of the brand, Kareena Kapoor

Khan & Alia Bhatt were perfectly poised to get our message across, and they have done so in the most amazing way. I have every confidence that the video will attract an even larger viewership over the coming days, so that our message is spread far and wide", commented Malabar Group Chairman, M.P. Ahamed.

With over 335 showrooms across 11 countries in the Middle East, the Far East, India, the USA & the UK, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is currently ranked as the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally. In addition to their signature Mine-diamond jewellery collection, the brand also offers more than 25 exclusive brands and collections, with exquisite designs in Gold, Diamonds & Precious Gem jewellery.



This cover image released by Rizzoli shows 'Shakespeare's First Folio: 400th Anniversary Facsimile Edition: Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories & Tragedies, Published According to the Original Copies.' (AP)



Bon Jovi



Williams

## Variety

**SANTA MONICA, Calif.:** MusiCares has named **Jon Bon Jovi**, Grammy-Award winner, 11-time Grammy Award nominee, and founding member of American rock band Bon Jovi, as the 2024 MusiCares Person of the Year. He is the honoree of the 33rd annual Person of the Year benefit gala. Proceeds from the event will provide essential support for MusiCares, the leading music charity providing music professionals health and human services across a spectrum of needs. The tribute will be held at the **Los Angeles Convention Center** on Fri, Feb. 2, 2024, two nights before the 66th Annual Grammy Awards at Crypto.com Arena on Sun, Feb. 4, 2024.

"MusiCares is thrilled to honor Jon Bon Jovi as the 2024 Person of the Year Gala," said Laura Segura, Executive Director of MusiCares. "His remarkable contributions to rock and roll have not only left an indelible mark on the music industry, but also in the hearts of countless fans around the world. Furthermore, his long-standing commitment to serving food-insecure and unhoused individuals inspires us all. We're looking forward to celebrating him and the many ways he has made a difference in this world."

In addition to his extensive musical achievements, Jon Bon Jovi is recognized for his impactful philanthropic work. In 2006, he established the Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation, an organization dedicated to disrupting the cycle of hunger, poverty and homelessness. The organization's objective is to recognize and maximize the human potential in those affected by hunger, poverty and homelessness by offering programs that provide food and affordable housing while supporting social services and job training programs. As a health and human service charity, MusiCares is proud to shine a light on Jon Bon Jovi's impactful philanthropy and hopes to raise awareness for these important human rights issues.

"I'm truly humbled to be this year's MusiCares honoree. MusiCares' work with music professionals is vitally important in

## Music

## 'Lethal Woman' is a sound of artist enjoying herself

## Cameron drops new spiky banger

NEW YORK, Oct 24, (AP): Dove Cameron's latest single starts with the sound of maniacal laughter and then a piano riff that could have been swiped from "The Phantom of the Opera." She's just getting started.

"Lethal Woman" is a club banger about a woman "sharp as a knife under the table" that includes sounds of banging on a door, a gun being cocked and heavy production elements. The lyrics include the playful rhyme: "Game recognizes game/By the way, what's your name?"

"We threw everything including the kitchen sink into that song," Cameron tells The Associated Press ahead of its release, the latest track from her debut album due Dec. 1, "Alchemical: Volume 1."

"I think my favorite thing about the song actually is that we switch keys like six times and you hardly really notice," she says, laughing. "It just adds this kind of unhinged quality that to me just really takes us over the top."

"Alchemical: Volume 1" contains six new songs and two previous hits, "Boyfriend" and "Breakfast." The second volume could come as early as the top of next year. The title is inspired by the transformation of matter.

"In this first half, it's very much about exploring all the different sort of versions and avenues of yourself as you're growing and changing and transmitting into something else," she says.

"Lethal Woman" may be a bit unhinged but it's the sound of a young artist enjoying herself, embracing naughtiness, adding a sprinkle of her beloved Broadway and strutting away

with a switchblade on her hip.

"Music should be always like an ever-changing grand adventure. You're doing it because you're having way too much fun or because it's scratching some emotional itch," she says.

"It's like when you're a kid," she adds. "What would I do if I just had no rules? And that's kind of like what a lot of the album ended up sounding like."

Cameron has had a heady few years, winning new artist of the year honors at the 2022 American Music Awards and being named Best New Artist at the 2022 VMAs. She also was a scene-stealer in season two of "Schmigadoon!" playing a parody of Sally Bowles in "Cabaret."

## Vulnerable

The album breaks Cameron's rule about ballads. She has hated them for herself and wasn't willing yet to go to any vulnerable places. If she heard a sad song, her day was over.

"I wake up in the morning and I listen to the most loud, aggressive, someone's-working-in-a-car-body-shop that you've ever heard," she says. "If I don't feel like I'm being thrust out of a cannon, I just won't get out of bed."

But as she's matured, that stance on ballads has shifted. On the new album is "Sand," a slow-burning, wistful track about an ex that contains the lovely lines: "You have more pieces of me than the desert has sand/And I have less pieces of you than I can hold in my hand."

"I've sort of learned to reclaim what actually has happened and learn how to be able to talk about it in a way that

feels vulnerable and that feels more honest. A lot of the album started going in that direction," she says.

Cameron first gained fame on Disney's children's show "Liv and Maddie" from 2013 to 2017, which earned her a Daytime Emmy Award in 2018. She also starred on Disney's "Descendants: Wicked World" from 2015 to 2017, while juggling the launch of her music career.

Cameron debated about whether or not to include her queer anthem "Boyfriend," which reached No. 16 on Billboard's Hot 100 in the summer of 2022. She added it because it is such an important song for her, a milestone in her evolution.

"I always knew I was queer, but that's a challenging thing to talk about, even in your own small social sphere, your family," she says. "When 'Boyfriend' came about, it was one of those things that had been boiling, bubbling up in me that felt like something I needed to address and express."

"Boyfriend" - with the sly, witty lyrics "Up all night, I won't quit/Thinking I'm gonna steal you from him/I could be such a gentleman/Plus all my clothes would fit" - was the announcement of Cameron's real self. She says she had until then felt the need to be small, chaste and palatable.

"I wasn't taking up any space. And in my own life I was really diminishing myself because it felt like the right thing to do as someone who had never done anything different," she says.

"It really did feel like I stepped into a new reality where I was actually allowed to be myself - because I allowed it."

creating much needed support and wellness programs that cultivate a healthier and more vibrant community for us all," said Jon Bon Jovi. "Philanthropic work has been a cornerstone of my life and has always run in tandem to my music career and achievements. Nearly two decades ago when I formed the JBJ Soul Foundation and JBJ Soul Kitchens, I saw firsthand and continue to see today the impact of charitable community-based work.

I know this for sure: helping one's community is helping one's self." (Agencies)



**NEW YORK:** Now that she's stepped back from the sport she dominated like few others, **Serena Williams** is ready to reflect.

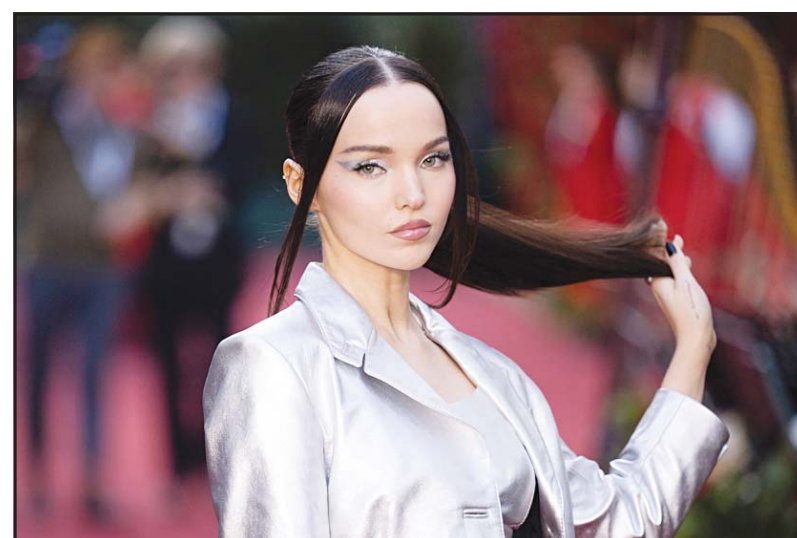
The tennis great has a two-book deal with the Random House Publishing Group, starting with an "intimate" memoir in

which she will open up about everything from her childhood and early tennis training, dramatized in the 2021 film "King Richard," to her extraordinary career and the obstacles and setbacks she endured along the way. The book is not yet titled and does not have a release date.

"For so long, all I was focused on was winning, and I never sat down to look back and reflect on my life and career," Williams, who in August gave birth to her second child, said in a statement Wednesday. "Over the last year I've really enjoyed taking the time with my growing family to celebrate my accomplishments and explore my other passions. I couldn't be at a more perfect place to be able to take-on such a personal intimate project, and there's no one I would rather do it with than the team at Random House."

The second book, also untitled, will be an "inspirational" work, according to Random House, which announced that "Williams will offer rules for living that draw on her experiences as a philanthropist and advocate, her career as an investment unicorn with Serena Ventures, and someone who has long sought to lift a diverse and emergent generation of young women whose aspirations are not confined to the court."

Williams, 42, announced her retirement - famously eschewing that term and saying instead she was "evolving" away from professional tennis - shortly before the 2022 US Open. She has not played since that tournament, which included a second-round victory over No. 2-ranked **Anett Kontaveit** before a third-round loss to **Ajla Tomljanovic**. (AP)



Dove Cameron poses for photographers upon arrival at the Vogue World event on Sept. 14, 2023 in London. Cameron's latest album 'Alchemical: Volume 1,' releases Dec. 1. (AP)





Left: St. Regis, Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait illuminate Breast Cancer Awareness in October. Right: Kuwait Sheraton Hotel employees commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness month.

**Sheraton Kuwait empowers its employees with cancer information**

**St. Regis, Sheraton hotels light up for breast cancer awareness**

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: In true celebration of the worldwide initiative known as International Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a tradition championed by the American Cancer Society since 1985, the St. Regis, Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait, once again unite in a shared mission. Together, they have launched an annual awareness campaign that extends to all female associates, with a core goal of raising consciousness about the significance of early detection and disseminating valuable insights on breast cancer, given their pivotal role in promoting positive lifestyle choices.

Throughout the campaign, employees have been empowered with comprehensive information concerning breast cancer symptoms, early detection, prevention, and treatment. To amplify the message and create a visually striking environment, the management orchestrated an all-pink setup. The ballroom was transformed into a sea of pink, with attendees donning various shades of this color, further underlining the importance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The leadership of St. Regis, Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait holds unwavering dedication to the well-being and safety of their employees. This commitment is intricately linked with their corporate social responsibilities, as they continue to endorse programs that advocate early detection – an unequivocal measure that can save lives. In doing so, both the organization and its staff gain significant advantages, reinforcing their unyielding support for a cause that resonates with countless lives.

Breast cancer awareness is a global concern and the collaborative efforts of these esteemed hotels resoundingly emphasize the critical importance of early detection and healthful choices, and they do so with flair and conviction.



Amal Al-Sayer, founder and chairwoman of the Kuwait Association for Learning Differences (KALD)



Photos by Mohamad Morsi  
A photo from the KALD awareness campaign on ADHD.

**KALD raises awareness about ADHD symptoms and solutions**

**ADHD awareness, early intervention crucial: Amal Al-Sayer**

By Inass Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The founder and chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Kuwait Association for Learning Differences (KALD) Amal Al-Sayer emphasized the importance of the awareness in discovering those suffering from attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), as awareness leads to diagnosis and motivates parents to search for centers specialized in treating hyperactivity and attention deficit disorder.

She highlighted the importance of awareness in reaching the largest number of teachers and introducing them to the symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, which not only affects the academic achievement of the student who suffers from it, but also affects his social skills and self-confidence.

Al-Sayer said this in a press statement issued on the sidelines of the launch of an awareness campaign organized by the Kuwait Association for Learning Differences (KALD) on the occasion of World Attention Deficit Hyperactivity



A photo from KALD event

Disorder (ADHD) Awareness Month entitled "You are not alone" from October 23 to 26 at Grand Avenues.

She explained that the symptoms of ADHD are involuntary and the student cannot control them. It is a neurodevelopmental disorder that is responsible for the frontal lobe of the brain due to a lack of brain transmitters such as dopamine and other conductors.

According to international statistics, the number of children who suffer from learning

difficulties and distraction is 10 to 20 percent of the total number of students.

Al-Sayer stressed on the importance of early diagnosis and intervention, which can be carried out at the age of three years.

She called on the Ministry of Education to implement integrated educational services for those who suffer from such a disorder, explaining that attention deficit hyperactivity disorder results in deficiencies in the vital executive functions that every human being needs to live his life in peace and progress.

Al-Sayer indicated that three main executive functions - working memory, flexible thinking, and self-control - are what someone with ADHD completely lacks, so he always suffers from challenges in his relationships with family and friends, which may lead some people to depression.

She revealed that the campaign launched by the association aims to spread awareness about the symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and its negative effects on students' academic, psychological and social lives, while also highlighting their strengths that enable them to succeed and even excel if they are used

well, in addition to focusing on the importance of supporting individuals who have this disorder from their families, schools, and society, and the treatment programs approved by the association, designed according to the age, and each case separately.

Al-Sayer concluded by emphasizing that approved treatments for ADHD focus on developing social skills and strategies for dealing with others with self-control, indicating that there is no fear of drug treatment for this condition if it is taken under medical supervision.

In addition, Dr. Hoda Shaaban, an educational psychologist and author of the association's new publication Integrated Therapeutic Orientation, provided free consultations to those who wished to visit the Avenues Mall, in addition to conducting an initial test of indicators of disorder in them and in their children.

She also highlighted the activities of the Parents Association, such as student-related forums, conferences, and workshops, and the integrated educational program that provides academic, psychological, and social services to the students.

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## South Africa, New Zealand playing for record fourth title

## WC final will be supercharged by one of sport's greatest rivalries

PARIS, Oct 24, (AP) - New Zealand and South Africa will contest Saturday's Rugby World Cup final and bring one of sport's most enduring, most intense rivalries to the ultimate stage for the first time in nearly 30 years.

It's been a once-in-a-generation occurrence for rugby and will be a rare treat for every fan, regardless of where they're from and who they normally support.

The All Blacks and the Springboks - with 102 years of games between them - have met in the Rugby World Cup final just once before, a 1995 showdown that reverberated way beyond sport. South Africa, newly free from apartheid and in their first World Cup as host, won against the team they want to beat more than any other in extra time in front of new President Nelson Mandela.

In a way, New Zealand - with a collection of successes since and the superior team over most of the

last three decades - have always been waiting for the chance to exorcise that 1995 final. This is it.

Both teams have won two Rugby World Cups after '95, but never against the other, and to understand the meaning of New Zealand vs. South Africa this weekend at Stade de France in Paris, think Brazil vs. Argentina in a soccer World Cup final. Then add lots more.

Both are locked on three world titles and playing for a record fourth. The Springboks are the defending champions and ranked No. 1 and the All Blacks the former champions and No. 2.

It can't get bigger in rugby. "It has been part of our rugby history, the Springboks and the All Blacks, and every time we play each other it is always a special battle," South Africa assistant coach Deon Davids said, adding he grew up listening to their games on the radio. Him and millions of others.

"It will maybe go to a different



South Africa's Faf de Klerk (centre) celebrates with South Africa's Ox Nche at the end of the Rugby World Cup semifinal match between England and South Africa at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, outside Paris. (AP)

level in terms of the competition between the players," Davids said.

Both teams had to partly re-establish their reputations on the way to the final in France, more so New Zealand, which slipped to their

heaviest loss ever - even worse, against South Africa - by 35-7 in a pre-tournament warmup. The All Blacks were then beaten by hosts France in the World Cup opener.

As a result, rugby's most cel-

ebrated team were not favored against then top-ranked Ireland in the quarterfinals, but fought back-against-the-wall to deny the highly rated Irish 28-24 and underline the danger of ever writing off the All Blacks, no matter what the form book says.

## RUGBY

Coach Ian Foster was a game away from losing his job a year ago, and will be replaced after the Rugby World Cup, but can deliver one of New Zealand's most memorable triumphs bar none through all the doubts and the criticism.

"There's not a personal agenda here, this is about the All Blacks and the team," Foster said after a New Zealand with a more familiar skip in its step demolished Argentina 44-6 in the semifinals last Friday. "Things have happened to individuals and to me, but the team comes first."

South Africa lost to Ireland in the

pool stage but still have a chance to successfully defend their Rugby World Cup title - something only New Zealand have done - after two exhausting knockout games, when the Springboks were twice on the verge of elimination.

South Africa beat hosts France 29-28 from behind, and then trailed for almost the entire match before snatching a victory from England 16-15 in the semifinals on Saturday.

The parallels between the Springboks and the All Blacks of 2023 are abundant, with Springboks coach Jacques Nienaber also set to leave after the World Cup. Both captains - Sam Cane of New Zealand and Siya Kolisi of South Africa - are likely playing at their last World Cups, as are a string of big players on both sides, as if the final needed any more consequence.

Given all of the context, there may not be a game quite like it for another 30 years.

## Deal worth \$186 million

Giannis indicates on social media that he's 'agreed' to contract extension with Bucks

MILWAUKEE, Oct 24, (AP) - Giannis Antetokounmpo has indicated on social media that he has agreed to a contract extension with the Milwaukee Bucks.

Antetokounmpo issued a social media post on Monday that said, "MILWAUKEEEEEEE!!! Let's get it!!!! #BucksInSix #Ex-

tended." The post came as ESPN reported that the two-time MVP had agreed on a three-year extension worth \$186 million, with a player option for the 2027-28 season.

The Bucks didn't make an official announcement, but they reposted Antetokounmpo's post on X, the

social media site formerly known as Twitter. The Bucks' repost, which was later deleted, included the message, "The best possible cure for the Mondays."

Antetokounmpo's announcement came as Minnesota's Jaden McDaniels, Washington's Deni Avdija and Orlando's Cole Anthony led the first wave of fourth-year players to reach agreements on contract extensions ahead of the NBA's deadline.

Antetokounmpo had said this summer that he didn't plan to sign an extension this year because it would make more financial sense for him to wait until the summer. The two-time MVP also had indicated that he wanted to wait to see how committed the Bucks were toward winning another title before he decided on whether to sign an extension on his contract, which at the time ran through 2024-25 with a player option for 2025-26.

## 'Jimmermania' lives on with US 3x3 basketball gold at Pan Ams



United States Canyon Barry (left), and Chile's Daniel Arcos play in men's 3x3 basketball gold medal match of the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. (AP)

## Best of the Rest

## BASKETBALL

**England pick Carse to replace Topley:** Defending champions England called up seamer Brydon Carse to their Cricket World Cup squad in India to replace Reece Topley.

Struggling England lost their leading wicket-taker at the tournament during Saturday's record-breaking defeat by South Africa, when Topley fractured his left index finger fielding off his own bowling.

England's poor performances have been a major surprise with the team losing three of its four matches - including against Afghanistan. England are in ninth place in the 10-team tournament. The top four advance.

England head coach Matthew Mott initially suggested there was no guarantee another seamer would be brought in as Topley's replacement, but Carse's selection maintains the status quo. The 28-year-old Carse will link up with the group in Bengaluru, India, where England play Sri Lanka on Thursday. (AP)

**Ajax part company with Steijn:** Ajax parted company with coach Maurice Steijn with the biggest team in the Netherlands languishing in next-to-last place in the Dutch league after just one win from their opening seven games.

Steijn only joined from Sparta Rotterdam in the off-season, signing a three-year deal.

The mutual decision for Steijn to leave was taken after a 4-3 loss at Utrecht that left Ajax, a four-time European champions, one point off last place.

"We have worked intensely and professionally together over the last few months," Ajax chief executive Jan van Halst said. "But the sporting successes and the development of the team were lacking. That is why we decided to sit down together again today."

"This time, Maurice also expressed his concerns on whether he was the right man in the right place. Together we decided that it would be best to part ways."

Ajax's last win in any competition came on Aug. 24. Hedwiges Maduro, a former Ajax player, will take temporary charge of the team starting with the trip to Brighton in the Europa League on Thursday. (AP)

**Current hire Andonovski:** Former U.S. women's national team coach Vlatko Andonovski is getting a fresh start in a familiar place.

The 47-year-old Andonovski was hired as coach of the Kansas City Current of the National Women's Soccer League, taking over a team that reached the championship game a year ago but finished 11th out of 12 teams this season. The Current are the replacement for FC Kansas City, which Andonovski led to two NWSL titles before it folded. The Current fired Matt Potter in April and recently announced that interim coach Caroline Sjoberg would not be retained.

"I'm coming back home, coming back to Kansas City," Andonovski said, "but more importantly to me, I'm coming back to an organization that has a clear vision of what this team is going to look like, and the clear vision of the path of where this team needs to go, and I'm excited and humbled by this opportunity to be part of an organization like this." (AP)

**SANTIAGO, Chile, Oct 24, (AP):** Jimmer Fredette, a different kind of basketball globetrotter, continues to draw attention even far from the NBA. At age 34, the three-point shot master led the United States 3x3 team to a gold medal at the Pan American Games in Santiago on Monday and started setting his mind to the Paris Olympics.

## PAN AM GAMES

The few thousand locals watching the U.S. team play host Chile in the men's final were not too keen on "Jimmermania" at the start, but their hearts eventually softened for Fredette and his teammates. In his NBA days, he played for Milwaukee Bucks, Sacramento Kings, New York Knicks, Chicago Bulls, New Orleans Pelicans and Phoenix Suns. The American team of Fredette, Kareem Maddox and Canyon Barry won 21-15.

Point guard Fredette transitioned over a year ago to the half-court Olympic event, which had its debut in Tokyo with no U.S. team on the court. Since he embraced 3x3 basketball, the player from Glen Falls, New York, set his sights on the first American gold medal in Paris in the sport that reminds him of his childhood.

"I played with my brother, we were always shooting baskets, I was always dribbling on the side. This is a bit like that, too," Fredette told journalists in Santiago after his team's victory. "I learned to play basketball in the streets, in the parks. It is a bit of full circle to win in 3x3."

When Fredette finished high school, he received offers from 12 schools. He picked Brigham Young

**Maia upsets Keys**  
Krejickova opens with a win at WTA Elite Trophy

ZHUHAI, China, Oct 24, (AP) - Top-seeded Barbora Krejickova beat Magda Linette 6-2, 6-4 on Tuesday in her opening round-robin match at the WTA Elite Trophy, the first post-season event on the women's tour.

The 10th-ranked Krejickova, who has won two titles this season at Dubai and San Diego, broke Linette twice as she raced through the opening set. The Czech player then recovered from 3-0 down in the second to close out the match in 1 hour, 48 minutes.

Krejickova will next face sixth-seeded Daria Kasatkina on Wednesday.

In the opening match of the tournament, Beatriz Haddad Maia upset second-seeded Madison Keys 6-4, 6-4 to take an early lead in the the Camellia group, which

also includes 20th-ranked Caroline Garcia.

It was just the second win in four tournaments on the tour's Asia swing for Haddad Maia.

Keys plays Garcia on Wednesday, in what is now a must-win match for the American to keep her semifinal hopes alive.

Fifth-seeded Veronika Kudermetova plays wild-card entry Zhu Lin of China later Tuesday.

## TENNIS

The 12-player tournament features the 11 highest ranked singles players who did not qualify for the WTA Finals in Cancun, Mexico, which will be held in November. Zhu is the final entry.

Players are divided into four groups of three players with the winner of each group advancing to the semifinals on Saturday. The final is scheduled for Sunday.



Krejickova



Kayla Dicello of the United States shows her gold medal during the awards ceremony for women's all-around artistic gymnastics at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, Monday. (AP)

## Change Name

I, Antonio Mascarenhas, holder of Indian Passport No. U 0750218. r/o H. No. 587/1, Near the Spring, Gitlem Anthoi, Guiridolim, Salcete Goa, has changed my name from Antonio Fideles Mascarenhas to ANTONIO MASCARENHAS. Hereinafter, in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by the name ANTONIO MASCARENHAS

## Change Name

I, PADMAVATHI CHEVVAKULA HOLDER OF INDIAN PASSPORT NO: I9757088, HAVING PERMANENT ADDRESS "2-57, PADAMATI (STREET), SETTIGUNTA (V&P), RLY KODUR (MANDAL), ANNAMAYYA (DISTRICT), ANDHRA PRADESH (STATE), INDIA. PINCODE: 516101, RESIDING IN KUWAIT AT PRESENT, HERE BY DECLARE THAT HENCEFORTH MY NAME WILL BE READ AS UNDER: Given name: PADMAVATHI And Surname: YENUGULA



As part of social responsibility program, commitment to empowerment of women and development of sports culture

## Burgan Bank sponsors Kuwait Women's Football League for 2023 Season

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: In its continued efforts to bolster Kuwait's sports culture and empower young aspiring female athletes, Burgan Bank announced its gold sponsorship of the Kuwait Women's Football League (KWFL) for the 2023 season in partnership with Kuwait Calma and in affiliation with the Kuwait Football Association.

This sponsorship comes as part of Burgan's commitment to championing diversity and inclusivity across all fields, including sports, in line with its environment, sustainability, and governance (ESG) commitment and its overarching social responsibility strategy. The Bank also continues to make sports a central part of its community engagement initiatives.

In light of this sponsorship, Ms. Hessa Hussain Al-Najadah, Senior Manager - Corporate and CSR Communications at Burgan Bank, said: "We are very proud of our national athletes, especially the women, who continue to challenge their own limits in pursuit of bigger athletic achievements and personal growth. Today, we can see women breaking many boundaries and earning their place in society through the brilliance they exhibit across all fronts and the passion they bring to their fields. As part of our mission to empower women and support rising talents, we are delighted to be sponsoring the Kuwait Women's Football League this year."

On her part, Ms. Sara Al-Azmi - Founder and Managing Partner at Kuwait Calma, commented on the part-

nership with Burgan Bank saying: "It is a great honor to be partners with an impactful institution such as Burgan Bank and to build on our shared belief in the power of sports in community development and enrichment. Over the years, we have seen how sports can elevate people's quality of life and add more value to society. The field of sports stands for numerous values, from perseverance and tolerance to equality and fairness; and whenever we organize tournaments, we always approach the events with the intention of instilling these values and more into the fabric of our society to help shape the characters of young individuals and future generations."

### SOCCER

It serves to note that the KWFL team has participated in many tournaments and leagues over the past years, with the majority of the league's members having competed on the Kuwait Women's National Futsal team in a number of national and international games. Among their notable achievements is winning the Kuwait National Women's Futsal League in both 2020 and 2021.

In addition to its gold sponsorship of the KWFL, Burgan Bank has also sponsored a number of national athletic stars, including Kuwaiti Olympians Yaqoub Al-Youha, Mudhawi Al-Shammari, Ebrahim Al-Dhafaeri Amal Al Roumi, and Jude Tawfiq, in addition to Wheelchair Fencing Cham-



Participants of Kuwait Women's Football League (KWFL) for the 2023 season.

pion Tareq Al-Qallaf and the Kuwait Equestrian Federation (KEF) league. Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is a Kuwait-based conventional bank with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institution sectors. From its earliest days, the Bank has significantly sought to diversify its offering to cater to its growing retail and private banking customer base.

Burgan Bank has majority-owned subsidiaries, collectively known as the "Burgan Bank Group", in the MENA region. This Group is supported by one of the largest branch networks across the region and includes: Gulf Bank Algeria - AGB (Algeria), Tunis International Bank - TIB (Tunisia), and the fully owned Burgan Bank Turkey. Furthermore, Burgan Bank has a presence in the UAE

through its corporate office, Burgan Financial Services Limited.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years, through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within

the MENA region. Moreover, Burgan Bank's brand has been built on a foundation of real values - trust, commitment, excellence, and progression - which serve as a reminder of the high standards to which the Bank always aspires. In fact, the Bank's core philosophy of 'Driven by You' is the foundation on which its products and services are continuously developed.

## Al Arabi suffer shock defeat

Al Riffa take lead as Al-Zawraa rout Al-Najma

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: In an unexpected turn of events, Bahraini club Al-Riffa capitalized on the circumstances surrounding Al-Arabi and secured a resounding 3-0 victory in the third round of the third group of the AFC Cup at the Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium.

In the same group, Al-Zawraa from Iraq managed to defeat Al-Najma from Lebanon with a commanding 4-1 score.

Al-Riffa now lead the group with 7 points, while Al-Arabi, with 4 points, slipped to the third position due to goal difference, behind Al-Zawraa. Al-Najma remains at the bottom with just one point.

The players of Riffa effectively dominated the match, especially in the second half. The turning point in the game occurred when Al-Arabi's defender, Jumaa Abboud, received a red card for obstructing Riffa's professional player, Joel Vinicius, only ten minutes into the second half. Subsequently, the visiting team managed to score three goals within



Riffa's Vinicius checks on the injury of Al Arabi player Jumaa Abboud.

a short span.

Abboud sustained a head injury as a result of a collision with Riffa's professional player Vinicius. Medical attention was provided, and the injury was stitched up after the match concluded.

Al-Arabi faced challenges due to the absence of several key players, either due to suspension or injury. Additionally, some players were affected by a "virus" just hours before the match, including Suleiman Abdel Ghafour, Saif Al-Hashan, Sultan Al-Anzi, Mamadou Thiam, Ali Khalaf, Badr Al-Mutairi, Hamad Al-Qallaf, Hussein Ashkanani, Iwala, Salman

Al-Awadi, and Issa Walid.

Despite these adverse circumstances, Al-Arabi put up a convincing performance in the first half and managed to keep pace with the visiting team. However, the balance of the game shifted significantly in Al-Riffa's favor due to the numerical disadvantage.

Both teams are scheduled to face each other again in two weeks during the fourth round.

German coach Thomas Berdragic attributed his team's loss to the numerous absences and lack of available players that Al-Riffa had to contend with. He expressed that the

outcome was unexpected, and the red card was a turning point in the match. Berdragic emphasized that his team did not display a negative attitude, despite the substantial loss, and commended the players for their determination in navigating the challenging circumstances.

### SOCCER

He underlined that the upcoming period requires a focus on revitalizing the players' mental state to mitigate the adverse effects of this defeat. He further confirmed that he would collaborate with the support staff to ensure that the team is well-prepared before their upcoming match against Al-Jahra, scheduled for next Saturday in the sixth round of competitions.

On the other hand, team coach Hisham Al-Mahouzi acknowledged that the respect and preparation for their opponent during the days leading up to the match were pivotal in achieving victory.

The Riffa coach did not downplay the significance of Al-Akhdar's absences and recognized their impact. However, he pointed out that this did not deter his team from taking control of the game and missing out on numerous opportunities to take the lead from the first quarter-hour of the match."

## 'Cease any transactions with the Board of Directors of Jahra Club'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: The Director General of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Mohammed Al-Khalifan, issued a directive to all sports organizations, advising them to cease any transactions or interactions with the Board of Directors of the Jahra Club.

The Jahra Board of Directors, led by Khaled Al-Jarallah, had been elected during the elections held in January of this year.

The directive referenced a letter received by the Kuwait Olympic Com-

mittee from the head of the Al-Jahra Club Electoral Committee. This letter emphasized the legal authority of the ruling issued by the National Authority for Sports Arbitration on September 4 and formally confirmed on October 17 of this year. The ruling pertains to the Jahra Club elections for the 2023-2027 session. As a result, the procedures related to the General Assembly convened on January 12, the elections held during that period, and their outcomes have been declared invalid.

### Best of the Rest

**Muchova out of Finals:** French Open runner-up Karolina Muchova pulled out of the WTA Finals on Tuesday because of an injured right wrist and was replaced in the field for the season-ending tournament by Maria Sakkari.

"Together with the team and doctors, we tried everything till the last moment to resolve my wrist injury. Unfortunately, the time needed for the recovery is longer than we would've hoped for," Muchova said, "and therefore I had to make this unpleasant decision."

The eighth-ranked Muchova, who lost to Iga Swiatek in the final at Roland Garros in June, would have been making her debut at the WTA Finals.

Sakkari is ranked ninth and missed out on making the cut for Cancun by one spot. But as the first alternate, she moved in because of Muchova's withdrawal. This will be Sakkari's third consecutive appearance at the WTA Finals; she reached the semifinals a year ago in Fort Worth, Texas, by going 3-0 in round-robin play.

Play in the WTA Finals begins on Sunday.

The other singles players who qualified for the event are No. 1 Ary-

na Sabalenka, No. 2 Swiatek, No. 3 Coco Gauff, No. 4 Elena Rybakina, No. 5 Jessica Pegula, No. 6 Marketa Vondrousova and No. 7 Ons Jabeur. (AP)

**Riley lays out vision:** Pat Riley tends to look at things in five-year increments, and that might make this a very important season for the Miami Heat.

With the current Miami core - Jimmy Butler, Bam Adebayo and Tyler Herro - about to start its fifth season together, the Heat president said he still believes his team has "as good a chance as anybody" to win the Eastern Conference. But he also indicated that what happens this season could have a serious effect on what the Heat look like next season.

"If you build a team around one or two players, three players, and you don't win the championship, then you might have to start thinking: 'OK, this is not going to work. This is not going to happen.'" Riley said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Maybe you see that in Milwaukee, maybe you see that in Boston. They got to those windows and made moves." (AP)

## Donnarumma gearing up to play ex-club Milan

MILAN, Oct 24, (AP): Emotions will be on display and points will be on their minds when Paris Saint-Germain host AC Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, who joined PSG two years ago as a free agent after leaving AC Milan, will be up against his old club while brothers Lucas and Theo Hernandez will be facing each other for the first time.

"There will be a lot of emotions. It will be special," Donnarumma said Tuesday. "But you have to put all that to one side and just think about the match."

"I feel really good here, it's like a big family, just like I had at Milan. I will always be grateful to Milan ... but I want to give everything for PSG now."

Donnarumma made more than 250 appearances for Milan after breaking into the team when he was 16. In two weeks, the 24-year-old goalkeeper will play at the San Siro for the first time as an opponent.

### SOCCER

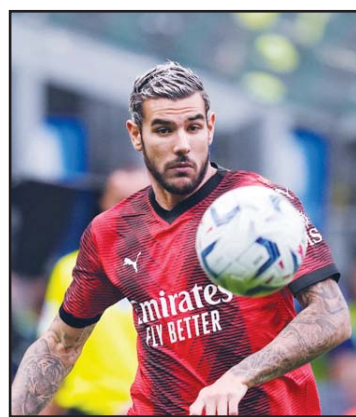
He could get a hostile reception. Milan fans were unhappy with the way Donnarumma departed the club and he was booed by sections of the crowd when he played for Italy against Ukraine at San Siro in September.

"I always gave everything to Milan, so it's not very nice to hear all this criticism," Donnarumma said. "But I'm focused on the match and only on the match so as not to get caught up in the emotions."

Both PSG and Milan will be looking to boost their chances of qualifying for the knockout stage. PSG are in second place in Group F, two points behind surprise leaders Newcastle following a 4-1 loss to the English team. The French club beat Borussia Dortmund in their opener.



José Gayà



AC Milan's Theo Hernandez controls the ball during the Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and AC Milan at the San Siro Stadium, in Milan, Italy. (AP)

Milan, which reached the semifinals last season, is a point further back after starting its Champions League campaign with two goalless draws - against Newcastle and Dortmund.

Milan were beaten by Juventus 1-0 over the weekend and failed to reclaim the Serie A lead from city rivals Inter Milan. They did, however, play most of the match with 10 men

## Valencia end bad run in league

VALENCIA, Spain, Oct 24, (AP): Valencia snapped a four-game winless streak in the Spanish league with a comfortable 2-0 win Monday over a Cadiz side that played most of the match with 10 men.

### SOCCER

Valencia went ahead after just four minutes thanks to a lovely chip from José Gayà.

and were missing two of their key players.

Goalkeeper Mike Maignan - who grew up in the youth team at PSG but never played a match for the senior team - and Theo Hernandez were suspended.

They both return at the Parc des Princes, where Hernandez will be facing his older brother for the first time. Both brothers played in Spain at the same time - Theo for Real Madrid and Lucas for Atlético Madrid - but were never both chosen in games between the two teams.

Theo Hernandez is one of Milan's top players for his defensive abilities and also for his runs on the left sparking attacks. He often plays with his brother on the French national team. Lucas Hernandez plays in a more central position than he does at PSG, where he is most often used as left back.

"When I saw that we were going to be facing each other, I immediately called him," Lucas Hernandez said last month. "We have never faced each other. And playing against your brother, in a Champions League match, it's incredible."

He then added with a laugh: "I'm going to ask the coach to put me on the right so I can be opposite him."

Robert Navarro was shown a red card for Cadiz in the 22nd, and three minutes later Hugo Duro added a second for the hosts.

It was Valencia's first league win since mid-September, and lifted them into eighth place. Cadiz are now six games without a win and sit in 16th place with nine points from 10 matches.

Cadiz are at home to Sevilla on Saturday, while Valencia are away to Athletic Bilbao the next day.

## No change in standings as leading teams maintain winning 'streaks' in champ'ship

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: In the seventh round of the Federation Volleyball Refresher Championship, there were no alterations in the standings as the leading teams maintained their winning streaks.

Burgan secured a victory against Al-Tadamon in three sets 25-16, 25-20. Likewise, Al-Kuwait triumphed over Al-Arabi with an identical result 25-22, 25-15, 25-21.

Meanwhile, Yarmouk claimed a win over Al-Sahel in three sets to one 25-13, 25-20, 19-25, 29-27, and Al-

Qadisiyah defeated Al-Youth in four sets 24-26, 25-21, 25-20, 25-22.

With these outcomes, the tournament standings remain unchanged, and there are two more rounds to go.

### VOLLEYBALL

Al-Qadisiyah and Burgan continue to lead the standings with 18 points, followed by Al-Kuwait with 15 points, Al-Arabi with 12 points, Kazma with 9 points, Al-Shabab with 6 points, Al-Yarmouk with 3 points, Al-Sahel with two points, and Al-Tadamon with one point.



Players in action during Federation Volleyball Refresher Championship.





South Africa's David Miller plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Bangladesh and South Africa in Mumbai, India. (AP)

# Sports

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## Kuwait halt losing streak

Blues outperform Kazakhstan in Oly qualifiers

**Khaled El Anzi**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

**DOHA, Oct 24:** Kuwait national handball team clinched their first triumph in the ongoing Asian qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympics at the Qatari Al-Ittihad Hall, marking the culmination of the preliminary round for the second group.

This momentous win came as they outperformed the Kazakhstan 39-31.

### HANDBALL

This significant victory not only gave the Kuwait their first win in the Paris qualifiers but also earned them two crucial points after enduring three consecutive losses against Iran, Japan, and Bahrain.

Kuwait coach, Saeed Hegazy, made strategic decisions by resting some key players in the match against Kazakhstan, including Abdullah Al-Khamis, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari and Hassan Safar. He introduced new

## England sign top men's players to multi-year deals

LONDON, Oct 24, (AP): England have signed their leading men's players to multi-year central contracts for the first time in a bid to meet the challenge presented by franchise leagues around the world and guarantee the availability of their star names for international duty.

The revised approach by the England and Wales Cricket Board tied Joe Root, Harry Brook and Mark Wood to three-year deals while a further 15 players have two-year arrangements, the governing body said Tuesday.

Test captain Ben Stokes, meanwhile, is among a list of eight players on traditional one-year contracts, having

reportedly been offered a deal for three years.

Stokes might be the most important player in the England set-up because of his transformational leadership of the test team. He played a starring role in England's title

### CRICKET

triumph at last year's T20 World Cup and came out of ODI retirement to take part in the current Cricket World Cup.

The central contracts do not prevent players from taking up lucrative T20 deals, but they do allow the ECB greater oversight on availability.



A Kuwaiti makes a goal attempt as Kazakhstan defend during Asian qualifiers for Paris Olympics.

talents who had not seen action in previous games, aiming to provide them with an opportunity to play, gain experience, and adapt to the competition.

Kuwait team's participation in the Asian Olympic qualifiers was affected by the absence of key players in the back line due to injuries, notably Abdullah Al-Gharabally, Saif Al-Adwani, Muhammad Amer and Fawaz Al-Mishari. This absence created a challenge for the team particularly in their offensive strategies. The

Handball Federation's goal in participating in the Paris 2024 qualifiers is to prepare the team and develop its players, especially those new to the Asian stage, fostering interaction and experience. This preparation took place within a highly competitive group featuring top-tier Asian teams, leading up to the Asian Championship, a gateway to the 2025 Handball World Cup scheduled for January in the Kingdom of Bahrain. In this tournament, the top four teams will secure their spot in the 2025 World

Cup, while the Olympic qualifiers champion gains direct qualification to Paris, and the second-placed team enters a European playoff.

The medical staff of the Handball Federation is actively working to rehabilitate the injured players before the World Cup qualifiers. Additionally, it is anticipated that there will be alterations to the team's roster, with players coming in and going out before their journey to Bahrain.

Spurs remain unbeaten after nine games with win over Fulham

## Son propels Tottenham back to top of Premier League

LONDON, Oct 24, (AP): With a clinical finish and a neat assist, Son Heung-min delivered his best impression of Harry Kane to propel Tottenham back to the top of the Premier League.

The 2-0 win over Fulham showed once again that Tottenham can thrive without the departed Kane this season.

Especially with Son, the player who has replaced Kane as the team's center forward, in such prolific form.

Both of Tottenham's goals came from the same source - Fulham defender Calvin Bassey giving away possession when passing out from the back under pressure - and Son had a key role in each of them.

In the 36th minute, the South Korea captain was on hand to collect a pass from Richarlison after Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg intercepted Bassey's clearance. Son showed great footwork to cut inside, around covering defender Tim Ream, and curl a shot into the far corner from the edge of the area.

The second goal, scored by playmaker James Maddison in the 54th, was similar as Hojbjerg again stopped a pass from Bassey reaching its intended target. Bassey is a left-footed player who was deployed Monday as a right-sided center back and he misplaced both passes with his right foot.

### SOCCER

Hojbjerg stabbed a first-time pass to Son, whose deft lay-off went into the path of Maddison and the England playmaker slotted home under former Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno.

"That was what won us the game tonight, the work without the ball," Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou said. "Both our goals came from that."

Tottenham regained the two-point lead with which the team entered the weekend and remained unbeaten after nine games, along with north London rivals Arsenal. They have 23 points under Postecoglou, who took over as Tottenham manager in the offseason, and that's the most any coach has gained from his first nine games in charge in the competition.

Kane might be pouring in the goals in Germany - he has nine in eight games for Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga - but Son is doing the same for Tottenham since being pushed up front by Postecoglou, having started the season on the left wing.

Son has seven goals, the same as Liverpool's Mohamed Salah and only two behind top scorer Erling Haaland of Manchester City.

Maddison has also slotted in seamlessly since joining from relegated Leicester in the offseason. That was his first home goal, after scoring twice on the road, and he celebrated by performing a darts pose alongside Son.

"Coming to a club like Tottenham,



Tottenham's Emerson Royal (left), challenges for the ball with Fulham's Harry Wilson during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Fulham at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London. (AP)



Tottenham's Son Heung-min (left), in action during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Fulham at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London. (AP)

which is obviously a bigger club in stature than Leicester, the scrutiny, the responsibility, the pressure goes up a notch," Maddison said. "I love that. I thrive off that - 60,000 fans were here today and I love these occasions."

Fulham stayed in 13th place on 11 points.

"At the end of the day, the goals we gave away are identical," said Ream, Fulham's captain. "Players at this level will punish you if you give the ball away in those areas."

## Players want to focus on soccer again as Hergoso rejoins Spain

MADRID, Oct 24, (AP): With Jenni Hergoso back in the squad following the controversy at the World Cup, Spain's women's players hope to start talking more about soccer than the off-the-field problems that marred their title celebrations.

Olga Carmona, one of the team's captains, said Tuesday the players are happy again on the national team and want to focus on securing a spot at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Spain will play Nations League games against Italy on Friday and Switzerland on Tuesday.

"There was a lot of uncertainty," Carmona said. "There were delicate and tense moments, but we are returning to normalcy. I ask everyone to start talking a little bit more about soccer from now on. We are happy and we want to show that on the field."

Hergoso, who found herself at the center of the crisis that en-

gulfed Spanish soccer. She had been omitted from the first squad list announced after the World Cup by new coach Montse Tomé, who at the time said she wanted to protect Hergoso.

"Jenni is happy," Carmona said. Carmona and many of the other World Cup-winning players were included in the first squad by Tomé despite asking not to play

### SOCCER

until their demands for change in the Spanish soccer federation were accepted. They joined the team anyway because Spanish sports law states that athletes are obligated to report to national teams.

"It was very difficult during the last training camp," she said. "Now the group is happy and our focus is on making the Olympic Games."

### Empoli win

## A big setback for Fiorentina

ROME, Oct 24, (AP): Francisco Caputo's first goal of the season helped Empoli earn a surprise 2-0 win over Fiorentina in the Italian league.

Caputo converted a low cross from the right after 21 minutes and Emmanuel Gyasi did the same with another inviting center with nine minutes remaining to guarantee all three points for the visitors.

Caputo had a goal chalked off through a video review just seconds before halftime.

It was Fiorentina's first defeat since Sept. 3 and a big setback for a team that started the day level on points with Napoli in fourth place.

### SOCCER

A victory would have given the Tuscan club their best-ever league start since three points were introduced for a win.

Fiorentina dominated possession but had nothing to show for it and instead Empoli's efficiency in front of goal allowed it to move into 17th place. Empoli's next match is at home to Atalanta next Monday.

Fiorentina's next league game is at Lazio the same day, but they will first face Cukaricki in the Europa League on Thursday.

Earlier on Monday, Roberto Piccoli scored with seven minutes remaining to give Lecce a 1-1 draw at Udinese and extend the home team's winless run to nine league games.

Piccoli scored his first goal for the club six minutes after coming on as a substitute.

Udinese lost their first eight matches in the league but the team looked like they might break that streak when Florian Thauvin converted a penalty four minutes into the second half.

Udinese have only six points from nine games while Lecce, which has 13 points, has gone four games without a win after earning 11 points from its first five matches.

Lecce's next match is at home against Torino on Saturday, while Udinese play at Monza a day later.

Meanwhile, Italian soccer club AC Milan have recorded a profit for the first time in nearly two decades.



Udinese's Joao Ferreira and Lecce's Antonino Gallo (left), vie for the ball during the Italian Serie A soccer match between Udinese and Lecce at the Friuli Stadium in Udine, Italy. (AP)