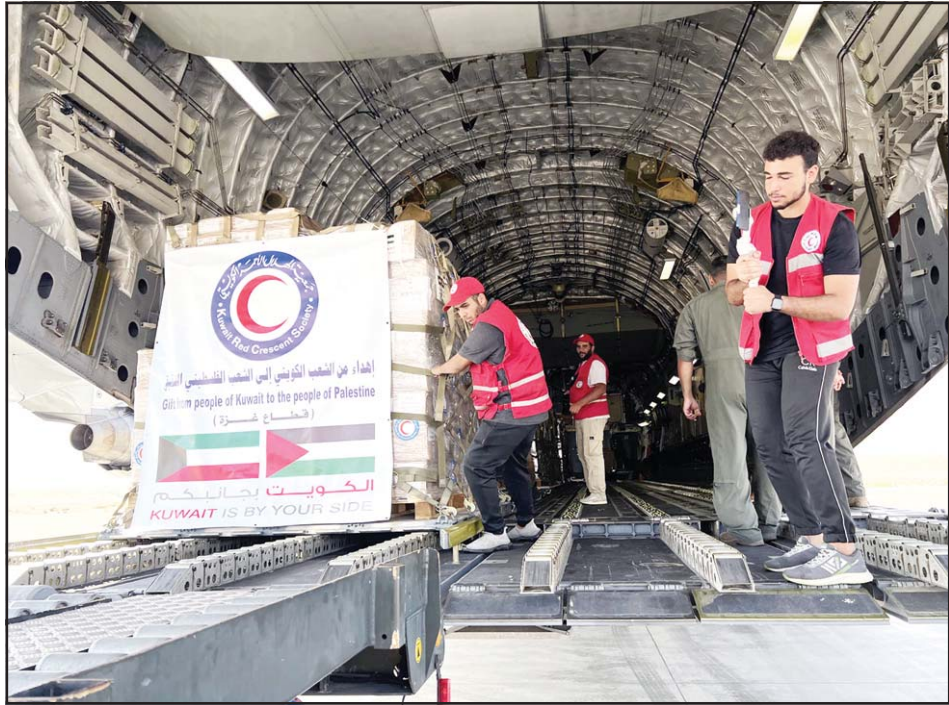




HOSPITALS STRUGGLE AMID ONGOING ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES

Kuwait pushes for Gaza ceasefire



The third Kuwaiti Gaza relief aid plane arrives at Egypt's Al-Arish airport on Wednesday.

KUNA photo

1.4 mln displaced

National workforce priority

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25, (Agencies): Member of Kuwait's National Assembly's Caucus MP Hamad Al-Obaid has said an emergency proposal submitted by Kuwait and other countries regarding the Palestinian issue received 607 votes from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) members.

Al-Obaid described the voting result as "an achievement and a clear message that the peoples of the world stand against the fierce attacks of the Zionist aggression on Gaza and occupied Palestinian territories."

This came in a statement by the Kuwaiti Member of Parliament to Kuwait Television late Tuesday following the 147th Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference held in the Angolan capital, Luanda, which witnessed a vote on the proposals presented as emergency items.

"We have just finished voting on the emergency proposal submitted by the State of Kuwait, along with Algeria, which includes a cessation of war, shooting, and human rights violations in Gaza and occupied Palestine," he added.

The representative went on to say, "the Arab Group adopted this proposal and it was submitted to the Islamic Group, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, and South Africa joined it," adding that Pakistan and Malaysia withdrew their proposals they had submitted.

Due to the coordination, "we managed to gather votes for our proposal," Al-Obaid noted, adding that this is a clear message to the world that parliamentarians support cease-fire on the Gaza Strip and the suspension of attacks."

The proposal gained 607 votes, compared with 507 votes for the European suggestion, but it did not qualify as an emergency item because the IPU regulations stipulate that emergency proposals must obtain a two-thirds majority.

Representative Al-Obaid stressed the proposal presented by Kuwait was a clear message to the world that the countries and peoples of the world stand against the ferocious attacks on children and the defenseless in occupied Palestine.

"This is a message that we, as peoples, conveyed to the world, and

'Kuwaitization' in government deals gains Cabinet approval

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25, (KUNA): The Government Communication Center (CGC) announced that the Cabinet approved a draft decision to oblige public authorities to include the regulations of "Kuwaitization" government deals among contracting requirements.

In a statement on platform X, CGC said on Wednesday that the draft decision came from the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Chairman of the National Demographics Committee Sheikh Talal Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The statement explained that the regulation aimed to create more career opportunities for na-

tional cadres to work for government contractors to gain experience and develop skills.

The regulation includes items on a wage scale starting from KD 450 for newly graduated university students, social allowance (employment support) and 40 days of paid annual leave, in addition to health insurance for the employee and his family, added the statement.

Furthermore, among these benefits was an annual increase of KD 30 and KD 20 depending on the employee's evaluation, in addition to granting an annual bonus and an annual travel ticket to the employee and his/her partner.

there are other messages and steps to deter the brutal Zionist aggression," he added.

Meanwhile, the third Kuwaiti Gaza relief aid plane has landed in Al-Arish international airport in Egypt on Wednesday carrying 40 tons of urgent humanitarian aid and medical supplies for Palestinians in Gaza.

The shipment includes medical supplies such as solutions, medicine, ultra sound device as well as others, said member of Kuwait Red

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Opinion

Palestine will not be liberated by 21 factions

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

IT is said that Che Guevara wrote in his memoirs, "If you want to liberate a land, put ten bullets in your pistol - nine for traitors, and one for the enemy. If it were not for the traitors at home, the enemy abroad would not have dared take a step against you."

This saying applies to Palestine. Their cause has generated dozens of claimers, the leaders of the fighting factions who never agree on a position, and thus made it an issue of lost opportunities.

In this regard, there is an anecdote that was circulating among the Palestinians in the 1980s. A donkey was crossing the border between Lebanon and Palestine when a mine exploded. The next day, 18 factions claimed responsibility for a suicide operation on the border.

Today, with the increase in the number of factions to 21 organizations and fronts, particularly after the entry of Hamas and Jihad, the fragmentation of the decision has widened.

Each one of them began to act on its own. In return, the number of traitors increased, and accusations of treason against Arab countries also increased, making the issue a profitable investment for the regimes.

In this manner, the late Egyptian president Jamal Abdul Nasser came on the back of the coup tank to declare his hostility to what he called at the time "reactionary regimes."

Saddam Hussein's Iraq invested in the Fatah Revolutionary Council to assassinate anyone who was hostile to them, even if they disagreed with them on a point of view.

The late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi took his share of those organizations, and began using them to settle his own scores. So did Algeria and Syria.

Later, Iran entered the line and invested in Hezbollah, Jihad, and Hamas. Turkey did the same with the Muslim Brotherhood Group.

All of these tried to monopolize the Palestinian pain and the blood that was flowing. At every turn, these countries worked to benefit from it through Palestinian agencies. This is why the people of the earth have never agreed on a single principle, and the Arabs also disagreed.

Also, since 1936 when the Great Arab Revolt was announced, Haj Amin Al-Husseini allied with Hitler instead of devoting to fighting the enemy and winning the British mandate over Palestine.

Since then, the issue began to take a different turn, and the decision crystallized after the elimination of Nazi Germany, as the victors then wrote the fate of Israel.

In 1947, the Arabs were divided between those who supported the implementation of the partition decision and those who rejected it. This is why Israel defeated them in the 1948 war, which was followed by the "Nakba" (catastrophe), because they were helpless in the face of gangs numbering in hundreds each.

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Smoke rises after an Israeli airstrike on the Gaza Strip in Rafah, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023. Inset: Palestinian women mourn their relatives killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah, Wednesday, Oct 25, 2023. (AP)

NewsWatch

RIYADH: Ministers of Islamic Affairs and Endowment of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states convened on for their ninth meeting on Wednesday at Omani capital, Muscat.

The GCC general secretariat mentioned in statement that the meeting, headed by Omani Minister Dr. Mohammad Al-Mamari, handled a number of tabled topics, including ministerial decision on protection of moral, religious and familial values in gulf societies.

The meeting discussed member states' ministry cooperation on tackling climate change, exchanging research and expertise on endowments, as well as examining experiences relating to Islamic affairs. (KUNA)

ABU DHABI: UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid and Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa on Tuesday tackled fraternal relations and the latest regional and international developments.

During the meeting, they also discussed the depth and continued growth of bilateral relations in the context of their joint partnership and cooperation in many vital sectors, according to the UAE's state-owned news agency (WAM). (KUNA)



Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman receives visiting Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Saudi Crown Prince meets Kuwaiti DM

Saudi Arabia Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammad bin Salman received on Tuesday visiting Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

During the meeting, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad conveyed greetings from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah, expressing best wishes for the kingdom.

The two sides also tackled bilateral cooperation, regional and international developments.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah on Wednesday paid a visit to the headquarters of a Saudi-led Islamic military alliance to fight terrorism, where he was kept abreast of its latest plans and endeavors. (KUNA)

Kuwait takes new tax direction with 'Business Profits Tax Law'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: The government is studying a proposal to issue tax legislation while abolishing the current tax laws which calls for comprehensive tax legislation under the name "Business Profits Tax Law" that imposes a tax estimated at 15 percent on the profits of all legal persons, including major international companies, while including articles that guarantee the exclusion of citizens and owners of small projects and will be applied in two stages.

The sources told Al-Rai that the first phase of tax implementation begins on January 1, 2025, and will be applicable to major international companies (multinational) while the current tax laws continue to apply.

The second phase begins January 1, 2026, and includes comprehensive application to all legal persons, with the abolition of current tax laws.

Corporate tax is among 14 priorities will be presented by the government to the Parliamentary Coordination Committee to the National Assembly session, scheduled to begin on October 31. The sources explained that accordingly the major international corporate tax will be implemented on the globally specified date of January 1, 2025, with other Kuwaiti companies being given more time to prepare their systems and prepare before the comprehensive im-

plementation on January 1, 2026. The sources revealed that the Council of Ministers is studying the formation of a higher committee to develop appropriate frameworks for policies related to the global minimum tax on companies, the draft law of which was submitted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation for Development (OECD), in addition to forming a work team in the tax administration to cooperate with the consultant in the tasks assigned to it.

According to the government recommendation in this regard, it is expected that the proposed Supreme Chamber will include in its membership representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Justice, Commerce and Industry, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, in addition to the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, and the Kuwait Banks Association.

A government memorandum submitted to the Council of Ministers reviewed the requirements necessary to implement the major international corporate tax, as it indicated that, in light of the recommendations issued at the meeting of the Coordinating Committee for Enhancing Non-Oil Revenues at the end of last September, the necessary requirements for implementation can

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Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:36 Asr 14:44
Sunrise .. 05:56 Maghrib .. 17:08
Zohr 11:32 Isha 18:25

Local

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

First visit paid to UK by Kuwaiti official was in 1919

Kuwaiti-British visits show keenness to strengthen friendship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to the United Kingdom, which started earlier Tuesday, opens a new chapter in the distinguished and deeply-rooted relations between the two friendly countries.

This is the fourth visit His Highness the Crown Prince pays to the United Kingdom since his assumption to post on October 7, 2020.

His Highness Sheikh Mishal visited the UK for the first time on September 18, 2022 as a representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to pay tribute to the late Queen of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth States Elizabeth II. During this visit, His Highness the Crown Prince met King Charles III.

His Highness Sheikh Mishal visited Britain for the second time on May 6, 2023 to attend the coronation ceremony of King Charles III as the new King of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth States.

On August 28, 2023, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal visited Britain for the third time upon an official invitation from the UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. During his visit, His Highness Sheikh Mishal sponsored and attended a ceremony held to mark the 70th anniversary of opening the Kuwaiti Investment Office in London.

On the other hand, King Charles III visited Kuwait for the first time on March 12, 1989 when he was the Crown Prince of Britain and the Prince of Wales and he was accompanied by his late wife Prince of Wales Diana Spenser. During this visit, he held talks with the then His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on bolstering bilateral ties.

On November 9, 1993, the then Crown Prince Charles III visited Kuwait for the second time. His Highness Sheikh Jaber decorated him with the Mubarak Al-Kaber Medal in recognition of the United King-

dom's honorable role in the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation.

On February 21, the Crown Prince Charles III visited Kuwait and held talks with Kuwaiti officials over bilateral ties and several issues of common interest.

Prince Charles III's fourth visit to Kuwait was on January 17, 2006, to pay tribute to the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He visited Kuwait also on February 19, 2007, accompanied by his wife Duchess of Cornwall Camilla Parker Bowles. During this visit, he discussed with the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah strengthening bilateral ties.

On October 30, 2011, Prince Charles III visited Kuwait for the sixth time. On February 6, 2015 Prince Charles headed a delegation in a two-day visit to Kuwait.

On October 4, 2020, Prince Charles III visited Kuwait and met His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to pay tribute to the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

These visits reflected the peculiarity of relations between the two countries which extended over 124 years and underwent several milestones: the signing of the Anglo-Kuwaiti Agreement of 1899 by the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah in 1899; the signing of the Kuwait independence agreement in 1961; and the United Kingdom participation in the liberation of the State of Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation in 1990.

The first visit paid to the UK by a Kuwaiti official was in October 1919 when Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited London as a representative of the then Kuwaiti ruler Sheikh Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to congratulate King George V on the victory of Britain and Allies in the World War I. In mid-1935, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber, who became the Amir of Kuwait, paid the second visit to the United Kingdom.

The first official visit to Kuwait by a UK official was on February 12, 1979 when Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visited Kuwait upon an official invitation from the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

'Shift embassies in living areas'

Govt must rescind decision on Audit Bureau: MP

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: MP Hani Shams has submitted a proposal to stop the issuance of licenses for the embassies and consulates of other countries whose offices are in residential areas.

He suggested relocating these embassies and consulates in the designated diplomatic area.

On the other hand, MP Hamad Al-Elyan criticized the decision of the Council of Ministers that the State Audit Bureau (SAB) has no right to look into the regulations on the work of ministries. He said the decision contradicts Law No. 30/1964 on the establishment of SAB, particularly Article 20 stating that SAB has the right to look into the administrative and financial regulations to ensure compliance with monitoring rules. He stressed that the decision limits transparency and disrupts the monitoring tasks of SAB, so he called for immediate cancellation of the decision.

He added the decision violates Article 29 of the aforementioned law, which grants SAB the right to check every document or forms needed in completing its tasks. He went on to say the decision also violates Article Five of law number 12/2020, which obligates public institutions to publish decisions and regulations on their websites to be available to the public. He concluded that the government has no other option but to cancel the decision; otherwise, it must bear political responsibility.

Meanwhile, Inter-Parliamentary Group Treasurer MP Hamad Al-Obaid revealed that the proposal of Kuwait to hold an emergency session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to discuss the Israeli attacks on Gaza obtained the majority vote - 607 votes of the delegations at the 147th IPU Assembly in Angola. He asserted this indicates full international support for the Palestinians and shows that the world's people are against the Israeli violent attacks. He pointed out that the proposal, which was adopted by the Arab group at IPU, includes calls for immediate ceasefire in Gaza and to stop the Israeli attacks on civilian Palestinians.

Moreover, MP Abdulhadi Al-Ajmi asked Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Mane'e to provide him with copies of all decisions and correspondences with the Legal Advice and Legislation Department concerning the rare specialization allowance for teachers, heads of departments, school assistant managers, school managers, monitors of educational stages and heads of educational districts. He wants copies of the career development of these employees, delegation and reshuffling decisions, and the comments and observations of SAB on the distribution of rare specialization allowance.

MP Badr Al-Mulla forwarded queries to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahd regarding Military Conscription Law No. 20/2015.

He asked about the number of citizens referred to the General Department of Investigations for violating Articles 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42 of the aforementioned law since it was enforced till date. He wants to know the number of those who violated these articles and were not referred to the General Department of Investigations.

Lastly, National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun met HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for National Assembly and Cabinet Affairs Essa Al-Kandari, Minister of Finance Fahd Al-Jarallah and Minister of Social Affairs and State Minister for Family and Childhood Affairs Sheikh Feras Al-Sabah.

Al-Sa'adoun also met a delegation from Germany including MP Christopher Plob and German Ambassador to Kuwait Hans-Christian von Reibnitz.

In addition, he sent a cable to Speaker of the Senate of Kazakhstan Maülen Aşimbaev and Speaker of the House of Representatives Yerlan Koshnov to greet them on the National Day of their country.

KU, KOC sign MoU to boost health services

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25, (KUNA): The Medical Sciences Center of Kuwait University (KU) on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), aiming to exchange expertise and boost partnership in the healthcare field.

In a press statement after signing the MoU, Acting University Director Dr. Fayeze Al-Dheifiri said that Kuwait University supports interests of medical, service and research value in the healthcare field to best serve the society, noting that the agreement will allow joint cooperation within a research and academic framework.

In a similar statement, Acting Vice Director of the University for Medical Sciences Center Dr. Osama Al-Saeed said the MoU aims to develop the healthcare system through exchanging expertise and providing the best community services.

On his part, KOC's Executive Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs Qusay Al-Amer affirmed that the medical agreement reflects Kuwait University's commitment to supporting and enhancing joint cooperation and developing healthcare systems, noting that experts will be recruited from KU according to the agreement.

'Develop gov't e-services': Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs Fahad Al-Shuala said Wednesday that there are plans to develop "Sahel" application through preparations to launch "Sahel Lab", a testing space to receive ideas, experiences, and suggestions that would develop the quality of electronic services.

In a statement to KUNA, following the meeting of the Ministerial Coordination Committee supervising "Sahel" and "Sahel Business" applications, the Minister stressed importance of proceeding with plans to develop the application to achieve users aspirations, by providing more electronic services that citizens and business owners need and through strengthening the cooperation of government agencies.

The government digital applications, channels and platforms are considered an essential tool in achieving digital development in the modern state and represent an important part in improving the quality of services provided to citizens, residents, business owners and entrepreneurs, Al-Shuala said.

The government is very interested to reach the best possible means of simplifying the administrative procedures for government services to be available easily and effectively, he added.

Weather

thundery.

By Night: Mild and partly cloudy with light to moderate northeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

Station Max Exp Min Rec
Kuwait City 34 26

Kuwait Airport 33 22
Abdaly 33 21
Jahra 34 23
Salmiyah 31 26
Ahmadi - 27
Nuwaisib 32 23
Wafra 34 20



Sheikh Mishal

III as the new King of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth States.

On August 28, 2023, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal visited Britain for the third time upon an official invitation from the UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. During his visit, His Highness Sheikh Mishal sponsored and attended a ceremony held to mark the 70th anniversary of opening the Kuwaiti Investment Office in London.

On the other hand, King Charles III visited Kuwait for the first time on March 12, 1989 when he was the Crown Prince of Britain and the Prince of Wales and he was accompanied by his late wife Prince of Wales Diana Spenser. During this visit, he held talks with the then His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on bolstering bilateral ties.

On November 9, 1993, the then Crown Prince Charles III visited Kuwait for the second time. His Highness Sheikh Jaber decorated him with the Mubarak Al-Kaber Medal in recognition of the United King-

AUK's FSS – featuring insights from famous experts, scholars

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: The American University of Kuwait (AUK) hosted the ninth talk of the Faculty Speaker Series (FSS), an instrumental platform for students, faculty, and the community to engage with leading experts and scholars on various subjects.

The ninth presentation, titled "Japanese-Style Capitalism and Corporate Governance," was hosted online. It featured Dr. Itami Hiroyuki, a distinguished scholar affiliated with the International University of Japan, as the presenter.

Dr. Hiroyuki's lecture provided a valuable opportunity for attendees to gain insights into the dynamic interplay between capital and people in the corporate world, fostering a deeper understanding of the Japanese model and its potential implications for global business practices. He delved into the pivotal role of individuals in achieving corporate success, with a particular focus on the Japanese perspective on corporate governance.



Dr. Itami Hiroyuki.

AUK is committed to fostering intellectual curiosity and promoting a culture of knowledge sharing. The Faculty Speaker Series continues to be a testament to this commitment, offering a diverse range of perspectives and insights to the campus community and beyond.

Govt, FTA reach agreement to up anti-money-wash war

KUWAIT CITY, OCT 25: The government has reached an agreement with Financial Transparency Advisors (FTA) to enhance Kuwait's preparedness in combating money laundering. This collaboration involves assessing the performance of government institutions, investment firms, and financial organizations, and taking necessary measures to elevate their anti-money laundering and anti-terrorism financing capabilities reports by Al-Rai daily.

This accord with FTA coincides with Kuwait's anticipation of a visit from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which will impact the country's ranking in terms of its technical and supervisory competence in addressing these issues.

Under the guidance of the National Committee to Combat Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, these companies are conducting extensive meetings with local financial and investment entities, some of which are in coordination with the Capital Markets Authority and in the presence of the Financial Investigation Unit. This ensures that these entities adhere to the standards and controls sanctioned by the FATF, with committee members and relevant authorities overseeing enforcement.

The government committee has made substantial progress towards achieving the necessary objectives for the state's preparedness. Multiple stakeholders are collaborating on this initiative, adhering to a specific timeline. These stakeholders include the Kuwait Financial Investigation Unit, the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Capital Markets Authority, the Public Prosecution, as well as the Ministries of Justice, Finance, Interior, Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs, Labor, the General Administration of Customs, the General Anti-Corruption Authority, and the Insurance Regulatory Unit.

MoH starts issuing diabetes monitors

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: The Ministry of Health (MoH) has started issuing home diabetes monitors to diabetic patients in primary healthcare centers, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Director of the Central Department of Primary Healthcare in the ministry Dr Dina Al-Dabaib stated in a circular to the heads of primary healthcare centers that this step is in line with the strategic and executive plan to prevent chronic non-communicable diseases by improving the quality of health services provided to patients with diabetes and chronic diseases, while reducing pressure on diabetes clinics in public hospitals.

The circular also indicated that the conditions for issuance of the home diabetes monitor are as follows: the patient must be of Kuwaiti nationality, his address on the civil identification card must match the entity issuing the form, he has type one or type two diabetes, uses three or more insulin injections daily, more than 65 years old, have had diabetes for more than five years, and that he must not have previously obtained any other type of form.

Regarding the method of disbursement, the circular confirmed that the application must be approved by the authorized treating physician, head of the center and his representative or a consultant physician.

HH Amir congrats Kazakh Pres.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25, (KUNA) : His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent Wednesday a congratulatory cable to Kazakhstan President Kassym Jomart Tokayev on his country's national Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir wished Tokayev good health and further progress and prosperity for his country and people.

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

also sent a congratulatory cable to Kazakhstan President Kassym Jomart Tokayev on his country's national Day.

In the cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished Tokayev good health and further progress and prosperity for his country and people.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah then sent a congratulatory cable to Kazakhstan President Kassym Jomart Tokayev on his country's national Day.



Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun in talks with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Speaker receives HH PM

Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Ahmad Al-Sa'adoun received on Wednesday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Al-Sa'adoun also received Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State for

Cabinet Affairs and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Essa Ahmad Al-Kandari, Minister of Finance Fahad Al-Jarallah and Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs Feras Saud Al-Sabah. (KUNA)



KIPCO Group representatives at the event



KIPCO recognized by Representative of the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Director General of the Youth Public Authority Dr Musaed Al Kuraibani (left), and President of Tmkeen Mr Ali Ibrahim.

'We remain committed to supporting youth'

KIPCO sponsors 10th Youth Empowerment Symposium

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – was the Strategic Sponsor of the 10th Youth Empowerment Symposium (Tmkeen). KIPCO has been one of the symposium's main sponsors and supporters since 2015, and the partnership extends to the KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs which has supported many startups in their transformation into sustainable businesses.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Ms Eman Al Awadhi, KIPCO's Senior Vice President – Corporate Communications and Investor Relations, said:

"We are delighted to be here tonight to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Tmkeen Symposium, which provides a platform for young people to be inspired by the stories of local and international business leaders. The KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs was born from our shared vision to support young en-

trepreneurs out of our firm belief in the important role they play in the country's economic development. We are proud of the successes of our award finalists and winners, many of whom have expanded their presence beyond Kuwait, to the GCC and the Arab world."

She added: "KIPCO remains committed to supporting the youth of Kuwait through various initiatives. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Group companies – Burgan Bank, United Real Estate, Gulf Insurance Group, Kamco Invest and Marina FM – for their unwavering support."

The two-day conference brings together local, regional and international business leaders, who share their stories with the audience with the aim of inspiring them to pursue their own passion and establish businesses that will contribute to the growth of the local economy.

'Rational approach necessary to ongoing Gaza-Israel battle'

"We do not find any fair person among those who followed the Zionist attacks on Gaza and the reactions of countries... except someone who mentioned Kuwait's courageous external and internal positions that expressed the pulse of the Arab and Muslim streets," columnist **Waleed Al-Ahmad** wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"Kuwait has been strong in its positions at the United Nations and the draft laws it presented against the usurping Zionist entity. Interior Minister Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled came out to announce that we are at war with the Zionist gangs in Palestine!"

"This position was followed by an internal movement at the level of ministries after the Ministry of Endowments allowed and even called on imams in Kuwaiti mosques to pray for our people in Gaza – that God protect them and destroy their enemy!"

"Then, the Ministry of Education allowed its school administrations to hold festivals with the participation of students in support of the Palestinians, not to mention the universities, cooperative societies, charitable committees and crowds going out to the Square of Will to express their opinion in support of the resistance. This is in harmony with the programs of the Ministry of Information and its field coverage of events, social media outlets, media channels and newspapers.

"This is a simple example of the steadfast position of our wise leadership – internally and externally – towards the Palestinian issue, which prompted the United States to put more pressure on us. Our full support is necessary. The country should not be exposed to internal pressure due to our random actions and statements. Internal pressure makes matters worse, especially once the pressure on the government becomes external and internal!"

"It is a big mistake to ignore our heroic role in foreign policy and threaten Foreign Affairs Minister Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah with interrogation if he approves the credentials of the new American Ambassador to Kuwait – Karen Sasahara!"

"It would have been more appropriate for MP Abdulkarim Al-Kandari, as a matter of prudence, logic and responsibility away from the titillation of the street, to demand that a note of protest be submitted to the ambassador upon her inauguration due to the arrogance of the American leadership towards the Palestinians!"

"Another major mistake made by some people was when they demanded, out of sympathy and enthusiasm, that our government stop exporting oil to America, instead of the major oil-exporting countries... Imagine what would be our position if we stopped oil supply and the other world exported its oil, considering the impact of that and the consequences of unilateral behavior away from the Arabs.

"Do not put more pressure on the country, as it is already exposed to external Zionist pressure to deviate from its position... Put your hand in its logical and candid support for our people who are being exterminated in Gaza at the hands of the Zionist occupiers and the arrogant countries that have revealed their dark faces towards the so-called 'human rights' and the slogan of peace!"

Also:

"Most of the previous governments did not accomplish much. The current government has promised to solve the problem of damaged roads. There was a lot of talk and statements in newspapers and on social media, but the problem still continues. Citizens faced many harms due to the delay in finding solutions to the problem of damaged roads," columnist **Fawaz Al-Hamad** wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"The political conflicts between polls and influential people in the previous elections of the National Assembly contributed to the rise of elites and new political figures from among the members of the National Assembly and members of the government.

"It is assumed that there will be a consensus between the government and the National Assembly. However, the previous problems are still continuing, and this portends the continuation of problems between the two authorities, which contributed significantly to the delay in achievement and development.

"The parliamentary holiday also contributed to the cessation and delay of government projects, as no decisive decisions have been taken, and the government and the National Assembly are continuing to work on the centralization system.

"Many projects, ideas and proposals related to growth and development have been halted. Many of the friends and relatives I met have lost confidence in the government apparatus due to delays and the bureaucracy in making decisions. There are some who have lost hope in the government apparatus, while others place their hopes in the current government to solve the problem and crisis of the damaged roads.

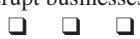
"The Silk Road project was halted, the island development project was halted, the Mubarak Port construction and development project was halted, the postal sector was not developed, the tourism law was not established, education is weak, major health challenges are ongoing, projects to develop the health system were halted, and the railway project was halted.

"The construction of the airport project was delayed, there is an increase in desert areas and the lack of green projects to increase agricultural areas on the streets and in residential areas, there is the lack of other sources of income, there is delay in the construction and delivery of residential cities, the Al-Shagaya project was suspended, and no power generation stations were built for new residential cities.

"This delay in building and establishing development projects will cause major problems in the coming period, such as power outages in many residential areas, factories, and commercial complexes due to large electrical power loads, and the lack of supporting power stations.

"If the government is not able to solve the road maintenance problem before the rainy season, it will not be able to carry out the rest of the development projects, and thus many citizens will lose confidence in this government.

"I hope that the government will take quick and serious decisions to solve the problem of damaged roads, and avoid major problems that may occur when rain falls, which will cause some roads to flood, disrupt streets, and disrupt businesses and schools."



— Compiled by Mai Elsoukary



Waleed Al-Ahmad

"The progress of civilizations of nations is measured by what those nations accomplish and the good deeds they offer to humanity. This cannot be achieved without a wise, effective administrative authority that is highly qualified psychologically and physically, and is specifically prepared to manage the work of those institutions. They must be armed with knowledge, honesty, good morals, and love for the homeland, and far away from personal ambitions and interests, keeping the interests of the country and the people in mind," columnist **Mohammad Al-Balhan** wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"Such a great human feeling may not be available without a government that undertakes, with the wisdom, experience, and sincerity it possesses, to choose and direct all workers in the apparatuses of this state, in order to seriously advance its production in a way that allows these workers the possibility of keeping pace with their predecessors in nations with important and useful practical achievements. This may be the right approach that can raise the capacity of countries and push those within them towards progress and prosperity.

"It is said that neither the construction and establishment of government institutions nor the construction of palaces and spacious meeting halls serve as evidence of the civilization of nations. The only true evidence that proves the civilization of nations is the good deeds that the hands of the people of the country provide to the country and its people. This can only be achieved through the efforts of governments that protect people and countries from harm.

"Official government institutions were established for the benefit of the nation and the country... not to exploit personal interests, such as using wasta (influence), control, prestige, mediation, collecting money, and tyranny. These are bad actions and behaviors that humanity rejects. Its final effect is nothing but the crushing of the interests or civilizational fruits that nations produce, overthrowing them, and destroying everyone who supports them. We have an example from those who preceded us in neglecting and depriving nations of reform in all their constructive projects. What the progress of nations is built on is legislation, which is considered the greatest manifestation of the civilization of nations."



"In terms of conflict and transfer of power between two parties, each of which wants the exclusion of the other party, does it matter how it is done and who is being replaced? What is important is change for the sake of change and exclusion for the sake of exclusion," columnist **Ahmad Al-Mulafi** wrote for *Annahar* daily.

"Yesterday, you had the authority and the upper hand in making decisions, and you sought to seize positions by presenting those with loyalties, not competencies.

"Today, power has shifted to us, and the power is in our hands. It is our turn to change and remove everyone who was appointed, and replace them with those with special loyalties to us.

"Positions were and are being distributed as if they were gifts from Haroun al-Rashid.

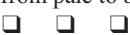
"Yes, I said before and I say now, that most of the leadership positions in the country came through air-drops. The selection of many of them was based on loyalty before competence and giving. Therefore, the administrative apparatus continued to become flabby, and corruption became more widespread and expanded.

"Yes, change is required, but not for the sake of change. What is required is a change in the method of change and the method of selection before adopting change in people.

"In order for people to feel that we are facing a new era and a serious path of reform, it is necessary to adopt criteria for selection that are different from what they used to be. There must be criteria that depend on competence and loyalty to the nation rather than to individuals, and that are characterized by transparency and impenetrable governance.

"The country needs a third party that has not entered these battles and whose hands have not been stained by corruption of money or administration.

"The country has men, whether family members or citizens, who can cross the country to safety in this sensitive stage and delicate transitional period, and create a new turning point in which the face of the country changes and returns young after it has become old, and transforms from pale to bright."



"As soon as the government's side responds to everything that would support the aspirations and lofty directives of the political leadership, we will at the same time recall what was stated in the lofty speech of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, which he delivered on behalf of His Highness the Amir of the country, regarding a rhetorical ruling that requires us to stop at it," columnist **Lawyer Nasser Al-Mahyani** wrote for *Annahar* daily.

"Paying attention to the smallest details, we realize well the depth of the responsibility placed on everyone, including the executive authority and the fourth estate. As His Highness said, 'Isn't it better to return home beautiful? Isn't it better to overcome crises and strive forward towards achievements?'"

"We also recall the sound recommendation in the sublime speech of His Highness the Amir of the country, which was delivered by His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince at the opening of the first regular session of the 17th legislative term. His Highness said, 'I advise the people of my dear country to contribute to building Kuwait by exerting more effort, giving, and harnessing all creative energies. Let everyone know that Kuwait is a trust, and we must all work to develop it and prosper in order to hand it over to our generations decorated with the clothes of renaissance, pride, and pride.'

"Based on those lofty words, in our article titled 'Governmental Role and Strategic Partnership,' we touched on the need for the government to keep pace with the directives of the political leadership, Kuwait's vision, sustainable development visions and plans for the 2030 agenda of the United Nations General Assembly, and the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide on Partnerships between the Public and Private Sectors of the United Nations Committee. United Nations International Trade Law.

"The governments of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries are directed to invest in human capital to achieve the state's strategic goals by supporting national cadres in the private sector with a package of large incentive decisions to attract the attention of graduates from educational institutions to enter the labor market in the private sector, through the government program 'Correction Path'."

LuLu Hypermarket to offer one year free shopping on 'versary

LuLu Hypermarket, the leading retailer in the region, is celebrating yet another anniversary of its successful operations in Kuwait with bonanza offers from October 25-31 across all its outlets in the country.

The highlight of the celebration is a never-before offer of a one-year free shopping for 10 lucky winners, who stand to win KD1,500 worth of free gift vouchers that enable them to shop throughout the year. The promotion also features other amazing bonanza offers and discounted prices, including the opportunity for 100 customers to win gift vouchers worth KD100 each.

To avail the opportunity of winning the fabulous prizes that are worth a total of KD25,000, all that shoppers have to do is make a minimum purchase of KD5 worth of items, as every KD5 purchase entitles them to enter the draw from 25th Oct. to 31st Dec 2023.

In addition, during the



A Lulu Supermarket flyer

anniversary bonanza sale, shoppers get a flat 50 percent discount across all categories, as well as the opportunity to avail of 21 super deals every day of the promotion period.

For those who love shopping for garments, footwear, and ladies' bags, there is a special deal that provides shoppers who purchase KD20 worth of

items from the garments, footwear, or ladies' bag section to receive a further KD20 worth of items from the respective sections for free.

And, in the grocery shopping section, shoppers can pick their favorite cut of meat, fish, or fresh apples during special festivals organized specifically for these products during

the anniversary celebration period.

The bonanza anniversary celebration at LuLu Hypermarket is the brand's unique way of saying a big thank-you to all their customers for their unwavering support over the years, which has made the hypermarket the undisputed retail leader in Kuwait and the region.

Woman, 2 citizens acquitted in 'terror', donations hearing

Corpse found; motorist burnt to death

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: The Court of Appeals upheld the verdict issued by the Court of First Instance, which acquitted a Lebanese woman and other citizens on a number of charges leveled against them by the Public Prosecution, including joining the Lebanese Hezbollah group and collecting cash without obtaining a license from the concerned authorities.

They were also charged with providing the Lebanese Hezbollah group with the donations, and publishing and promoting information related to the party group on the Internet and through other information technology means for the purpose of disseminating and promoting its ideology.

Representing the accused was Lawyer Fawaz Khaled Al-Khatib from the Taher Legal Group. He defended his client by submitting a memorandum containing his defenses, and requested a ruling to acquit her of the accusation attributed to her.

He affirmed to the court that the investigations were not serious, and were clerical and inaccurate, and that the indictment authority relied on complementary evidence, which is investigations that are nothing more than an opinion of the person who made them, subject to the possibilities of validity and falsity.

Lawyer Al-Khatib highlighted that the investigations alone are not suitable to be a presumption or basic evidence to prove the accusation, in addition to the absence of the elements of the crimes and the good faith of the accused donor, as her intention is charitable.

In the justification, the Court of Appeals stated that what matters is

the trial court's conviction, that the accused's decision regarding her support for Hezbollah in the charitable assistance it provides is what led her to send them money for religious charitable purposes, and another defendant's statement that Hezbollah aims to resist the Zionists and protect girls from Zionist assault and that these are noble goals.

The court also believes that mere support or pure inclination and sympathy is not sufficient for conviction, but rather significant evidence is required to prove affiliation with the party, and this is not undermined by the scans contained in the lawsuit's attachments, which included publications issued by the US State Department regarding the classification of terrorist cells.

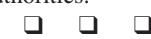
Since these bulletins represent the opinion of another country, the Court of Appeals accordingly shared the judgment of the appealed ruling in the conclusions it reached from certain justified conclusions from the case papers, ending by accepting the Public Prosecution's appeal in form and in substance by rejecting it and upholding the appealed ruling.



Corpse found in desert: The remains of an unidentified person found in the desert area of Mutreba in the north of the country have been referred to Forensics, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

Al-Rai sources said upon receiving a report, security personnel immediately moved to the location, which was at one of the oil company sites and found the corpse of the man.

The sources added the corpse was spotted by the workers at the company and the latter informed the concerned authorities.



Driver burnt to death: The driver of a vehicle died on the spot after his car overturned on Abdali Road and went up in flames, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

The General Fire Force operations received a report about the accident, so Abdali Center firefighters moved to the site, accompanied by security

and emergency medical personnel and upon their arrival, they worked to extinguish the fire that broke out in the car.

All that remained in the burnt car was the charred remains of the driver. The firemen helped clear the road and referred the remains to Forensics.



Officer honored: 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 Genera; 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.



Transactions on hold: The Security Media Department at the Ministry of Interior has announced the temporary suspension of transactions at the Citizenship and Passports General Department in Dajeej on Wednesday and Thursday, as well as the National Identity Centers and Kuwait International Airport (T4) from 12:00 noon on Thursday, reports *Al-Rai* daily.

This is in addition to its previous announcement on the relocation of the Citizenship and Passports General Department from Dajeej to the new building in Shuwaikh. It clarified that the aforementioned departments will resume work on Sunday.

The ministry advised all those affected to go to the national identity centers in various governorates or use the electronic services provided through the government 'Sahl' application to complete their transactions during the suspension period.

Call to 'resolve' gov't, Audit rift

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: The Council of Ministers request to provide Audit Bureau with the decisions and regulations that govern the performance of the work of government agencies is considered outside the Bureau's jurisdiction in financial oversight, reports *Al-Jarida* daily.

The Council said this is reaffirmation of its Resolution No. 418, and letter of the Secretary-General of the Council, Saleh Al-Mulla, explained in the circular, a copy of which was obtained by the daily, that the Council issued this circular after reviewing the recommendation contained in its meeting No. 3/9/2023 of the Legal Affairs Committee regarding the "Audit Bureau" request, in addition to reviewing the letter from the Government Performance Monitoring Agency regarding a committee to study and resolve differences of opinion between government agencies and the Bureau.

Project aims to develop landline network

'MoC completes 72 pct of Fiber Device Replacement Project'

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
 KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: According to informed sources at the Ministry of Communications, 72 percent of the project to complete the first phase of the Fiber Device Replacement Project had been completed as of the begin-

ning of September. The terminal devices had been installed for a number of completed plots amounting to 6,060, with 4,000 plots remaining. A total of eight live devices had also been installed.

The sources explained that the project targeted seven areas - Bidaa, Rumaithiya, Salwa, Fintas

Agricultural, Salmiya, Ras Salmiya, and the Capital.

The project aims to develop the landline network and convert it from the old copper network to a high-speed fiber optic network in order to improve the quality of telephone and Internet services.

The project work was not as-

signed to the contractor through the work order system, but rather all the work was assigned to him for completion, given that the live devices are subject to the ministry's supervision.

The contractor's completion of the installation and operation of the peripheral devices is subject to what the ministry has indicated

on the NGN systems regarding the installation and activation of the devices.

There was no need for the works to be based on the work order system, considering that these works will be carried out without any financial cost to the ministry.

On the other hand, the ministry has two projects within the

development plan for the current fiscal year, the first is the major optical network (third phase) at a total amount of KD 2.312 million. The rate of completion of design, planning and study reached 85 percent. As for the second project, it is for restructuring the post office for a total amount of one million dinars.

Registry to record statistics of skin diseases in Kuwait – KDA

Psoriasis Awareness Month event concludes

By Marwa Al-Bahravi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: The Secretary General of the Kuwait Dermatologists Association (KDA) Dr. Abeer Al-Bathali announced the preparation of a statistical registry to record the rates and statistics of skin diseases in the country.

She stressed the importance of this registry in identifying the country's location in terms of diseases, and to identify appropriate means of prevention and treatment.

Dr. Bathali said this in a press statement to announce the conclusion of the Psoriasis Awareness Month event on October 29 with a scientific forum for primary health care doctors and dermatology specialists, to learn about how to deal with cases of psoriasis for children and pregnant women.

She affirmed the continuation of the effectiveness of the national psoriasis awareness campaign during the period from October 3 to 29, which coincides with World Psoriasis Awareness Day.

Dr. Al-Bathali said Kuwait Dermatologists Association organized about ten events to raise awareness about the disease, which began at Far-

KISR arranges gathering of EU diplomats

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25, (KUNA): A Kuwaiti research body organized on Tuesday a gathering of European Union (EU) diplomats at the country's Shagaya Renewable Energy Complex, ahead of a key UN climate change summit in Dubai.

The visit falls "within the context of the Green Diplomacy Weeks 2023," an initiative organized by the EU, which aims at promoting a "just energy transition globally," said a statement by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

waniya Hospital and then moved to the Abdul Karim Al-Saeed Center, Jaber Hospital, Adan Hospital, Jahra Hospital, Salmiya Specialized Center, Asaad Al-Hamad Dermatology Center, the Avenues Mall, and finally the Dermatologists Forum.

She invited the public to participate in the awareness day until October 28 at the Avenues Mall from 10 am to 10 pm so that their inquiries about the disease can be answered, with the participation of many doctors and specialists to provide guidance, advice and brochures related to the disease.

On the facility's potential capacity, it could reach "70 megawatts in the first phase of the project, while it consists of three technologies including solar thermal energy, photovoltaic energy and wind energy, according to Dr. Ahmed Al-Mulla, the acting executive director of the Energy Research Center.

The visit of the EU contingent "reflects the bloc's commitment to combating climate change and the urgent need to transition to renewable energy sources," added the statement.

Dr. Al-Bathali explained that psoriasis affects 2 to 4 percent of people around the world, and in some countries its rate reaches 7 percent. It affects both males and females, and children as well at various age levels. However, it is more common among both sexes in middle age, in the group from 20 to 40 years.

There are many types of psoriasis, but the most common among children is "plaque" psoriasis, followed by "guttate" psoriasis, and other types that appear in the form of red dots or irritated red spots with crusts, inflammation, or skin ulcers.



KUNA photo
 Kuwaiti defense minister discusses cooperation relations with Saudi's Prince Khalid bin Salman.

Kuwait's DM discusses bilateral relations with Saudi counterpart

RIYADH, Oct 25, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah discussed on Tuesday with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman bilateral cooperation relations and regional and international developments.

Al-Fahad praised bilateral relations and keenness between the two countries to boost

relations in various areas and all levels.

Earlier, Al-Fahad arrived in Riyadh and was received by the Saudi Minister of Defense and the Ambassador of Kuwait to the Kingdom, Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and the Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Jassem Al-Budaiwi.

Kuwait's Namaa, UNHCR sign agreement on providing cash to displaced Sudanese

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25, (KUNA): Kuwait's Namaa Charity, of Social Reform Society, and UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Kuwait Tuesday signed an agreement enabling UNHCR to provide multi-purpose cash assistance to 338 families displaced due to outbreak of conflict in Sudan.

Chairman of the Social Reform Society Dr. Khaled Al-Mathkooor told KUNA on the sidelines of the agreement that relief and humanitarian cooperation are deep values in Islamic religion, the verses of which from the Holy Quran underlining the importance of providing assistance and relief to those in need.

He underscored that the partnership between Namaa and UNHCR embodies the Islamic values that seek to help humanity, especially the displaced in Sudan, indicating the grave difficulties they face due to the conflicts and difficult conditions there.

In a statement to KUNA, CEO of Namaa Charity Saad Al-Otaibi confirmed that the agreement shows the shared commitment towards improving the conditions of the displaced in Sudan and supporting them in this critical period.

Namaa is determined to make efforts to ensure the achievement of the goals speci-

fied in this agreement, Al-Otaibi said, pointing out that it seeks to achieve development and well-being for these displaced people.

The world is currently witnessing a noticeable increase in challenges facing people displaced from their homes due to crises and conflicts, especially since they are in dire need of support and assistance to meet their basic needs and preserve their human rights, he explained.

Namaa's educational, health and relief projects in Sudan constitute an essential part of its vision to support young people with education that will enable them to create a better future for themselves and their society and defying various conflicts, he added, stressing that the agreement is an example of how to continue collective humanitarian work to give to the world.

Speaking to KUNA, UNHCR's Representative to Kuwait Nisreen Rubaian commended the humanitarian partnership with Namaa, which reflects Kuwait's solid commitment to help the forcibly displaced.

On his side, Director of the Department of Charitable Societies and Foundations at the Ministry of Affairs Abdulaziz Al-Ajmi told KUNA that the ministry is keen to continue the international agreements supporting refugees, noting that displacement has reached several countries, including Egypt, Chad and Ethiopia.

Council meetings OK requests tied to Khairan Tourist Park, site for mosque

By Inass Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: The Ahmadi Committee of the Municipal Council, during its meeting headed by Nassar Al-Azmi, approved all the items on its agenda, namely the request of the Touristic Enterprises Company to approve the boundaries of the existing Khairan Tourist Park project, but with the cancellation of items No. 2 and 3 from the technical opinion for the transaction.

It also approved the requests of the Ministry of Social Affairs for allocating a site for the activity of automobile tire repair and oil change shop in Egaila Block 2, and for allocating a site for the activity of replacing gas cylinders in the Egaila Cooperative Society.

The committee also approved two requests from the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, the first is for allocating a route for overhead lines in Bneider, and the second for allocating

overhead line paths from the main Wafra Z transfer station, which is affiliated with the Gulf Interconnection Network, all the way to each of the residential stations 37 to 47 in Sabah Al-Ahmad City.

It also approved the request of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) to allocate a path to divert floods in the area south of Sabahiya and west of King Fahad bin Abdulaziz Road.

In a related development, the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Committee of the Municipal Council, during its meeting headed by Nassar Al-Azmi, approved the request of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to allocate a site for a mosque and parking lots in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Block 7, and a project for regulatory plots for parts of unregulated real estate in Funaitees Block 9 within the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate.

The committee reserved the Ministry of Interior's request to create entry and exit roads for Sabah Al-Salem Block 1 of road No. 3 separating blocks 1 and 4.

All contributors to Arab transport sector hailed

CAIRO, Oct 25, (KUNA): Council of Arab Ministers of Transport held on Tuesday, its 36th session at the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) in Alexandria.

Head of the Council, Qatar's Minister of Transport and Communication Jassem bin Saif expressed his appreciation during the opening speech, to everyone that contributed to the joint Arab action and transport sector.

He stressed that this vital sector receives wide attention from Arab countries' leaders because of the importance it represents in increasing rates of growth and development.

He also praised the efforts made by all countries that headed previous sessions to confront all the challenges facing this sector.

The Arab League's Assistant Secre-

tary-General for Economic Affairs Ali Al-Maleki, expressed in his speech his sincere condolences to the Palestinian people, affirming the League's firm stand regarding a ceasefire.

He also pointed out that General Secretariat pays great attention to strengthening the Arab transport sector, as it is an important foundation during crises.

President of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport Ismail Abdulghafar stated that this is an era of rapid technological advancement, adding that digitalization and artificial intelligence are being used to provide services and products in an innovative and influential way in all sectors of developed countries.

He stressed that the Arab transport sector is considered the most important as it contributes to enhancing economic development and Arab integration.

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LOCAL



Mohammed Al-Zanki receiving a shield of honor from Razen Events.

As part of its ongoing efforts to support digital transformation

Burgan Bank concludes its sponsorship of 10th eGovernment Forum (EGOV10)

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: Burgan Bank concluded its sponsorship of the 10th eGovernment Forum (EGOV10), which was organized by Razen Events in conjunction with the Kuwaiti Federation of Engineering Offices and Consultant Houses and patronized by His Excellency Mr. Fahad Ali Zaied Al-Shuala, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Communications Affairs. Held in cooperation with the Central Agency for Information Technology, the Forum witnessed the participation of major domestic and international cloud computing companies, in addition to the attendance of many prominent IT leaders in government agencies across Kuwait.

On this occasion, Mr. Mohammed Najeeb Al-Zanki, General Manager - Corporate Banking at Burgan Bank, said: "We are delighted to have participated in the 10th edition of the Forum, especially considering the vital role of banks in advancing the economy by seizing investment opportunities that contribute to local growth and prosperity. Driven by our fundamental social responsibility to the community, we strongly believe that technological developments and the opportunities they create not only help generate a financial return on our investments that benefit our bank and shareholders, as well as allowing us to support local initiatives that help in the development of society and achieve sustain-

able growth. In addition, we always strive to develop Kuwaiti cadres and equip them with qualifications to lead the country toward an era governed by technological development, especially artificial intelligence."

On his part, Mr. Taher Abdul Aal, Managing Partner - Razen Events, thanked Burgan Bank for its sponsorship and participation in the forum. He said: "EGOV10 has become a point of convergence for both local and international technology companies. To this end, the Forum has been receiving continuous support from many governmental institutions and private sector organizations, which view it as a gateway to everything new in the field of cloud computing and fintech."



Prominent leaders participating in the 10th eGovernment Forum.

PAHW announces 'tender' to build & maintain 1,568 homes

Authority keen to guide citizens on its e-services

By Abdul-Nasser Al-Aslami
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: The Department of Documents and Contracts at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced that the tender for the establishment, completion and maintenance of 1,568 homes in Al-Nayeem area, in addition to public buildings, asphalt surface layer work, supply and installation of low and medium pressure cables, and lighting work, which will take 1,095 days during the fiscal year of 2023/2024.

PAHW stated that the tender will include model A for a total of 833 houses, model B for 735 houses, in addition to two primary schools - one for boys and the other for girls.

Besides a middle school for boys and a secondary school for girls, it will also include a main mosque, housing for an imam and a muezzin, as well as implementing a low and medium pressure network for tender, implementing road lighting network works for tender, and implementing surface asphalt layer works for tender, pointing out that the aforementioned components are final so far, noting that these components will be confirmed before the date of launching

the tender by the Pricing and Technical Review Department.

Regarding the allocation of low-cost government housing in Sulaibiya, Taima, and Sabah Al-Salem Apartments, PAHW said priority will be according to requests for the year 2000, and that reviews will be in the PAHW's external centers, which are - the Liberation Tower, Jahra, Qurain, and The Avenues from 8:30 am to 12:30 noon. In the main institution building, reviews will take place in the evening from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

PAHW pointed out that a Kuwaiti woman who has a disability identity, whether married, divorced, or widowed to a non-Kuwaiti, has children, and has a registered rental housing application, is excluded from the priority date of the application for allocation. She can request allocation to rental housing, low-cost houses in Sulaibah, Taima and Sabah Al-Salem apartments.

In addition, PAHW is showcasing its electronic services that it provides to citizens through the government application Sahel, in an introductory pavilion that it will hold in the Ministries Complex until October 26 of this month, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

In a press statement, PAHW stressed its keenness to be present in vital places to direct and guide citizens, inform them about its electronic services available through the government application Sahel, and respond to their inquiries related to residential care.

The PAHW said it is working on completing the digital transformation of all the transactions it provides with the aim of making it easier for citizens, indicating that it is considered the first government entity to provide a special pavilion with a specialized team to receive citizens to introduce its services in the government application Sahel.

Sharjah ruler stresses strong ties with Kuwait

SHARJAH, Oct 25, (KUNA): Sharjah ruler Sheikh Sultan Al-Qasimi stressed Wednesday the ties between UAE and Kuwait were rock-solid, highlighting the shared social, historical, cultural, and scientific connections between the two countries.

According to a statement released

by Sharjah Government Media Office, Sheikh Sultan made the remarks while receiving Consul General of the State of Kuwait in Dubai, Ambassador Ali Al-Thaidi where the two sides discussed shared issues and interests and how to bolster them.

They discussed means of further cementing cultural, scientific, health and

literary cooperation.

On his side, Al-Thaidi conveyed Kuwait best regards of the political leadership and government to Sheikh Sultan. He also emphasized the long standing scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries, which started in the 1960s and still growing.

organizational structure for the tax sector, while it is expected that employees will be trained and supported by some expertise from current consultants and specialists in the tax administration.

The sources explained the difference between "first-stage" companies and "second-stage" entities by saying that the list of companies ready to begin applying the new tax on January 1, 2025 is about 15 multinational companies, including government entities operating in foreign markets, and all of them have annual revenues exceeding 750 million euros.

As for the Kuwaiti companies, it is clear that what is meant is the companies that are financially prepared to enter the tax period in the next two years, and which must prepare their systems for the comprehensive implementation of tax on them on January 1, 2026, as it is expected that the list of companies will be doubled in the second phase.

The sources indicated that the government move in this regard pushes for the adoption of comprehensive tax legislation in its accounting rules and systems, ensuring the inclusion of companies that meet the requirements of the OECD in the first stage, as well as companies eligible to join in the subsequent stage.

The sources added that the tax structure prepared by the government will not be designed for specific companies currently, but rather a dynamic one that takes into account the entry of any company in the future once it meets the conditions.

Palestine will

Continued from Page 1

Today, the situation has not changed much except with modern technologies and social media. In Lebanon, for example, the decision on war and peace is in the hands of the Iranian agents. Likewise, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and Libya, and others, instead of directing their weapons at the enemy, directed them at their own compatriots.

In fact, it is crazy and foolish that Saddam Hussein tried to capitalize on his invasion of Kuwait by saying, "The road to Jerusalem passes through Kuwait."

Indeed, this same phrase was also said by Abu Iyad, but instead of Kuwait, he chose Jounieh, the Lebanese coastal city about tens of kilometers away from Palestine.

Each of these people were accusing the other. Sometimes he was a Zionist, and sometimes he was reactionary, or American intelligence. That is, the Arabs and Palestinians were agreeing to betray their brothers, but none of them raised their weapons against the Israeli natural enemy. All Arabs lament their luck that the leaders of the Western world are making a pilgrimage to Tel Aviv.

For all of this, we say, "If by their fruit ye shall know them". If the people of the cause are dispersed at the hands of Sheba, what do they expect from others?

Kuwait takes

Continued from Page 1

be determined as follows:

First: Joining the comprehensive framework of the project. Preventing the erosion of the BEPS tax base, as Kuwait expressed its desire to join the organization.

Second: Contracting with a consulting office to provide the following services -- d comprehensive study on the second pillar; determine the rules, standards and requirements related to tax application; preparing the necessary policies to implement the project in accordance with international best practices; preparing the draft law and training national cadres on the application.

It is known that the indicative list of major consulting offices includes Price Waterhouse (PWC), Deloitte, Ernst & The sources noted that the government's moves in this regard include recommending the issuance of a tax procedures law, given that it includes all the procedural provisions that regulate the mechanism for implementing all types of taxes.

It is a project currently under study, with the start of spreading tax awareness regarding the new tax three months after contracting with the consultant. In addition to providing an integrated automated system, noting that a practice is being prepared regarding it through the tax administration development project.

The sources said that the Planning Committee in the Ministry of Finance is considering adopting the proposed

Kuwait pushes

Continued from Page 1

Crescent Society Dr. Ahmad Al-Shami to KUNA.

The shipment, which is a continuation of successive shipments of the Kuwaiti air bridge will be received by the Egyptian Red Crescent, which in turn will deliver it to the Palestinian Red Crescent through the Rafah border crossing, added Al-Shami.

The first Kuwaiti Gaza relief aid plane arrived two days ago at Al-Arish airport carrying 40 tons of humanitarian and medical supplies plus ambulance cars and was followed by another the day after carrying 10 tons of supplies.

In New York, Kuwait's permanent envoy to the UN Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai reiterated the necessity to end the Israeli war on Gaza immediately.

This came during his speech on Wednesday in the open session of the UN Security Council titled "Situation in the Middle East, Including the Palestinian Issue."

The Kuwaiti ambassador stressed on the need to work with the international community for immediate effective action in accordance to international law.

He said that Kuwait appealed to the international community to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people on their land and warn against any attempts to displace them, within the framework of a final comprehensive solution to the conflict in line with international legitimacy.

The dangerous military escalation

that witnessed today against Palestinians through targeting unarmed civilians with air raids and cutting off electricity, water and food is "something unacceptable to any religion, law or even human nature," said Al-Bannai.

"This Council has been a safe haven for small, peace-loving countries," recalling that the Council was the UN organization that restored international and legal legitimacy to "a country small in size and as great in its giving as my country Kuwait, when it was invaded in 1990," he noted.

Furthermore, Al-Bannai pointed out that the Security Council have failed to have a clear stand against the continuous human violations against the Palestinian people, and affirmed that the current situation requires extraordinary speeches.

He renewed Kuwait's call for comprehensive peace through the resolutions approved in this Council according to the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002 to establish the independent, sovereign State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In his conclusion he pointed out that Kuwait is pioneer in supporting the fair Palestinian cause, and their people's needs politically, humanitarially and morally.

He expressed his pride in Kuwait's announcement in creating Air Bridge to Palestine, carrying tons of humanitarian aid and relief as per directions of 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.

In latest development, the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees warned Wednesday that without immediate deliveries of fuel it will soon have to sharply curtail relief operations across the Gaza Strip, which has been blockaded and devastated by Israeli airstrikes since Hamas militants launched an attack on Israel more than two weeks ago.

The warning came as hospitals in Gaza struggled to treat masses of wounded with dwindling resources. Health officials said the death toll was soaring as Israeli jets pounded the territory overnight into Wednesday.

The Health Ministry in Gaza, which is controlled by Hamas, said airstrikes killed more than 750 people over the past 24 hours. Officials did not give a breakdown of how many killed were militants. The Associated Press could not independently verify the death tolls cited by Hamas, which says it tallies figures from hospital directors.

The Israeli military said its strikes killed militants and destroyed tunnels, command centers, weapons storehouses and other military targets. It accuses Hamas of magnifying the suffering of Gaza civilians by hiding among them.

Hamas and other militants have launched unrelenting rocket barrages into Israel since the conflict started.

The rising death toll in Gaza - following a reported 704 killed the day before - was unprecedented in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Even greater loss of life could come if Israel launches an expected ground offensive aimed at crushing Hamas militants.

The U.N. says about 1.4 million of Gaza's 2.3 million residents are now internally displaced, with nearly half of them crowded into U.N. shelters.

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World News Roundup

Europe

Tusk visits Brussels

Serbia and Kosovo leaders set for talks

BRUSSELS, Oct 25, (AP) — The leaders of Serbia and Kosovo have been invited to meet with top European Union officials to try to breathe life into talks aimed at normalizing their relations, as the 27-nation bloc's leaders gather in Brussels for a two-day summit starting Thursday.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti are not expected to meet face to face, but the aim is to push forward with new "proposals and ideas" floated in exploratory talks last weekend, said Peter Stano, spokesman for EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

Fears are high of a resumption of the violence that has characterized their ties since Kosovo unilaterally broke away from Serbia in 2008. Belgrade has never recognized the move. The EU, through Borrell, has supervised a "dialogue" between them to get things back on track.

The meetings, if they proceed, could be an important step forward, after about 30 Serb gunmen crossed into northern Kosovo on Sept. 24, killing a police officer and setting up barricades before launching an hours-long gun battle with Kosovo police. Three gunmen were killed.

Stano said the EU expects "quick action by the parties to show they are committed to continue to the normalization process - by delivering on their respective dialogue obligations ... as well as all past agreements - without preconditions or delays."

The United States and the EU want Kosovo and Serbia to implement a 10-point plan put forward by Borrell in February to end months of political crises. Kurti and Vucic gave their approval at the time, but with some reservations.



Vucic

Poland's Tusk visits Brussels: Donald Tusk, the opposition candidate who may become Poland's next prime minister, sought to repair Warsaw's ties with the European Union during a series of meetings in Brussels that also centered on unlocking billions of euros in funds that were frozen due to democratic backsliding under the outgoing nationalist government.

Tusk arrived in Brussels a day after he and other leaders of an opposition bloc that collectively won the most votes in Poland's Oct. 15 parliamentary election announced that they were prepared to govern together with Tusk as prime minister.

"The goal today is to rebuild my country's position in Europe, to strengthen the European Union as a whole. The results of the elections in Poland and the incredible turnout, including among the youngest voters in Poland, made it clear to all of Europe, I think, that democracy, the rule of law, freedom of expression, European unity are still important to our people," Tusk said.

Depending on whom President Andrzej Duda first asks to try to form a government, the prime minister might not get sworn in until December. Tusk, who served almost seven years as Poland's head of government, made clear that he was in Brussels as leader of the opposition and not as prime minister.

He described a meeting Wednesday morning with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen as informal.

Sunak marks a year in office: UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak marked a year in office on Wednesday with little to celebrate as wars on the international stage make a grim backdrop to his domestic challenges.

On top of that, another year seems to be haunting his Conservative Party: 1996.

Then - as now - the party had been in power for well over a decade, but opinion polls put the opposition ahead and Conservative dissent and scandal dominated the headlines. The following year, voters booted the Tories out, delivering a landslide victory to Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour Party.

Many Conservatives fear the party faces the same fate in an election that must be called by the end of 2024. The Conservatives trail between 15 and 20 points behind Labour in opinion polls - a gap that has barely moved during Sunak's year in office.

The latest Israel-Hamas conflict, now in its third week, and Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, have added to Sunak's challenges.

"I know this year has been tough," Sunak said in a message marking the anniversary. "And there is still work to be done to help hardworking families across the country, but I'm proud of the steps we've made."

Upper house rescinds bill ratification: The upper house of the Russian parliament on Wednesday revoked the ratification of a global nuclear test ban in what Moscow has described as a move to establish parity with the United States.

The Federation Council voted to endorse a bill rescinding the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, also known as the CTBT. The bill will now be sent to President Vladimir Putin for final approval. The lower house approved the bill last week.

The vote follows a statement from Putin, who warned earlier this month that Moscow could revoke its 2000 decision to ratify the bill to "mirror" the stand taken by the US, which has signed but not ratified the nuclear test ban.

The CTBT, adopted in 1996, bans all nuclear explosions anywhere in the world but the treaty was never fully implemented. In addition to the US, it is yet to be ratified by China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran and Egypt.

'Naval assets no longer safe': Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy claimed on Tuesday that recent Ukrainian attacks have denied the Russian fleet safe bases and secure maritime corridors in the western part of the Black Sea, as Kyiv's troops look to squeeze the Kremlin's occupying forces out of the Crimean Peninsula.

Crimea provides rear support for Moscow's battlefield efforts further west and has been a frequent target for Ukrainian forces during the war since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The Russian fleet is no longer capable of operating in the western part of the Black Sea and is gradually retreating from Crimea," Zelenskyy claimed, without providing evidence. "This is a historic achievement."

Ukraine is keen to show that billions of dollars' worth of weapons supplied by its Western allies have allowed it to make progress in the fighting, as the conflict enters its 21st month amid a broad stalemate.



US President Joe Biden and First lady Jill Biden welcome Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his partner Jodie Haydon to the White House on Oct 24. (AP)

Australia state visit to feature talk of submarines, tech partnerships

US President Joe Biden is pressing forward with this week's state visit from Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, carving out time to nurture the relationship with a critical US ally in the Pacific against the backdrop of escalating fighting between Israel and Hamas.

The state visit, only the fourth since Biden took office, is a reminder of how he's pursuing long-term plans to counter China's influence even as bloody

conflicts in the Middle East and Europe, where the Russian invasion continues after almost two years, remain the most immediate concerns.

Senior administration officials said Biden and Albanese would be focused on innovative partnerships intended to support economic development among Pacific island nations, a key arena as the US seeks the upper hand in the region.

The US and Australia plan to work together on

building maritime infrastructure and laying undersea cables to strengthen internet connectivity, according to the officials, who requested anonymity to discuss details before they're announced.

There are also plans to have US companies launch space missions from Australia, and Microsoft announced it would spend \$3 billion on cybersecurity, cloud computing and artificial intelligence there. (AP)

Politics

'Hard-hitting campaign for governor in Kentucky'

Candidates spar over key tax issue

WASHINGTON, Oct 25, (AP) — Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear and Republican Attorney General Daniel Cameron sparred over a key tax policy in their final debate Tuesday night, sharpening their closing pitches to voters with two weeks left in their hard-hitting campaign for governor in Kentucky.

The Bluegrass State campaign is one of the country's most closely watched off-year elections and could offer clues about voters' sentiments heading into the 2024 contests for the White House and control of Congress. During the televised debate, the rivals pressed themes likely to become recurring talking points in the coming days as they crisscross the state to try to motivate supporters to go to the polls.

Suffered

Cameron decried the learning loss suffered by five Kentucky students during pandemic-era school closures that he blames on the governor. The GOP challenger berated President Joe Biden's economic policies while trying to link the incumbent governor to the Democratic president - employing a common Republican strategy to attack Democrats in red states like Kentucky. "Inflation is rocking your wallet and is killing your savings," Cameron said during the hourlong debate in Lexington.

Beshear touted his stewardship of the state's economy - amid record-setting economic development growth - and his leadership following a series of tragedies during his term, including deadly tornadoes that hit portions of western Kentucky and flooding that inundated parts of Appalachia in the east.

NC GOP close in on new districts seek to 'fortify' party in Congress

RALEIGH, N.C., Oct 25, (AP) — North Carolina Republicans closed in Tuesday on enacting new boundaries for the state's congressional and legislative districts that aim to fortify GOP prospects both in the narrowly divided Congress and in the state General Assembly, where conservatives hope to solidify control there for the rest of the decade.

The full Senate voted along party lines for maps for the state's congressional delegation and for the Senate's own districts. The state House voted later Tuesday for districts in their own chamber. House and Senate leaders aimed for their chambers to give final approval to all three maps Wednesday.

They were all drawn by Republicans in time for the 2024 elections after recent state Supreme Court rulings reversed decisions of the court last year that had thrown

out proposed district lines it had deemed were illegal partisan gerrymanders.

The state's highest court flipped from a Democratic to a Republican majority with the 2022 elections, and the GOP justices ruled in April that the state constitution placed no limits on shifting lines for partisan gain. The U.S. Supreme Court had already declared in 2019 that partisan gerrymandering claims weren't subject to federal court review, either.

Those rulings now diminish legal options for Democrats and their allies opposed to the new maps to challenge the lines in court. They also opened the door for the proposed U.S. House map that could help the GOP pick up at least three seats on Capitol Hill at the expense of first- and second-term Democrats.

He accused Cameron of an "overly partisan" perspective, saying it would stymie the state's momentum.

"Folks, we have got to keep this going," Beshear said. "And in me, you have a governor that doesn't see Team Red or Team Blue, just Team Kentucky."

They delved into a series of issues, including the planned phaseout of the state individual income tax.

Beshear, who is seeking a second term in the Nov. 7 election, said the

phaseout should be done carefully to guarantee state revenues remain sufficient to support schools, public safety and health care programs.

"I do want to continue to make those (tax) cuts, but we've got to do it wisely and carefully, not rashly," the governor said. Cameron has vowed to preside over eliminating the personal income tax if elected governor.

"I believe that you should have more of your hard-earned money in your pocket," he said.



Leader of the Polish Civic Coalition Donald Tusk addresses a media conference prior to a meeting with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at EU headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, Oct 25. (AP)



Paxton



Emerson

America

Pilot said 'I'm not OK': An off-duty airline pilot riding in an extra cockpit seat on a Horizon Air flight said "I'm not OK" just before trying to cut the engines midflight and later told police he had been struggling with depression, according to charging documents made public Tuesday.

State prosecutors in Oregon filed 83 counts of attempted murder against Alaska Airlines pilot Joseph David Emerson, 44, on Tuesday just before he appeared in court, with his attorney, Noah Horst, entering not guilty pleas on his behalf. Federal prosecutors meanwhile charged Emerson with interfering with a flight crew, which can carry up to 20 years in prison.

According to a probable cause statement filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court, Emerson told Port of Portland police following his arrest that he had been struggling with depression, that a friend had recently died and that he had taken psychedelic mushrooms about 48 hours before he attempted to cut the engines. He also said he had not slept in more than 40 hours, according to the document. (AP)

Poison specialist charged: A poison specialist and former medical resident at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota is charged with fatally poisoning his wife, a 32-year-old pharmacist who died days after she went to a hospital in August with stomach distress.

Authorities say Connor Bowman, 30, tried to stop the autopsy on his wife, Betty Bowman - arguing she should be cremated immediately and claiming she had a rare illness, which hospital tests did not confirm. The medical examiner's office halted the order for cremation, citing suspicious circumstances, according to a criminal complaint, and an autopsy showed Betty Bowman died from toxic effects of colchicine, a medicine used to treat gout.

Medical records indicated she was not diagnosed with gout and had not been pre-

scribed the medicine, the complaint states, adding that Connor Bowman had been researching the drug prior to his wife's death. (AP)

'Judge heard evidence': Pedro Argote was conspicuously absent last Thursday



Slovakia's President Zuzana Caputova talks to the media during a news conference in Skopje, North Macedonia on Sept. 7, 2022. Caputova was ready to swear in a new Cabinet led by a former populist prime minister after his junior party accepted her condition to remove an originally nominated environment minister known for his disbelief in the threat of climate change, the presidential office said on Oct 24. (AP)

when a Maryland judge granted his wife a divorce and sole custody of their four children, citing "shocking" testimony about the abuse that Argote allegedly inflicted upon them for years. But later that day, authorities say, Argote showed up at Judge Andrew Wilkinson's home and shot him to death in his driveway. Now a wanted man, Argote remains at large amid a law enforcement search spanning several states.

Wilkinson ruled against Argote after hearing testimony from his wife and an adult daughter, who said he controlled every aspect of their lives, keeping them isolated and subjecting them to various acts of violence in recent years. Police have pointed to the judge's decision as a motive for the shooting, which sent a shock wave through Maryland's legal community. (AP)

Texas sues WH: Texas sued the Biden administration on Tuesday, seeking to stop federal agents from cutting the state's razor wire that has gashed or snagged migrants as they have attempted to enter the US from Mexico at the Rio Grande.

In the lawsuit filed in federal court in Del Rio, Texas, Attorney General Ken Paxton accuses the Biden administration of "undermining" the state's border security efforts.

"Texas has the sovereign right to construct border barriers to prevent the entry of illegal aliens," Ken Paxton, the Texas attorney general, said in a news release Tuesday. (AP)

Lat/Am

Migrants weaponized

Venezuela 'escalates' attacks on opposition

CARACAS, Venezuela, Oct 25, (AP) - Venezuela's government escalated attacks Tuesday on the past weekend's opposition primary to choose a challenger for President Nicolás Maduro next year, saying the voter turnout claimed by organizers was inflated and amounted to a crime.

Maduro's government and its allies have spent months hindering opposition efforts to hold their primary election and have banned the now-apparent winner from being a candidate - leaving the effectiveness of Sunday's poll in doubt. The attacks on the legitimacy of the primary also could sow fear among voters already wary of government reprisals for participating in the polling.

National Assembly President Jorge Rodríguez said the partial results showing participation of at least 1.6 million voters were mathematically impossible given the number of available voting centers and the time it takes a person to cast a ballot.

"What happened this past Sunday was not an election, it was a farce, it was a scam," Rodríguez said Tuesday. "Since we knew that they were planning the farce... we put a person in each of the voting centers and we counted one by one, minute by minute and hour by hour." He called organizers "criminals," insisting that he had shown "sufficient evidence that establishes a crime in Venezuela."

María Corina Machado, a longtime government foe and former lawmaker, already has declared herself the winner of Sunday's polling after results showed her far ahead of nine other candidates. The partial results released by the organizing National Primary Commission showed that with 65% of tally sheets counted, 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%.



Machado

Nicaragua weaponizes migrants: More than 260 charter flights believed to be carrying migrants from Haiti have touched down in Nicaragua in recent months, according to flight data and experts in the region, adding to a historic crush of migration by people hoping to reach the U.S.

The flow of migrants has left the Biden administration and Latin American leaders scrambling for solutions, and experts say it's also being used as leverage by governments like Nicaragua's to get concessions from the US amid tightening sanctions.

"The Ortega government knows they have few important policy tools at hand to confront the United States, ... so they have armed migration as a way to attack," said Manuel Orozco, director of the migration, remittances and development program at the Inter-American Dialogue. "This is definitely a concrete example of weaponizing migration as a foreign policy."

Otis weakens: Hurricane Otis slammed into Mexico's southern Pacific coast as a catastrophic Category 5 hurricane early Wednesday, bringing dangerous winds and heavy rain to Acapulco and surrounding towns, stirring memories of a 1997 storm that killed dozens of people.

A strong Category 2 storm by Wednesday morning, the hurricane was expected to continue to weaken quickly in Guerrero state's steep mountains. But the 5 to 10 inches (13 to 25 centimeters) of rain forecast, with as much as 15 inches (38 centimeters) possible in some areas, raised the threat of landslides and floods.

Otis was about 60 miles (100 kilometers) north-northwest of Acapulco with its maximum sustained winds decreasing to 110 mph (175 kph) and moving at 10 mph (17 kph). The center of Otis is expected to move farther inland over southern Mexico through Wednesday night.

300 troopers deployed: The Mexican government sent 300 National Guard troopers to bolster the southern state of Guerrero on Tuesday, where a local police chief and 12 officers were shot dead in a brutal ambush the day before.

It was just one of three attacks Monday in an increasingly violent region of the country.

Announcing the reinforcements in his morning news conference, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador mourned the victims and called the attack "practically an ambush."

Guerrero's attorney general launched an investigation Monday after the 13 bodies were found on a highway in El Papayo, which is in the Guerrero township of Coyuca de Benítez on the Pacific coast. Two more people were injured in the attack. Some bodies were found handcuffed, face down on the ground, according to local reports, which could suggest the attackers ambushed and captured the police officers before killing them.

Rio de Janeiro deploys copters: Authorities deployed helicopters and other extra security Tuesday in Rio de Janeiro after members of a criminal gang set fire to at least 35 buses in apparent retaliation for the police slaying of one of their key members.

The attack late Monday on public transport buses took place in a western section of Rio far from its tourist districts and caused no casualties, but it represented significant defiance of the government.

Rio's state Gov. Cláudio Castro said Tuesday after a meeting with his security officials that the city was on "maximum alert" with helicopters and drones reinforcing the police presence on the streets.

Police arrested 12 people in the arson attacks, but six were released due to a lack of evidence as the investigation continues, Castro said.

Haitian gang leader charged: A powerful Haitian gang leader has been charged by US prosecutors with ordering the kidnapping of an American couple from their home in Haiti, which left the woman dead, authorities said Tuesday.

Vitel'Homme Innocent - who remains at large and is believed to be living in Tabarre, Haiti - was also charged last year in the 2021 kidnappings of Christian missionaries. The charges are considered largely symbolic in Haiti, where gangs are more powerful than the government and have bigger and better weapons than the police. Gang leaders have previously brushed off U.N. sanctions and criminal charges filed by US federal authorities as they keep operating with impunity.

In the October 2022 kidnapping of Jean Franklin and Marie Odette Franklin, armed gang members stormed their home, and Marie Franklin was shot and killed in the kidnapping.



California Gov. Gavin Newsom, (second from right), attends a meeting with Zheng Shanjie, head of China's National Development and Reform Commission, (second from left), in Beijing on Oct 25. Newsom also met with China's senior most diplomat Wang Yi on Wednesday and displayed a brief moment of friendliness that stands in sharp contrast to the dialogue between the US and China in recent years. (AP)

Asia

Carnival ruled negligent in major COVID-19 outbreak

Myanmar nat'ls ask PH to probe war crimes

MANILA, Philippines, Oct 25, (AP) - Relatives of victims of alleged war crimes committed by Myanmar's military filed a criminal complaint in the Philippines against their nation's ruling generals as they increasingly seek to hold them accountable in courts outside the violence-wracked country.

Human rights lawyers representing five Myanmar nationals, who filed the joint complaint before the Department of Justice, contend that a 2009 Philippine law that promotes human rights obligates the Philippines to prosecute war crimes committed elsewhere in the world under the principle of universal jurisdiction.

Those named in the complaint are Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the head of Myanmar's ruling military council, eight of his military commanders and a state minister.

Myanmar and the Philippines are both members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a conservative 10-nation bloc that has a policy of not intervening in each other's domestic affairs. Critics say such an approach has allowed human rights atrocities to persist in the region.

Philippine government prosecutors have 90 days to approve or dismiss the complaint.

The legal effort underscores the desperation of many in Myanmar, where at least 4,155 people have been killed and more than 19,600 others remain in detention, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a group that keeps detailed tallies of arrests and casualties since the military overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government in February 2021.

Myanmar has been wracked by civil strife since then, with many opponents of military rule taking up arms and large parts of the country embroiled in bloody conflict. A group of investigators established by the United Nations said in August it found strong evidence that the army and affiliated militias indiscriminately and disproportionately targeted civilians with bombs, carried out mass executions of people detained during operations and large-scale burning of civilian houses.

Also:

BANGKOK: Military-ruled Myanmar on Tuesday allowed prisoners to have family visitors from outside, a right that had been suspended for 3½ years because of the coronavirus pandemic,

California gov meets China leader Xi amid 'warm welcome' in Beijing

BANGKOK, Oct 25, (AP) - California Gov. Gavin Newsom had a surprise meeting with China's leader Xi Jinping in Beijing on Wednesday after being warmly welcomed by other senior leaders in a display of friendliness that stands in sharp contrast to the dialogue between the United States and China in recent years.

The governor is on a weeklong tour of China where he will push for climate cooperation. Newsom's trip as governor, once considered routine, is drawing attention as it comes after years of heightening tensions between the US and China.

"I'm here in expectation, as you suggest, of turning the page, of renewing our friendship and reengaging (on) foundational and fundamental issues that will determine our collective faith in the future," Newsom said in brief opening remarks ahead of his meeting with Wang Yi, China's top diplomat earlier in the day.

Though Newsom is here to push a climate cooperation agenda, Chinese officials took the opportunity in welcome speeches ahead of the closed-door meetings to talk about U.S.-China relations, as Wang prepares to visit the US on Thursday.

Newsom and Xi discussed ways to "accelerate our progress on climate in meaningful and substantive ways," the California governor said

at a news conference, but did not mention more specifics.

They also talked about fentanyl, a synthetic drug and leading killer of young people in the US, and China's role in combating the transnational shipping of precursor chemicals, Newsom said.

According to China's state broadcaster CCTV, Xi told Newsom: "I hope your visit will enhance mutual understanding between the two sides and play a positive role in expanding cooperation between China and California and promoting the healthy and stable development of Sino-U.S. relations."

Xi may attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco next month and meet with President Joe Biden, although China has not formally confirmed his attendance.

Newsom is visiting Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai and the provinces of Guangdong and Jiangsu. At a speech at Hong Kong University on Monday, he promised to continue to cooperate on climate change regardless of the outcome of the next US presidential election.

He said he raised human rights issues with Wang and the two also discussed Taiwan, a red-line issue for Beijing. China claims the self-ruled island as part of its own territory.

the military's information office and prison officials said.

The rule allowing visitors carries detailed conditions, but it's the first opportunity for many of the thousands of political detainees who have been locked up for opposing the military's 2021 seizure of power to meet with their family members.

Visitors must be able to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccinations and a household relationship to the prisoner being met. Further documentation is required from the visitors' local administration offices and police precincts.

CANBERRA, Australia: A cruise operator that failed to cancel a voyage from Sydney that led to a major

COVID-19 outbreak was ruled negligent in its duty of care to passengers in an Australian class-action case Wednesday. The Ruby Princess ocean liner left Sydney on March 8, 2020, with 2,671 passengers aboard for a 13-day cruise to New Zealand but returned in 11 days as Australia's borders were closing. COVID-19 spread to 663 passengers and claimed 28 lives.

Passenger **Susan Karpik** was the lead plaintiff in the case against British-American cruise operator Carnival and its subsidiary Princess Cruises, the ship's owner.

Federal Court Justice **Angus Stewart** ruled that Carnival had been negligent as defined by Australian consumer law by allowing the cruise to depart in the early months of the pandemic.



Fellow mineworkers look over the entrance of a goldmine in Springs, near Johannesburg, South Africa on Oct 25. A company official says more than 100 miners have escaped from the mine after being held underground for three days by fellow employees in a union dispute. (AP)



Farawo

Tshisekedi

Africa

German tourist found alive: A German tourist who went missing in a national park teeming with wild animals in northern Zimbabwe has been found alive and in "good health" along with his rental car three days later, a spokesperson for the national parks agency said Tuesday.

Tinashé Farawo with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority said Andreas Hoberg had last been seen buying a drink at the park shop in Matsadona National Park before going for a game drive around 3:30 pm on Saturday.

He failed to return by 6 pm, when all game drives should end, and the car rental company failed to locate him on its GPS tracking system, Farawo said.

Authorities deployed a helicopter, vehicles and sniffer dogs to scour the remote 1,400-square-kilometer (540-square-mile) park that is home to lions, buffalo, leopards, elephants "and all the dangerous animals you can expect in the bush," Farawo said.

The spokesman said the telephone network is poor in the area and he was yet to get more information about the tourist's age, whether he was with others or how deep in the park he had ventured. "We were gravely worried. We are happy he is well," Farawo said. "He says his car developed a mechanical fault. It's a white car, so we were hopeful we would find it." (AP)

109 miners escape: More than 100 miners escaped from a gold mine in South Africa on Wednesday after being held underground for three days by fellow employees in a union dispute, a company official said.

Around 450 workers remain in the mine, the official said, with an unknown number of them preventing the others from leaving as they demand formal recognition of their labor union. The company that runs the mine says it has rough estimates that around 110-120 of the miners underground might be supporters of the unregistered union and were holding the others, although it was not certain.

The union - The Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union - gave another version of the events and says the miners were staying underground willingly as a protest in support of the union.

Police and mine officials have called it a "hostage" situation. The standoff at the Modder East mine in Springs, east of Johannesburg, began early Monday after 562 miners and other workers remained underground at the end of their night shift.

Mine officials say approximately 15 were injured in scuffles, including a man that authorities think sustained a serious head injury. When mine officials sent a paramedic and

a security officer to evacuate the man from the mine, they were also taken hostage, according to the head of the mine. On Wednesday, 109 miners forced their way out, said Ziyad Hassam, the head of legal at Gold One International, the company that owns the

mine. "This morning, they banded together and overpowered those controlling them and blocking the exits," Hassam said. "They are tired, exhausted and dehydrated." (AP)



Burmese Zing Raltu holds documents before filing a criminal complaint against Myanmar's top generals at the Department of Justice in Manila, Philippines on Oct 25. Relatives of victims of alleged war crimes committed by Myanmar's military filed a criminal complaint in the Philippines against their nation's ruling generals in a desperate attempt to test whether such a case could succeed outside the violence-wracked country. (AP)

'I wanted to scream': A hooded man burst into the 42-year-old woman's tent while her children were out searching for food, then assaulted her in the displacement camp where she had fled war in eastern Congo.

"I wanted to scream (but) he took my mouth and he threatened me with death," said the mother of four, who was abandoned by her husband after she became disabled in a motorcycle accident several years ago. Now, she says, she lives in fear and hesitates to let her children leave her side.

Sexual violence by armed men against displaced women is increasing rapidly in eastern Congo as yearslong conflicts continue. The trend underscores the disproportionate consequences for women and girls in the region's perpetual state of war. The Associated Press is not identifying survivors who spoke to journalists in the Bulengo displacement camp. Democratic Republic of the Congo's president is **Felix Tshisekedi**.

In Bulengo and other displacement sites nearby, an average of 70 sexual assault victims each day visit clinics run by Doctors Without Borders, also known by its French acronym MSF. Conflict has simmered in eastern Congo for nearly three decades. The United Nations estimates that more than 130 armed groups are active in the country's northeast, vying for land or resources while some have formed to protect their communities. Sexual violence has long been used as a weapon of war by armed fighters in the region. (AP)

oil price slips

The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by USD 1.92 to USD 93.48 per barrel on Tuesday opposite to Monday's USD 95.40 pb, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday.

The Brent crude and the West Texas Intermediate followed suit, decreasing each by USD 1.76 and USD 1.75, to settle respectively at USD 88.07 pb and USD 83.74 pb. (KUNA)

Qatar Airways CEO to step down

Qatar Airways Group chief executive Akbar Al Baker is stepping down after 27 years leading the company.

Al Baker's retirement will go into effect Nov. 5, Qatar Airways said Monday. He will be succeeded by Badr Mohammed Al-Meer - who currently serves as the chief operating officer of Hamad International Airport in Doha, the hub of Qatar's national carrier.

In Monday's announcement,

Qatar Airways said that it "has grown to become one of the most recognisable and trusted brands globally" under Al Baker's leadership. The company pointed to seven "World's Best Airline" wins, among other accolades.

During his tenure at Qatar Airways, Al Baker became known for being one of the most outspoken leaders in the airline industry. (AP)

Egypt, Russia arrange for BRICS accession

Egypt and Russia discussed on Tuesday arrangements of Egypt joining the BRICS economic group starting January 1, 2024 coinciding with the bloc's presidency transitioning from South Africa to Russia.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry mentioned in a statement that Assistant Foreign Minister for multilateral international and regional affairs, Raji Al-Atrabi, discussed the preparations

with Russian deputy Foreign Minister and President's representative to the bloc, Sergei Ryabkov.

Ryabkov relayed Russia's support to Egypt's accession while also taking note of its regional and international influence, and its vast expertise in various fields.

He spoke of the positive contributions Egypt could bring to the bloc's joint work, affirming that

as chair, Russia will work on easing joining procedures.

The Egyptian diplomat communicated his appreciation for Russian support and coordination, and affirmed Egypt's intent on being an active member.

This contributes to comprehensive economic development efforts in Egypt, he stated, adding that they are aspiring to reinforce role of developing nations in the international front. (KUNA)

Market Movements 25-10-2023

		Change	Closing pts
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+207.57	31,269.92
UK	- FTSE 100	+29.04	7,418.74
SAUDI	- Tadawul	+125.05	10,504.76
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+14.78	6,054.50

Business

Boursa Kuwait and KCC collaborate to organize non-deal roadshow in London with Jeffries Financial Group

Strategic initiative to raise profile of Kuwaiti capital market to int'l investment

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: As part of its efforts to support the Kuwaiti capital market and in a strategic initiative to improve its standing in the international investment community, Boursa Kuwait and the Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC) collaborated with Jeffries Financial Group, a world-renowned global investment banking and capital markets institution, to organize a non-deal roadshow held in the UK capital of London from October 23 to 25, 2023.

The London roadshow presented a unique opportunity for Boursa Kuwait and KCC to engage in one-on-one discussions with prominent investment management firms and advisors. The aim was to spotlight the latest updates of the Kuwaiti capital market, its investment opportunities and the latest products and services it has to offer to institutional investors, including the developments in the central counterparty system (CCP) and the upcoming launch of the fixed-income

platforms. The roadshow also gave the companies an opportunity to exchange ideas and viewpoints and receive feedback about their perception of Kuwaiti capital market and what they require from it.

"Kuwait plays a pivotal role in attracting institutional investors to the capital markets of the region, and we are constantly looking to build strong and sustainable relationships with the international investment community, keeping them updated about the latest developments in the market and what it has to offer in terms of opportunities as well as products and services that fulfil their needs," said Boursa Kuwait Head of Markets Sector Noura Omar Al-Abdulkareem.

She added, "During this road-

show we had a series of meetings with global investment management organizations, listening to their comments and experiences in the Kuwaiti capital market. We've also received feedback about their perception of our market and what they require from it. We will continue working to adopt some of these requirements in ways that benefit both the market and its participants."

Boursa Kuwait and the KCC also made an exhaustive presentation about their achievements in the past few months, which included a series of stress tests to the CCP system to ensure its ability to adapt to the system and that brokerage firms can fulfil its settlement requirements with the Central Bank of Kuwait as well as with local banks. Additionally, Boursa Kuwait is also working on launching several products like exchange traded funds (ETFs) and a platform for bonds and sukuk, to be launched simultaneously with the CCP.

Boursa Kuwait and the KCC play a



Famous skyscrapers in the financial district of London, England, UK.

pivotal role in the development of the Kuwaiti capital market and the diversification of the national economy and have remained steadfast in their dedication to establishing a transparent, efficient and advanced exchange platform, which has led to the creation of

a liquid capital market. Boursa Kuwait and the KCC's unwavering commitment to promoting the Kuwaiti capital market and its participants through a series of Roadshows and Corporate Days has also helped provide prospective institutional investors worldwide

with profound insights into the market's opportunities.

Since Boursa Kuwait took over operations of the Kuwaiti stock exchange, the Kuwaiti capital market has undergone an unprecedented development thanks to the diligent efforts of the capital market apparatus.

Their focus on empowering participants and raising standards has resulted in several key initiatives, including the diversification of products and services, establishing an appealing investment platform, expanding the issuer base, and adapting rules and regulations to meet market demands.

The apparatus has also significantly enhanced the market's infrastructure and fostered an attractive investment environment, which resulted in the Kuwaiti capital market's reclassification to an Emerging Market by three prominent global index providers, and solidified Kuwait's position as a leading financial center in the region.



Family photo of stakeholders of AIF. (Photo - AETOSWire)

'Unlocking Africa's Value Chains'

Marrakech to host 2023 AFI Market Days Event

ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire/MARRAKECH, Morocco, Oct 24, (BUSINESS WIRE): The highly anticipated Market Days Event of the Africa Investment Forum (AIF) is set to take place in Marrakech, Morocco from November 8-10.

Bringing together Heads-of-State, decision makers, multi-nationals and investors, the upcoming three-day event under the theme "Unlocking Africa's Value Chains," will be the continent's foremost business gathering.

The Africa Investment Forum is a dynamic, multi-stakeholder platform focusing on continental dealmaking, facilitating connections between project sponsors, policy makers and investors and has mobilised \$ 142 billion in investment interest since 2018.

The upcoming event will add significant value to investors, partnering them with carefully curated opportunities at a time of substantial transformation across the African continent. Following Morocco's recent hosting of the IMF and World Bank Annual meetings, the continent is centre stage as Africa witnesses groundbreaking developments, including the construction of a new 6,000 km energy pipeline and races towards its collective

commitment to renewable energy ahead of COP28.

The transactional setting, evidenced in its trademark Boardrooms, is geared toward providing a robust pipeline of deals across the Continent for investors seeking opportunities in emerging markets. The platform will offer efficient solutions to investors seeking to channel capital into critical sectors in line with Sustainable Development Goals, the African Development Bank's High 5s, and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Amidst the dynamism of one of the continent's leading lights, this year's AIF Market Days Event in Morocco promises to provide a unique portal for project sponsors, investors and policy makers.

Founded in 2018, the African Investment Forum is a multi-stakeholder platform that has become the continent's premier investment platform. A flagship initiative of the African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, the AIF has European Development Bank, Afreximbank, Trade and Development Bank, Development Bank of Southern Africa, Africa Finance Cooperation, Africa 50 as its Founding Partners.

Kuwait's July 2023 exports skyrocket with 37% surge

Trade balance sees year-on-year decline

By Ahmad Fathi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: Kuwait's exports of July 2023 experienced significant growth, with a 37% increase from the previous month, totaling approximately 6.6 million dinars. This surge marks a substantial rise from the 18 million dinars recorded in June.

These exports were distributed across various regions, including Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Arab nations, and European countries. Exports to the Gulf Cooperation Council countries reached around 17 million dinars, a remarkable 59.5% increase compared to June, accounting for 69% of total Kuwaiti exports in July. Additionally, exports to Arab countries increased by 3% to 7.447

million dinars, constituting 30.3% of total exports.

The value of exports to the European continent increased by 50% to 116 thousand dinars.

However, exports to the African continent decreased by 69% to 10 thousand dinars. Meanwhile, exports to the Asian and Australian continents witnessed an impressive 143% growth, reaching 34 thousand dinars.

The two American continents also experienced a substantial increase, with exports surging by 133% to 22 thousand dinars.

Trade balance

Kuwait's trade balance surplus decreased by approximately 44.14% year-on-year in the second quarter of 2023, mainly due to declining exports. In the three months ending on June 30, Kuwait recorded a trade surplus of 3.24 billion dinars, compared to 5.80 billion dinars in the same period in 2022.

The decline in Kuwait's trade surplus was attributed to a 29.25% decrease in exports during the second quarter of this year, amounting to 6.12

billion dinars compared to 8.65 billion dinars in the previous year.

The decline in export revenues was mainly influenced by the 30.93% reduction in the exports of oil and its basic derivatives, which reached 5.65 billion dinars during Q2 2023.

This figure was the lowest since Q4 2021 when it amounted to 5.62 billion dinars.

During the first half of 2023, Kuwait's total exports saw a decrease, amounting to 12.7 billion dinars. This marked a drop of 3.12 billion dinars compared to the same period in 2022, with the majority of the decline attributed to reduced revenues from oil and derivative exports, amounting to 3.14 billion dinars.

The trade balance for Kuwait recorded about 6.88 billion dinars, with 3.63 billion dinars during the first quarter of the year and 3.24 billion dinars during the second quarter.

The total trade exchange with Kuwait reached approximately 18.5 billion dinars, with 9.56 billion dinars recorded in the first quarter and 8.98 billion dinars in the second quarter.

Bank continues efforts to support 'Diraya' campaign

KFH underlines customers rights, regulations of dealing with banks

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: Kuwait Finance House "KFH" continues efforts to support "Diraya" financial and banking awareness campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association for the second year in a row. The campaign aims to shed light on customers' rights, rules and regulations of dealing with banks, information safety and security against intrusion, combating fraud transactions in addition to other warnings and regulations. This campaign comes as part of the bank's obligation to keep the customers informed about their rights and duties regarding banking and financial transactions and their cyber security.

The campaign discusses finance types, banking cards, awareness of customers with special needs, tips on cyber security and protection of bank accounts. Also, it provides the mechanism to lodge complaints, protect customers' rights and identify the banking sector duties and its role in enhancing and developing the national economy.

KFH contribution in the campaign comprises the dispatch of various messages on different topics related to the main components of the campaign. These messages are sent to all types of customers to suite the culture and nature of each tier. Also, messages are sent on continuous basis to employees who are considered as the second main component in the awareness triangle (customers - employees - public) who are either potential or targeted customers, thus aiming to achieve the targets of the campaign. The main targets of the campaign comprise awareness, identification of and warning against any possible risks of failing to follow safety and security instructions upon using modern technology means. Regulations include refraining from extending any information about accounts and personal transactions to any unknown parties or replying to messages from unknown sources as this would be a violation to data privacy and banking protection regulations.

KFH is keen on spreading financial educa-

tion, saving and investment knowledge and customer awareness of the bank's products and services. KFH appreciates the efforts extended by the Central Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Banking Association in organizing the Be Aware "Diraya" campaign to spread awareness in society regarding banking and financial transactions and e-banking services. Technology has opened vast business opportunities. However, several risks and challenges were also detected considering the several attempts, most of which failed, to hack customers' accounts and cause system damage. Accordingly, this situation has called for a comprehensive awareness plan and enhancement of the cyber security systems, anti-money laundering systems and prevention of other legally incriminated and suspicious activities.

KFH messages highlight the clear and defined policies placed by the Central Bank of Kuwait to supervise the lending and finance operations at banks. These policies provide that the customer shall be provided with the loan details, value and No. of instalments, settlement dates, instalment/ net salary ratio and default penalties. The customer is given at least 2 days grace period to review the contract fully before signing. Once signed, a draft copy of the contract shall be given to the customer including type of loan, payment term, instalment value and profit. There are two types of loans offered to customers, consumer loan and residential loan.

According to CBK instructions, the bank is required to provide financial advice and all information concerning the finance contract and explain all details related to the finance transaction including rate of return/ finance amount, No. of instalments to be paid by customer and components of each instalment before signing the contract with the customer. Customers shall be given two days period to review the contract and read the terms and conditions carefully and be aware of their rights and obligations before signing the contract.

Collaboration focuses on redefining remittance experience for customers

Zain FinTech, Al Ansari Financial Services partnership aims to revolutionize the region's financial landscape

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: Zain FinTech, the financial services arm of Zain, (BK Premier:ZAIN), a leading regional telecom group operating in seven markets across the Middle East and Africa, entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Al Ansari Financial Services PJSC (DFM: ALANSARI), one of the leading integrated financial services groups headquartered in the UAE with operations across the region. The strategic alliance marks the beginning of a promising collaboration between the two organizations, focused on harnessing technology to enhance financial services for their customers across markets.

The MoU was signed by Bader Al Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO and Rashed A. Al Ansari, Board Member and Group CEO of Al Ansari Financial Services, setting the stage for an exciting partnership that will leverage the strengths of both companies to drive innovation and improve financial services delivery across the region.

Mr Al Kharafi commented, "A key part of Zain's '4Sight' growth strategy focuses on maximizing the enormous opportunities in the digital financial arena on the back of our footprint, customer base, and leading technologies. We aim to expand our innovative fintech service offerings to advance the region's digital ecosystem and will continue pushing the boundaries, leveraging on the vast network of strategic partners in each of our markets."

Mr Al Ansari added, "We are excited to join forces with Zain, a company that shares our passion for innovation and our commitment to delivering exceptional financial services. Through this collaboration, we aim to revolutionize the financial landscape and provide our customers with the latest technology-driven solutions."

By investing in financial technology and other contemporary tools, and harnessing the power of these solutions, both Zain FinTech and Al Ansari Financial Services aim to redefine the remittance experience and enable convenient



Bader Al Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO and Rashed A. Al Ansari, Board Member and Group CEO of Al Ansari Financial Services.

and secure transfer of funds. The partnership will enable both entities to effectively advance financial services and technological solutions in the region, ensuring improved customer experiences for the markets in which both entities operate.

The Zain FinTech umbrella

As the financial services arm of Zain Group, operating fintech services across its Middle East and African footprint, Zain FinTech offers an appealing and much needed range of innovative products and services related to payments, remittances, credit cards and micro-finance within the Zain ecosystem and beyond. Zain FinTech's B2B SAAS solution provider 'FOO' specializes in empowering businesses providing innovative fintech solutions, built entirely in-house, which optimize digital capabilities for clients across diverse industries and enables them to deliver an unparalleled user experience.

More on AlAnsari Financial Services

As one of the leading integrated financial services groups in the region with its headquarters in the UAE, the company empowers its operating subsidiaries, Al Ansari Exchange, Al Ansari Exchange Kuwait, Worldwide Cash Express, CashTrans and Al Ansari Digital Pay (under incorporation in the UAE), to unlock their growth potential through synergy.

The Group's global platform provides cross-border payments, foreign currency exchange solutions, access to the Wage Protection System (WPS) in the UAE, and other services such as bill collection and prepaid cards, as well as payment technology solutions to consumers and businesses in the large and growing payments and foreign currency exchange and remittance market in the UAE. The Group delivers its products and services through a comprehensive global network underpinned by its proprietary technology and relationships with third parties.

states sue Meta claiming its social platforms are addictive and harm children's mental health

Dozens of U.S. states, including California and New York, are suing Meta Platforms Inc. for harming young people and contributing to the youth mental health crisis by knowingly and deliberately designing features on Instagram and Facebook that addict children to its platforms.

A lawsuit filed by 33 states in federal court in California, claims that Meta routinely collects data on children under 13 without their parents' consent, in violation of federal law. In addition, nine attorneys general are filing lawsuits in their respective states,

bringing the total number of states taking action to 41 and Washington, D.C.

"Meta has harnessed powerful and unprecedented technologies to entice, engage, and ultimately ensnare youth and teens. Its motive is profit, and in seeking to maximize its financial gains, Meta has repeatedly misled the public about the substantial dangers of its social media platforms," the complaint says. "It has concealed the ways in which these platforms exploit and manipulate its most vulnerable consumers: teenagers and children."

The suits seek financial damages and restitution and an end to Meta's practices that are in violation of the law.

"Kids and teenagers are suffering from record levels of poor mental health and social media companies like Meta are to blame," said New York Attorney General Letitia James in a statement. "Meta has profited from children's pain by intentionally designing its platforms with manipulative features that make children addicted to their platforms while lowering their self-esteem."

In a statement, Meta said it shares "the

attorneys general's commitment to providing teens with safe, positive experiences online, and have already introduced over 30 tools to support teens and their families."

"We're disappointed that instead of working productively with companies across the industry to create clear, age-appropriate standards for the many apps teens use, the attorneys general have chosen this path," the company added.

The broad-ranging federal suit is the result of an investigation led by a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general from Cali-

ifornia, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Vermont. It follows damning newspaper reports, first by The Wall Street Journal in the fall of 2021, based on the Meta's own research that found that the company knew about the harms Instagram can cause teenagers - especially teen girls - when it comes to mental health and body image issues. One internal study cited 13.5% of teen girls saying Instagram makes thoughts of suicide worse and 17% of teen girls saying it makes eating disorders worse. (AP)

Bid to catch up with Tesla, other electric rivals

Japan's automakers unveil EVs galore at Tokyo show

TOKYO, Oct 25, (AP): "We love battery EVs."

Takeru Kato, the executive in charge of electric vehicles at Toyota, said that not once, but twice, to emphasize what he considers the message at this year's Tokyo auto show.

It's a message ringing clear at the Tokyo Mobility Show, which will run through Nov. 5 at Tokyo Big Sight hall and where battery-powered electric vehicles are the star at practically every booth.

Mazda Motor Corp. is highlighting a sports car concept that is a plug-in EV packed with its signature rotary engine. Honda Motor Co. is showing off its Prelude sports car EV concept. Toyota Motor Corp.'s lean angular Lexus concept, set to go on sale in 2026, is an electric vehicle running on lithium-ion batteries.

Journalists got a preview Wednesday ahead of the show's public opening Saturday.

U.S. automakers like General Motors Co. and Ford Motor Co. aren't exhibiting at the show and have not taken part for some years. The Americans make up a very tiny fraction of Japanese auto sales and have had a hard time cracking a market where domestic makers remain powerful.

Among the foreign makers taking part are Mercedes-Benz, a perennial Japanese favorite, and China's BYD.

Kato denied he repeated his words because he is worried Toyota isn't perceived as loving EVs enough.

Toyota executives have acknowledged that Japan's top automaker has fallen behind rivals in EV development like Tesla of the U.S. and China's BYD Auto. That is partly because of Toyota's past success in hybrids, exemplified in the Prius, which have a gasoline engine in addition to an electric motor.

Toyota already sells a tiny two-seater called C-pod and the bZ4X, co-developed with group company Subaru, as electric offerings, but not much else. And it is

eager to play catchup.

As the first serious EV from Toyota, the Lexus LF-ZC will serve as a true test for how Toyota fares in a sector that still comprises a minority of the global market but is growing quickly, given priorities like climate change.

In Japan, EVs make up less than 5% of the auto market, according to the International Energy Agency. In the U.S., where Tesla dominates, EVs account for just under 10% of auto sales, although President Joe Biden is pushing for requiring at least 54% of new vehicles sold in the U.S. to be electric by 2030. In China, a third of vehicles sold are EVs.

Tesla's global vehicle deliveries last year grew 40% from the previous year, to 1.31 million EVs. BYD sold more than 1.85 million electric cars, including plug-ins.

Toyota, meanwhile, sold fewer than 25,000 EVs worldwide last year, although in the first eight months of this year, it sold 65,000, mostly outside Japan. Toyota is targeting sales of 1.5 million EVs a year by 2026 and 3.5 million by 2030.

"We are looking toward an electrified future that we hope to build together with our customers," Kato said.

Catching up is a challenge but not impossible, said Joshua Cobb, senior automobiles analyst at BMI.

"Over the short term, we see Chinese EVs from brands such as BYD, SAIC-GM-Wuling and Tesla-branded EVs will continue to gain market share as there is little competition at the moment," he said.

But, Cobb added, "One thing not to underestimate is the strong brand loyalty in Japan." He said Japanese consumers may hold off on EV purchases until more domestic models hit the market.

Nissan, an early EV maker among the Japanese with its Leaf going on sale in 2010, is showcasing four EV concept cars.

Among them is the Hyper Tourer minivan concept that Nissan says has ad-

vanced technologies like autonomous driving. It runs on high-energy-density solid-state batteries.

Senior Vice President Alfonso Albaisa said Nissan is focusing on virtual reality and other breakthroughs that allow vehicle designers to shorten model development time.

"At Nissan, we have been racing forward with our dramatic digital shift just as other industries, like gaming," Albaisa said.

Manufacturers are also noting that EV technology is bringing changes for how a vehicle drives.

Batteries and a motor for an EV generally take up less space than a gas combustion engine. That means EVs can have a lower center of gravity while offering more cabin space, making it a nifty powertrain for sports cars, vans, pickups and SUVs.

In Nissan and elsewhere, a key issue for EVs is battery charge time and driving range. While all the world's major automakers are working to shorten charge time and lengthen cruise time per charge, the U.S. startup Ample has come up with a different solution - battery swapping.

Instead of charging the battery in the car, a module containing the battery is taken out and replaced by a fully charged battery at a drive-in facility built especially for the procedure. The swap, done by robots, takes just five minutes.

The approach is already being used by Uber drivers in the San Francisco area. Ample's battery-swapping arrives in Japan this winter through a partnership with Mitsubishi Fuso, a Daimler group truck company. The swapping is being demonstrated at Mitsubishi Fuso's booth.

De Souza said another attraction of battery swapping is its greenness. A battery can be charged flexibly, using renewable energy at times of the day with low demand for power, he said.

"We decided what worked really well about gas is that you stop for a few minutes," said John de Souza, Ample's president and founder.

Hong Kong cuts taxes for foreign 'home buyers' and stock traders

Territory seeks to maintain global status

HONG KONG, Oct 25, (AP): Hong Kong's leader on Wednesday cut taxes for some homebuyers and stock traders to boost markets as the city seeks to maintain its reputation as a global financial hub.

Chief Executive John Lee said the extra stamp duties imposed on non-resident buyers and current local homeowners looking to buy additional properties would be halved, making the first easing over the past decade since property cooling measures were introduced.

In his annual policy address, Lee also unveiled plans to reduce the stamp duty on stock transactions to 0.1% from 0.13%, saying a vibrant stock market is vital to upholding the city's status as a financial hub. He set a goal of having the necessary legislative procedures completed by November.

After the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, Hong Kong's economy has begun to recover, fueled by growth in tourism and private consumption. The city's economy expanded 2.2% in the first half of 2023 year-on-year and is expected to grow between 4% and 5% for the full year.

However, the path to full recovery remains uneven, particularly with geopolitical tensions rising and Hong Kong's largest trading partner, mainland China, struggling to rebound quickly.

The financial hub also has seen a mass departure of residents in recent years, triggered by a crackdown on pro-democracy activists following Beijing's imposition of a tough national security law, and the now-rescinded strict COVID-19 mandates. This emigration has hurt the economy and property market.

Official data showed a 15% year-on-year drop in home prices last December and a 39% yearly decline in the volume of residential property transactions in 2022.

Lee, acknowledging the decline in transactions and property prices over the past year amid interest rate hikes and modest economic growth in other regions, adjusted a raft of measures that manage property demand.

Under the slashed stamp duty, a foreigner buying properties in the city only needs to pay 15% of their purchase price as taxes, down from 30% currently. Current local homeowners will pay 7.5% for buying their second homes, down from 15%.

Foreign professionals working in Hong Kong on eligible visa programs are no longer required to pay extra property stamp duties arising from their non-permanent residency unless they fail to become permanent residents later.

"When they come to Hong Kong, we also encourage them to take root here," Lee said at a news conference.

But Joseph Tsang, chairman of property consultancy Jones Lang LaSalle in Hong Kong, said he expected some of Lee's property tax reductions to have limited impact on the market.

"The relaxation of cooling measures is only a band-aid solution that is unlikely to reverse the downward



In this image from video taken Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023, and released by Hong Kong Legislative Council, Hong Kong Chief Executive John Lee enters the Legislative Council meeting room to deliver a policy address in Hong Kong. Hong Kong's leader has cut taxes for some homebuyers and stock traders to boost markets as the city seeks to maintain its reputation as a global financial hub. (Hong Kong Legislative Council Pool via AP)

Investors are unimpressed with the performance

Google's ad sales growth accelerated in Q3

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 25, (AP): Google's digital advertising sales growth accelerated during the summer, advancing a recent revival that helped its corporate parent Alphabet Inc. to deliver a quarterly profit that exceeded analysts' projections.

The third-quarter results released Tuesday for the July-September period included a 9% increase in Google's ad sales from the same time last year. Those gains were the main reason Alphabet's total revenue rose 11% from a year ago to \$76.69 billion. The upturn was even better than the 7% year-over-year increase in revenue that Alphabet produced in the April-June period when it reversed an unprecedented drop in Google's ad revenue after nearly 20 years of growth.

The higher revenue - coupled with cost cuts that have trimmed more than 7,800 employees from Alphabet's payroll so far this year - en-

abled the Mountain View, California, company to post a profit of \$19.7 billion, or \$1.55 per share, a 42% increase from last year. Alphabet ended September with nearly 182,400 employees.

Despite the signs of progress in many areas, revenue from Google's Cloud division that helps powers websites - an area of robust growth - fell below analysts' projections at a time when artificial-intelligence technology was expected to provide a bigger lift. Meanwhile, Microsoft was simultaneously reporting stronger results in its own cloud operations, stoking worries that Google may be losing ground in a battleground that is expected to become even more important as AI progresses.

In a conference call with analysts, Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai said some customers were "optimizing" their spending on cloud services - an indication that some businesses are

tightening their budgets amid economic uncertainty caused by wars in the Middle East and Ukraine, as well as a potential shutdown of the U.S. government next month.

"Cloud computing is a much lumpier business than advertising, and one where Google is facing stiff competition," said Insider Intelligence analyst Max Willens. "While the traction it has among AI startups may bear fruit in the long run, it is not currently helping Google Cloud enough to satisfy investors."

The Cloud slowdown appeared to take the luster off the third-quarter report for many investors. Alphabet's stock fell more than 6% in extended trading after the numbers came out. But the company's shares have surged by more than 50% so far this year, a run-up that may have prompted some investors to lock in their gains.

The third-quarter performance in-

duced that Google's early push to introduce more artificial intelligence technology into its search engine and other products such as Gmail and its latest Pixel smartphone, is paying off.

"We're continuing to focus on making AI more helpful for everyone; there's exciting progress and lots more to come," Pichai said in a prepared statement.

The results also serve as a reminder of the financial juggernaut that Google has been able to assemble under its dominant search engine - the target of an ongoing antitrust trial focused on the U.S. Justice Department's allegations that the company has been abusing its power to boost its profit while stifling competition and innovation. Google has vehemently denied the allegations, alleging its success simply flows from all the good that its search engine does for consumers and advertisers.

of the critical infrastructure, such as financial institutions and telecommunications.

Other policy highlights announced by Lee included an entry program for investors and a cash bonus of 20,000 Hong Kong dollars (US\$2,556) offered to the parents of newborns.

Safety reasons cited

S. Francisco robotaxi service is suspended

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 25, (AP): California regulators have revoked the license of a robotaxi service owned by General Motors after determining its driverless cars that recently began transporting passengers throughout San Francisco are a dangerous menace.

The California Department of Motor Vehicles' indefinite suspension of the Cruise robotaxi service comes just two months after another state regulator, the Public Utilities Commission, approved an expansion that authorized around-the-clock rides throughout San Francisco - the second most dense city in the U.S.

That approval came over a chorus of protests, including some lodged by police and fire officials who asserted the driverless vehicles had been impeding traffic in emergencies during a testing phase.

Now Cruise is being forced to slam on the brakes on its operations after the DMV concluded its robotaxis posed "an unreasonable risk to public safety," according to a statement issued by the agency.

The DMV didn't elaborate on the specific reasons for the suspension, but the move comes after a series of incidents that heightened concerns about the hazards and inconveniences caused by Cruise's robotaxis. The worries reached a new level earlier this month after a Cruise robotaxi ran over a pedestrian who had been hit by another vehicle driven by a human, and then pinned the pedestrian under one of its tires after coming to a stop.

In a statement, Cruise confirmed it has ceased its robotaxi operations in San Francisco. It said it is continuing to cooperate with state and federal regulators in their inquiry into the Oct. 2 accident involving a robotaxi named "Panini" and the critically injured pedestrian, who had to be extracted from under the robotaxi with the help of the "jaws of life" before being taken to a local hospital. Cruise said its engineers are examining that accident and working on way for its robotaxis to improve their response "to this kind of extremely rare event."

During the suspension, Cruise will be able to still operate its vehicles in autonomous mode, but with a human sitting in the driver's seat to take control whenever something goes awry. That's a precaution that has allowed dozens of companies to test autonomous driving technology throughout California for years.

While Cruise has been sidelined in San Francisco, another robotaxi operated by Waymo is continuing to give rides throughout the city. Waymo, which began as a secret project within Google more than a decade ago, has been running another robotaxi service in Phoenix for the past three years. Although its robotaxis haven't been involved in a major accident in San Francisco, Waymo's vehicles also have come to sudden stops that have backed up traffic in the city.

The California suspension is a significant blow to GM and its ambitious goals for Cruise, which the Detroit automaker has predicted will generate \$1 billion in revenue by 2025 - a big jump from Cruise's revenue of \$106 million last year when it also lost nearly \$2 billion. Cruise also is testing a robotaxi service in Los Angeles, where protests against it already have been escalating, as well as Phoenix and Austin, Texas.

In a conference call held Tuesday before California regulators moved against Cruise, GM CEO Mary Barra hailed Cruise and its autonomous vehicles, or AVs, as a big breakthrough in the future of transportation.

"As Cruise continues to push the boundaries of what AV technology can deliver to society, safety is always at the forefront and this is something they are continuously improving," Barra said.

CLIMATE Business Plus



Eyes on wealthy after targeting oil, gas conglomerates

Climate activists protest against luxury



Environmental activists of Stay Grounded and Greenpeace demonstrate while handcuffing themselves to a plane during the European Business Aviation Convention and Exhibition (EBACE) at the Geneva Airport in Geneva, Switzerland, May 23, 2023. (AP)



In this frame from video provided by Karen Killeen, protesters demonstrate in front of a super yacht belonging to Walmart heir Nancy Walton Laurie after spray painting it in Ibiza, Spain on July 16, 2023. Climate activists have spraypainted a superyacht, blocked private jets from taking off and plugged holes in golf courses this summer as part of an intensifying campaign against the emissions-spewing lifestyles of the ultrawealthy. (AP)

We do not point the finger at the people but at their lifestyle, the injustice it represents

Climate activists have spray-painted a superyacht, blocked private jets from taking off and plugged holes in golf courses this summer as part of an intensifying campaign against the emissions-spewing lifestyles of the ultrawealthy.

Climate activism has intensified in the past few years as the planet warms to dangerous levels, igniting more extreme heat, floods, storms and wildfires around the world. Tactics have been getting more radical, with some protesters gluing themselves to roads, disrupting high-

profile sporting events like golf and tennis and even splashing famous pieces of artwork with paint or soup.

They're now turning their attention to the wealthy, after long targeting some of the world's most profitable companies - oil and gas conglomerates, banks and insurance firms that continue to invest in fossil fuels.

"We do not point the finger at the people but at their lifestyle, the injustice it represents," said Karen Killeen, an Extinction Rebellion activist who was involved in protests in Ibiza, Spain, a

favorite summer spot for the wealthy. She said the group is protesting unnecessary emissions such as superrich individuals going to pick up a pizza by boat. "In a climate emergency, it's an atrocity," she said.

Killeen and others from climate activist group Futuro Vegetal - or Vegetable Future - spraypainted a \$300 million superyacht belonging to Walmart heir Nancy Walton Laurie. Protesters held up a sign that read, "You consume, others suffer."

In Switzerland, some 100 activists disrupted Europe's biggest

private jet sales fair in Geneva when they chained themselves to aircraft gangways and the exhibition entrance. In Germany, climate group Letzte Generation - which translates to Last Generation - spraypainted a private jet in the resort island of Sylt, in the North Sea. In Spain, activists plugged holes in golf courses to protest the sport's heavy water needs during hot dry spells.

In the U.S., Abigail Disney, the grand-niece of Walt Disney, was arrested at East Hampton Town Airport, New York, in July along with 13 other protesters

for blocking cars from entering or exiting the parking lot. It was the first of up to eight actions carried out in the exclusive Hamptons area. Activists also crashed a golf course, disrupted a museum gala and demonstrated outside some private luxury homes.

"Luxury practices are disproportionately contributing to the climate crisis at this point," said University of Maryland social scientist Dana Fisher. According to a 2021 report by nonprofit Oxfam, if all planet-warming emissions were attributed to the people producing them, the richest 1% will be responsible for around 16% of emissions by 2030. "It makes a lot of sense for these activists to be calling out this toxic behavior."

Richard Wilk, an economic anthropologist at Indiana University, said luxury travel is "the real culprit" in the emissions of the ultrawealthy.

He published estimates of top billionaires' annual emissions in 2021 and found that a superyacht - with permanent crew, helicopter pad, submarines and pools - emits about 7,020 tons of carbon dioxide a year, over 1,500 times higher than a typical family car. And private aircraft in Europe alone last year caused more than 3 million tons of carbon pollution, equivalent to the average annual CO2 emissions of over half a million EU residents, according to the nonprofit Greenpeace.

But Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann warned that attention away from the fossil fuel companies - which are responsible for at least 70% of all emissions - and toward the rich could be "playing right into the hands of the fossil fuel industry and the 'deflection campaign' they've used to divert attention from regulation by emphasizing individual carbon footprints over the much larger footprint of polluters."

"The solution is to get everyone to use less carbon-based energy," whether wealthy or lower-income people, he said.

David Gitman, president of Monarch Air Group, a Florida private air charter provider, encouraged activists to think twice about whether they're taking the right approach.

"If their activism goes toward some sort of actual assistance to real programs to make real change like sustainable aviation fuel, like carbon offsets, I think that this kind of activism can help achieve those results," said Gitman. "Now, if they go out and they spray-paint a private jet in an airport in Europe, is that going to get those results? In my opinion, no."

Fisher, of the University of Maryland, was also skeptical that the activism was effective in changing behavior by the wealthy.

In some cases, governments have stepped in with regulations. France is cracking down on the use of private jets for short journeys, and earlier this year, the Netherlands' Schiphol Airport also announced plans to ban private jets.

But as protests escalate, Fisher and Wilk say they could still move the needle toward behavior change.

"Public shaming is one of the most powerful ways of controlling people," Wilk said. "It acts in a lot of different ways to embarrass people, to make them more conscious of the consequences of their actions." (AP)

editor's choice



Art provides hope and resilience: Palestinian artist

Philanthropy

NEW YORK, Oct 25, (AP) - Palestinian artist Nida Sinnokrot, one of 18 artists receiving the 2023 Soros Arts Fellowships from the Open Society Foundations on Tuesday, says that art provides hope and resilience, even in the midst of war.

"It's our duty to find the strength to keep the despair at bay in the face of the unimaginable," said Sinnokrot, who is the co-founder of Sakiya, a Palestinian academy of agrarian traditions and contemporary art, and a faculty member in Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Art, Culture, and Technology Program. "We have to, as artists, find the courage to disrupt convention, practice the spreading of hope and cultivate new stories and imaginaries that challenge divisive binaries."

Members of this year's class of Soros Arts Fellows, including Sinnokrot, will receive \$100,000 in unrestricted funding from Open Society Foundations to develop a public art project that confronts climate change with community-based solutions in the next 18 months, said Tatiana Mouarbes, Open Society's Team Manager for Culture, Art, and Expression.

"There's a clear need for bold action, for justice and for equity-based solutions to ensure a more regenerative and life-sustaining world," said Mouarbes, adding that "systems of global colonialism, white supremacy and capitalism have long stripped the environment of its natural resources."

At a time when many in philanthropy are reevaluating priorities - including Open Society Foundations, as the nonprofit founded by billionaire philanthropist George Soros changes under the new leadership of his son, Alex - Mouarbes said artists' work can be just as impactful

as other more traditional investments. This year's class of Soros Arts Fellows is the largest since the program launched in 2018.

"We firmly believe that art is not only an essential driver for social change, but that robust, diverse and fortified arts and culture landscapes are prerequisites for open, just and inclusive societies everywhere," she said. "Art is transformative in so many ways, in expanding political and collective consciousness, in transforming and challenging and providing alternatives to oppressive power structures and ideologies, and for creating momentum for change."



Sinnokrot

Justice

New York-based artist Jordan Weber, another of the 2023 Soros Arts Fellows, said he was thrilled to be part of the group because the foundation works hard to support art that creates direct action, rather than simply "talking about the problems in our communities."

"Individuals who are implementing arts that are really effective, they're treating the cause of the problem," said Weber, who will plant an acre of conifer trees in Detroit as part of a remediation project to counter pollution from nearby factories producing automobiles, while also engaging the community to enjoy the open space and learn about environmental justice. "I feel like we're on the cutting edge of that. ... This is the launchpad of something new - a new realm of direct action

in the arts."

Molemo Moiloa also plans to incorporate community action in her art project in Johannesburg, South Africa, for her Soros Arts fellowship. Moiloa said her project is a reaction to the weariness many younger South Africans currently feel, as the hopes generated by Nelson Mandela's inauguration as the country's first Black president in 1994 have dimmed.

"Particularly since the pandemic, we've been hit really, really hard - a lot of the people who were kind of just keeping it together aren't anymore," Moiloa said. "The idea of preparing for collapse sounds a bit dramatic, but it's also about using it as an opportunity, as a moment to think about a kind of economic and political system that wasn't really built for everybody."

Her project "The Ungovernable" will help people connect with the land and teach them strategies to survive uncertain times, combining an area for urban farming and community centers that allow "reconnecting with traditional and indigenous knowledge systems."

Sinnokrot's project "Storytelling Stones: How far does your mother's voice carry?" also involves finding inspiration from "ancestral knowledge systems" to develop more nuanced and sustainable approaches to complex issues, including climate change. He wants to build Palestinian stone shelters known as mintar and give them new uses, including as "an acoustic chamber, that can resonate with the environment and our oral histories."

Despite the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, Sinnokrot said he still plans to build his project in Palestine, though he declines to say where.

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Features

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This image released by Focus Features shows Dominic Sessa, (left), and Paul Giamatti in a scene from 'The Holdovers.' (AP)

Film

Payne keeps his new film grounded and real

'Holdovers,' a holiday film with some bite

LOS ANGELES, Oct 25, (AP) - Alexander Payne brings audiences to a New England boarding school in 1970 in "The Holdovers," a textured, nostalgic and often funny piece about three lonely and mismatched souls stuck together over Christmas break. It's a keeper and possibly even destined to become a classic.

The holiday movie genre is suspect - even the most well-intentioned entries can be too saccharine, too wistful, too "Lifetime." But Payne, working with a sharp script written by David Hemingston, keeps "The Holdovers" grounded and real. Even absent your own memories of smoking indoors or handsewn outerwear, this is the kind of thoughtful, precisely constructed movie where you can almost taste the cigarette smoke and feel your fingers numbing through drafty wool mittens.

With its knowingly retro production titles starting the film, "The Holdovers" lets you settle in and submit to something that could very well have been made in the time it was set, which was one of Payne's goals. Similarly, the recurring Damien Jurado song "Silver Joy," a soothing and melancholy tune that perfectly sets the tone and place, feels like a forgotten Cat Stevens melody - not something from the past decade. It's all part of the transportive magic of the experience.

Paul Giamatti stars as Paul Hunham, a curmudgeonly ancient history instructor whose only pleasure seems to be derived from holding his privileged students to account and failing them without regard for political considerations. He's the kind of guy who looks suspiciously at a smiling colleague giving him homemade Christmas cookies and wants to start a new lesson in the last hours before the break.

Paul draws the short straw for holdover duty - i.e. babysitting the students staying on campus

during the break for various reasons. After a few days of chaos and humor, the group is whittled down to just one: Angus Tully (newcomer Dominic Sessa), whose mom abandoned their plans for a beach vacation at the last minute to spend time with her new husband. And no one is happy, least of all Mary Lamb (Da'Vine Joy Randolph), the head cook mourning her son's death in Vietnam.

Situation

The actors get to explore depths beyond the tropes of the cranky teacher, the depressed cook and the privileged jerk as they clumsily try to navigate an unpleasant situation. To make matters even bleaker, food deliveries stop over the break and the heat is turned off everywhere but the infirmary, where they must bunk in sad hospital beds for the duration.

It's strange to think that this is the first time that Giamatti has reunited with Payne since screaming about not wanting Merlot in "Sideways," which came out almost 20 years ago. These two together make for a special match. Giamatti doesn't let the characters' quirks (a glass eye) overwhelm his choices - this man's pathos runs deep, as does his militant view of what a Barton man does and does not do.

Randolph also adds turbulent emotion to what could have been a tertiary, one-note character consumed in grief. She is in grief, which comes on in both expected and unexpected ways, but she's also witty and wise and a perfect foil to Paul's diatribes.

But the true discovery is Sessa, making his film debut. They found him in the drama department at one of their shooting locations, Deerfield Academy. Casting modern teens in period pieces can be a tricky art, but Sessa somehow looks straight

out of 1969. And he goes head-to-head with his seasoned co-stars, exhibiting a real capacity for both drama and physical comedy.

The idea of found family is a little too neat and cliché for "The Holdovers," but perhaps more resonant and believable are the hard, and sometimes comically, learned lessons about how to be a decent person in the world - how to look outside of your own problems to empathize with and maybe even help others. No one comes out of this fixed or healed; it's just a bit of life mixed up in the surreal pressure cooker of the holidays.

"The Holdovers," a Focus Features release opening in New York and Los Angeles Friday, in limited release Nov. 3, nationwide on Nov. 10, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for "some drug use, language and brief sexual material." Running time: 133 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Hollywood's latest attempt to delve into the opioid crisis is the glossy, starry "Pain Hustlers," starring Emily Blunt, Chris Evans and Andy Garcia. Based on a New York Times Magazine article (which then became a book) by Evan Hughes, "Pain Hustlers," on Netflix on Friday, Oct. 27, centers on a pharmaceutical startup, Insys Therapeutics, which engaged in criminal activities like bribery and kickbacks and misleading insurers to push their addictive oral fentanyl spray called Subsys. Blunt plays a high school dropout who gets a job at the company, run by Garcia, where she excels. Directed by David Yates, "Pain Hustlers" was not generally well received by critics at its Toronto International Film Festival premiere, but Alyssa Wilkinson wrote for Vox that, though predictable, "Pain Hustlers' manages to be lively and moving."

NEW YORK: A new digital audio edition of Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are" will have a very well known narrator: former first lady Michelle Obama.

HarperCollins Publishers announced Tuesday that the audio download will go on sale Oct. 31, the 60th anniversary of the book's original release. Michelle Obama has read from "Where the Wild Things Are" before. In 2016, she and President Barack Obama acted out the classic picture book for an Easter event at the South Lawn of the White House.

"Maurice Sendak would have been absolutely delighted with Mrs. Obama's superb rendition of 'Where the Wild Things Are,' and her strong commitment to children is much admired by us all in the Sendak household," Lynn Caponera, president and treasurer of the Maurice Sendak Foundation, said in a statement.

Sendak, one of the world's most famous children's authors, died in 2012 at age 83. His other books included "In the Night Kitchen," "Chicken Soup with Rice" and "Outside Over There." (AP)

NEW YORK: Oprah Winfrey's new book club pick highlights an author she has long admired, Jesmyn Ward.

On Tuesday, Winfrey announced she had selected Ward's "Let Us Descend," which comes out this week. "Let Us Descend" is a slave narrative set in the 19th century and follows a teenage girl's journey across the American South. Ward, 46, is among the most acclaimed writers of her generation. Her previous works include the novels "Salvage the Bones" and "Sing, Unburied, Sing," both winners of the National Book Award.

In 2022, she became the youngest winner of the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction.

"I have read all of Jesmyn Ward's books and have been a fan of her writing for years," Winfrey said in a statement. "'Let Us Descend' is a vital work for our culture and I'm so excited to have her newest offering as part of our Book Club."

Ward has also written such nonfiction as "Men We Reaped" and "Navigate Your Stars." In a statement Tuesday, she expressed her lifelong admiration for Winfrey and how she was "deeply

moved by Ms. Winfrey's ability to challenge herself creatively and her unabashed championing of literature and the written word."

"I tried to emulate all of this in my own life, and over the last 20 years, I worked my way through rejection and revision to now, when I find myself in a momentous point in my career," her



Obama



Winfrey

statement reads. "I am so honored to contribute to the discussion at the heart of her club, which over the years, has considered what it means to be American, to be human, to be alive, to hope and yearn, with each outing. What a joy to add my own voice to her chorus!" (AP)

LOS ANGELES: In 2010, bestselling writer Alan Wake went on vacation in the Pacific Northwest and never came back. Turns out he's been trapped all these years in "the Dark Place," trying to maintain his sanity and write his way out of the nightmare. Enter Sage Anderson, an FBI agent investigating a series of ritual murders that she thinks

might be connected to the missing novelist. That's the setup for Alan Wake II, Remedy Entertainment's long-awaited sequel to a game that's become a cult favorite. If you were rattled by the David Lynch-meets-Stephen King vibe of the original, Remedy is promising to lean even further into the creepiness. (AP)

People & Places

Obituaries

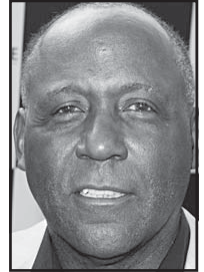
Bill Kenwright dead

'Shaft' actor Richard Roundtree dies at 81

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 25, (AP) — **Richard Roundtree**, the trailblazing Black actor who starred as the ultra-smooth private detective "Shaft" in several films beginning in the early 1970s, has died. He was 81.

Roundtree's longtime manager, Patrick McMinn, said the actor had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died at his home in Los Angeles on Tuesday. He was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1993 and underwent a double mastectomy.

"Richard's work and career served as a turning point for African American leading men," McMinn said. "The impact he had on the industry cannot be overstated."



Roundtree

Roundtree, who was born in New Rochelle, New York, was considered as the "first Black action hero" and became one of the leading actors in the blaxploitation genre through his New York street smart John Shaft character in the Gordon Parks-directed film in 1971. At age 28, it was Roundtree's first feature film appearance after starting his career as a model.

Roundtree's "Shaft" was part of a change in how Black movies were viewed in Hollywood, which failed to consider Black actors - especially for leading roles - in projects at the time. The blaxploitation films were primarily aimed at the African American audiences.

In the film, his character navigated the world of thugs. He regularly whipped out popular one-liners like "It's my duty to please that booty."

"What we were doing was a good, old Saturday afternoon shoot 'em up," Roundtree said in a 2000 interview with The Associated Press.

Isaac Hayes' "Shaft" theme song - which included the line "You a bad mother- (Shut your mouth)" - helped insinuate the original movie into the pop-cult consciousness. The singer, who died in 2008, said the song was "like the 'shot heard round the world.'" His single won an Academy Award for best song in 1971 and two Grammys the following year.

Success

After the film's success, Roundtree returned in sequels "Shaft's Big Score" in 1972 and "Shaft in Africa" in 1973. That same year, he played the savvy detective once again on the CBS television series "Shaft," which lasted only seven episodes.

Roundtree reprised his role in the 2000 "Shaft" film, a revival that starred Samuel L. Jackson. He appeared as Jackson's uncle in the big-budget film that was aimed at the general audience. Both appeared again in the same roles in the 2019 film starring Jessie T. Usher.

Jackson called Roundtree the "prototype" and the "best to ever do it" in a social media post.

"SHAFT, as we know it is & will always be his Creation," he said of Roundtree. "His passing leaves a deep hole not only in my heart, but I'm sure a lotta y'all's, too."

Through his 50-plus year career, Roundtree appeared in a number other notable films including "Earthquake," "Man Friday" with Peter O'Toole, "Roots," "Maniac Cop" "Se7en" and "What Men Want" starring Taraji P. Henson. He also made his mark with television roles on "Magnum P.I.," "The Love Boat," "Being Mary Jane" and "The Love Boat."

In 1995, Roundtree received a lifetime achievement award at the MTV Movie & TV awards.

Also:

NEW YORK: **Bill Kenwright**, a British theater impresario and film producer whose 34-year association with Everton soccer club included spending nearly two decades as its chairman, has died. He was 78.

Everton announced Kenwright's death on Tuesday. The club said he died peacefully Monday, surrounded by his family and loved ones, after battling cancer.

"The club has lost a chairman, a leader, a friend, and an inspiration," Everton said in a statement.

Kenwright, a lifelong Everton fan who regularly attended the team's games at Goodison Park, first joined the northwest club's board in 1989, bought a 68% stake in 1999 and became chairman in 2004. It was a position he still held until his death, despite a turbulent last couple of years under Everton owner **Farhad Moshiri**, who has been looking to sell the club and recently overhauled the board.

Kenwright had a cancerous tumor removed from his liver in August. Everton said this month that the operation had been successful but complications meant Kenwright needed a lengthy stay in an intensive care unit before continuing his recovery at home.

Wayne Rooney, the **England** and **Manchester United** great who broke through at Everton as a 16-year-old prodigy, wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, that Kenwright "had a huge impact on me as a person and my career."

"Great man and a big inspiration," Rooney wrote. Kenwright, who was born in **Liverpool**, began his showbiz career as an actor and appeared in the soap opera "Coronation Street" in the late 1960s, returning for occasional appearances over the years after he moved into producing.

He became one of Britain's biggest stage impresarios, producing shows in **London's** West End and on Broadway - some flops, many hits, including "Blood Brothers," which ran in London for 24 years, and a hit touring production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat." Among his most recent shows as producer was "Heathers: The Musical," currently touring the **UK**.

He also produced movies, including "Cheri," "Broken" and "The Fanatic," a thriller starring **John Travolta**.

He was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire by **Queen Elizabeth II** in 2001 for services to theater and film.

Actor **Ian McKellen** wrote on X: "Like many grateful actors I am in debt to Bill Kenwright for employment."

McKellen said Kenwright "seemed to have known everyone in the business and to care about them. Yet every chat would (veer) round to his equal passion - Everton football."

"The city that gave us The Beatles and two major football teams, also bred a unique impresario. Whether the West End lights will be turned off in his memory, certainly our business will be dimmer now he has gone."



This image released by Netflix shows Jay Duplass and Emily Blunt, (right), in a scene from 'Pain Hustlers,' which will debut on Netflix on Oct. 27. (AP)



Jennifer Lawrence attends the Women's Wear Daily Honors award ceremony at Cipriani South Street on Tuesday, Oct. 24, in New York. (AP)



Sanders



Williams

Variety

ST. LOUIS: A former cast member of the reality TV show "Basketball Wives LA" was sentenced Tuesday to four years in prison for 15 fraud-related felonies, including schemes connected to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brittish Williams, 33, of St. Louis, pleaded guilty in May to five federal counts of misuse of a Social Security number, four counts of bank fraud, three counts of making false statements to the IRS and three counts of wire fraud. Assistant US Attorney **Diane Klocke** said the actions took place over roughly a decade, and the crimes continued even after Williams was indicted.

US District Judge **Henry E. Autrey** also ordered Williams to pay restitution of \$565,000.

"You knew what you were doing. You knew it was wrong and you did it anyway," Autrey said.

Federal authorities said Williams illegally obtained loans meant for businesses hurt by the pandemic. They said she also used false Social Security numbers to defraud banks and credit card companies, submitted fake medical bills to an insurance company, and lied on tax returns.

Williams appeared on "Basketball Wives" in its third season in 2014, when she was engaged to **Lorenzo Gordon**, who played professional basketball overseas.

"British Williams was getting paid to portray her celebrity lifestyle on 'Basketball Wives' when in fact she was a typical fraudster," **Jay Greenberg**, special agent in charge of the FBI's St. Louis office, said in a statement.

Williams, at the May hearing where she pleaded guilty, promised that her days of crime were behind her.

"I will not be committing any more crimes for the rest of my life," she said at the time, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. (AP)

BOULDER, Colo.: **Deion Sanders** certainly enjoyed the spoof of Deion Sanders in a recent skit on "Saturday Night Live."

Actor **Kenan Thompson**'s parody of the **Colorado** coach was spot-on, from the attire - Colorado sweatshirt pulled over his CU hat, shades and whistle dangling from his neck - to the larger-than-life attitude.

Still, Sanders said he has seen better impersonations. Football player-turned-comedian **Lou Young** does a mean Coach Prime imitation. So does someone closer to home: his son, CU defensive back **Shilo**

Music

Uninhibited rap made the duo

City Girls evolve their sound on 'RAW'

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 25, (AP) — You'd be hard pressed to find a rap duo doing it like City Girls. They've been bringing life-affirming, pretty-girl scam rap to the masses since they were featured on Drake's "In My Feelings" and launched into superstardom with their 2018 debut "Girl Code" and its hit single "Act Up."

A lot has changed since then. Three years ago, the Miami-based duo of JT and Yung Miami released their sophomore album, "City on Lock" shortly after it was leaked. They've worked to make sure things move as smoothly as possible with their third full-length album, "RAW," an acronym for "Real Ass Whores." It's City Girls, as fun as ever - with marked growth.

"RAW" is just being authentic and being ourselves," says JT, who did most of the speaking in their interview with The Associated Press.

Of course, that doesn't mean the album - true to their spirited party records and moments of real vulnerability - came easy. Across the last three years, the duo hasn't felt immune to the pressures that accompany fame and influence creativity.

Change

"I feel like, when creating music, it relates so much to your life, and as your life change, your music change. So, it's a lot of pressure from different sides, like people saying, 'Oh, you don't sound like your old self. Or people just basically saying, 'I want to hear growth in the music,'" she continues. "It's a line of division as an artist, when you're creating."

Of course, there's a lot to celebrate here, from the NSFW club banger "Piñata" and "Tonight," which samples Lil Kim, to the JT freestyle "No Bars," her first solo single since 2019's "JT First Day Out," which led to the launch of a No Bars Reform initiative, created to provide resources to other formerly incarcerated women and help them rehabilitate into society.

There's also an all-star list of collaborations on "RAW," from the dizzying trap of "Static" featuring Lil Durk to the Dr. Luke pop record "Flashy," with Kim Petras. "Kim Petras is beautiful. I love her songs. I love her music," says

Sanders.

"But I'm a fan of Kenan, let's get that straight," Sanders said Tuesday at his weekly news conference of the "SNL"

comedy sketch. "It was good."

Not so good was being off last week. Or the timing of the bye week.

The Buffaloes (4-3, 1-3 Pac-12) have



Spanish singer and actor Miguel Bose sits on a movie theater seat during a talk about the film 'Tacones Lejanos' at the Morelia Film Festival in Morelia, Mexico, Monday, Oct. 23. (AP)

K-pop group Seventeen find nirvana on new mini album

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 25, (AP) — How does a group follow up their biggest release to date? In the case of K-pop act Seventeen, they continue to grow their successes - and release another mini-album in the same year.

In April, the 13-member group (Woozi, Dk, Joshua, Jeonghan, Seungkwan, Vernon, S.Coups, Wonwoo, Mingyu, Dino, Hoshi, Jun, The 8) released "FML," their highest charting release. It spent nine weeks on the Billboard 200, peaking at No. 2 and sold millions of copies.

On the group's 11th mini album, six months later - titled "Seventeenth Heaven," a play on the English maxim "seventh heaven," referring to a state of extreme elation - the group build off that exciting foundation across seven tracks.

And there's a lot to love, particularly in the first two tracks. "Seventeenth Heaven" opens with an all-English language track, the Jersey club-meets-pop rock "SOS," co-produced by American DJ Marshmello.

JT. "(When) she sent the demo back in, she sounded amazing."

Then there's their track with future Super Bowl halftime performer Usher. "Originally Chris Brown was supposed to get on 'Good Love,' but I don't know what happened with that," says Yung Miami. "So, I personally reached out to Usher. I sent the record, he sent it back, and that's how 'Good Love' came about."

And a collaboration with fellow Floridian Muni Long on the sexy R&B tune "Emotions." "I just hear her voice on it," JT says. "She writes great music so we felt like she would be perfect for that song."

That track follows the sing-along rap record, "Show Me the Money,"

Contrast that with "God of Music," the sunshine-y pop single with bright brassy touches - a life-affirming sing-along so nice they put it on the album twice. With an act of this size, Seventeen manage to highlight its sub-units (smaller groups within a larger group defined by a particular talent) without allowing one to outshine another - a critical balance that has made them one of the best-selling K-pop groups, ever.

Like on the retro electro-pop-meets-video game EDM of "Back 2 Back," spotlighting the dance sub-unit (Dino, Hoshi, Jun, The 8), or the Tim Burton-esq. gothic rap "Monster," courtesy hip-hop sub-unit (Vernon, S.Coups, Wonwoo, Mingyu) and "Yawn," a gorgeous piano ballad from the vocal sub-unit (Woozi, DK, Joshua, Jeonghan, Seungkwan).

As he has become known for, Woozi contributed to writing the lyrics of all the tracks and the composition of most, save for "Monster" and "Headliner."

emphasizing the no-skip, smooth transitions of "RAW," what JT refers to as "turn down, turn up, turn down, turn up" sequencing.

The math is working. When asked about their place in hip-hop - on its 50th anniversary, no less - JT is acutely aware of City Girls' position. "Every time I think about, like, us being rappers, I always feel blessed. Like, damn, we are really rappers. We are really a part of hip-hop," she says, expressing particular gratitude for being "the only female rap group right now. "And I think we were the first female rappers to go platinum since Salt-N-Pepa, and to chart over than Salt-N-Pepa... It's a great feeling. I feel like we doing our thing and we will continue."

had a long time to stew over blowing a 29-0 lead to Stanford in a 46-43 double-overtime home loss. Sanders hasn't stopped reflecting on it - or the season or everything else, which might explain why he showed up Tuesday with a new beard, complete with gray whiskers, to go with his cowboy hat.

"I don't stop thinking. That's my darn problem," Sanders said. "That's why we can't rest as humans sometimes. We've got to learn how to turn our mind off. It's hard for me to shut this off because I enjoy it so much and I want to dominate it."

Then again, can't win 'em all, right? Thompson, playing the role of Sanders in the "SNL" skit that aired the night after the Stanford loss, imitated the confidence of Sanders by saying, "We just keep winning, man. Every game. Every minute. We're winning at life."

To which anchor **Colin Jost** replied, "Well, yeah, you're also 4-3. So you have lost a few." Jost also mentioned the loss to Stanford.

"Wasn't that crazy? We went up 29-nothing at the half," Thompson said in the character of Sanders. "So I went home and fell asleep. I woke up this morning shocked as anyone. But come on, man, nobody's perfect. Name one team that's undefeated."

Around these parts, No. 19 Air Force is 7-0 as the Falcons get ready to play at Colorado State this weekend. (AP)

New deadly bird flu cases reported

US mulls ban on hair-straightening chemicals tied to cancer

ATLANTA, Oct 25, (AP): The US Food and Drug Administration is considering a ban on certain hair-straightening chemicals that have been used by Black women for years and that research shows may increase the risk of uterine cancer.

But Black hair stylists say such products - specifically the ones being looked at by the FDA, which contain formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing chemicals - have fallen out of favor, especially among younger generations.

"Relaxers have taken an extreme decline ... as we became more knowledgeable about the effects of the relaxer on your hair and what it can do to your hair," said Kayleigh Butler, a hair stylist in Atlanta who remembers getting relaxers when she was 5 years old. She added, "I think people just wanted to move away from that and live a healthier lifestyle."

The FDA is in the first steps of the process: The notice of a possible rule was recently added to its regulatory agenda. The agency aims to publish an advance notice of proposed rule-making by April 2024, but items can stay on the agenda for years.

Investigate

The possible rule would apply to both salon-grade and at-home products, FDA spokesperson Courtney Rhodes said.

Jasmine Garcia, who owns Jasmine Nicole Xclusives Hair Salon in Atlanta, estimated that less than 5% of her clients - who are Black women - want relaxers. She told The Associated Press that a client texted her after learning about the potential ban, saying: "Of all the things the FDA needs to look into, why relaxers right now?"

Earlier this year, US Reps. Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Shontel Brown of Ohio asked the FDA to investigate chemical hair straighteners, pointing to a study published in 2022 from the National Institutes of Health that linked straighteners to an increased risk of uterine cancer. Pressley said in an Oct. 6 statement that the FDA's possible action is "a win for public health - especially the health of Black women."

"Regardless of how we wear our hair, we should be allowed to show up in the world without putting our health at risk," she said.

The FDA posted a video recently on social media, reminding people that no action has been taken yet and that the agency plans to work with and encourage the cosmetics industry to develop alternative straightening products.

In a study from Boston University published this month in the journal Environmental Research, researchers followed nearly 45,000 Black women for up to 22 years, the majority of them moderate or heavy users of relaxers. Among postmenopausal women, those who used relaxers most often had a greater than 50% increased risk of uterine cancer compared to those who never or seldom used them.

Black people have the highest rates of death from cancer, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The risks for Black women could shift with better regulation of chemical hair straighteners, said Dr. Kimberly Bertrand, an author of the Boston University study.

She added that FDA action would be a step in the right direction, but that it shouldn't focus solely on formaldehyde.

"I think consideration of endocrine disruptors like phthalates and parabens would be important, and heavy metals, too," she said. "Getting rid of formaldehyde in these products certainly is a good thing, but ... I don't know that it renders those products

completely safe."

Dr. Yolanda Lenzy, a dermatologist and licensed cosmetologist who co-authored the Boston University study, also said there's still some pressure for Black women to have straight hair, especially in conservative job fields like law.

Twenty-four states have some type of law banning discrimination over hairstyles, but Black people have still run into issues, like in Texas, where a high school student was suspended because of his locs.

"I just know so many Black women who've made the choices about how they show up in the world based on codes at work, on rules at work, that ... their hair has to be presentable," Lenzy said. "What does that really mean?"

Also:

DES MOINES, Iowa: Two commercial turkey farms in Iowa have been hit by the re-emerging highly pathogenic bird flu, causing about 100,000 birds to be killed to prevent the disease from spreading.

The Iowa Department of Agriculture reported the infected commercial poultry flocks within weeks of a turkey farm in **South Dakota** and one in **Utah** reporting the first outbreaks in the U.S. since April, raising concerns that more would follow.

The US Department of Agriculture shows 12 commercial flocks in South Dakota, Utah and **Minnesota** have been affected in October, totaling more than 500,000 birds.

Bird flu last year cost U.S. poultry producers nearly 59 million birds across 47 states, including egg-laying chickens and turkeys and chickens raised for meat, making it the country's deadliest outbreak ever, according to USDA figures. The outbreak caused spikes in egg and turkey prices for consumers and cost the government over \$660 million.

Iowa was the hardest-hit state last year, with nearly 16 million birds lost, but there hadn't been a case reported in the state since March.

Iowa's department reported Friday that one commercial turkey facility of about 50,000 birds in Buena Vista County was affected. Another facility of about 47,500 turkeys in neighboring Pocahontas County was confirmed Monday.

In Guthrie County, about 50 backyard birds were also infected, the department said.

NEW YORK: A new shot for infants against RSV is in short supply, and US health officials told doctors they should prioritize giving the drug to babies at the highest risk of severe disease.

Infants less than 6 months who have chronic lung disease or other underlying conditions should be given priority, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told doctors in a Monday evening advisory.

RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, is a common cause of coldlike symptoms that can be dangerous for young children. A seasonal virus, it's being widely reported in the southern **United States** and is expected to continue to spread over the next month or two.

The new, one-time shot is a lab-made antibody that helps the immune system fight off the virus. Sold under the brand name Beyfortus, the drug was developed by AstraZeneca and Sanofi.

In July, the US Food and Drug Administration approved it, and the next month the CDC recommended it for infants born just before or during the RSV season and for those less than 8 months old before the season starts. They also recommended a dose for some 8- to 19-month-olds at higher risk of a serious illness.

A leap forward in connectivity and communication

stc takes voice calling to new level by introducing new cutting-edge 5G tech

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the successful completion of its pilot test to launch a new technology called "5G New Calling", becoming the first telecom operator in Kuwait and the whole region to achieve this remarkable milestone. The 5G New Calling technology represents the next generation of telecommunication services, offering features that are set to enhance communication for individuals, businesses, and industries.

The new technology, soon to be introduced by stc, will bring users a new experience. Users will be able to break away from conventional, static conversations through interactive HD video communication, paving the way for enhanced collaboration and engagement. Moreover, leveraging the cutting-edge 5G calling technology, stc aims to enrich the digital terrain for its users. They are set to introduce features such as video calls with real-time translations, speech-to-text capabilities, screen sharing, an interactive visual menu, and Enterprise ID cards.

Commitment

The pilot test reflects stc's unwavering commitment on expanding its service offerings and maintaining its competitive pioneering position within the telecommunications industry. As the first telecom operator in Kuwait and the whole region to achieve this milestone, stc strengthened its position as a leader in offering transformative solutions to businesses and individuals.

Eng. Fahad Al Ali, CTO of stc, expressed his enthusiasm about the accomplishment, stating, "At stc, we consistently strive to introduce and integrate innovative solutions to our customers' with the core objective of elevating their user experience. Our successful 5G new calling pilot test represents our effort to leverage the latest technology in the market to provide new, value adding services to our customers. The new technology is expected to have a significant change on the calling experience in Kuwait, which brings a range of benefits including improved connectivity, as well as a more efficient and diversified calling experience. Considering our role as a telecom and digital solutions pioneer, this new technology will transform the way our customers interact, communicate, and conduct their daily activities."

Al Ali added, "The potential of 5G goes beyond just speed, it is about creating an interconnected world where information flows seamlessly, with reduced latency and enhanced reliability. Following the success of the 5G new calling pilot test, stc is primed to transform the telecom industry, providing superior user experiences, enhanced security, and cost-effective solutions for enterprises across various verticals. Having said that, we are deeply committed to staying ahead of the curve, investing in research and development, and pushing the boundaries of what is possible in the telecom sector."

Ahmed Al-Amir shares expert insights at Sprinklr conference

Gulf Bank showcases social media excellence

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: Gulf Bank actively participated in a regional conference organized by social media management expert, Sprinklr, at the prestigious Conrad Hotel, Dubai. The event witnessed representatives from renowned international companies and platforms, including Meta, TikTok, WhatsApp, and LinkedIn.

During the conference, these global entities unveiled their latest platform updates and features, providing valuable insights for businesses and entrepreneurs seeking meaningful and appealing ways to engage their audiences. Sprinklr, in particular, provided an in-depth overview of its solutions and services, incorporating advanced artificial intelligence technologies in social media management. The focus was on highlighting the diverse range of advantages it delivers to its clients.

Gulf Bank stood out by highlighting its innovative use of social media as a way to connect with the community and engage with customers effectively. The bank's outstanding content across various events and occasions played a pivotal role in solidifying its position and enhancing its societal impact.

As the keynote speaker, Mr. Ahmed Al Amir, Deputy General Manager of Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank, expressed contentment with Gulf Bank's comprehensive achievements. He particularly praised the bank's vibrant community engagement, accomplished through the strategic use of social media.

Connect (cross head)
He highlighted the crucial role of



Ahmed Al Amir, Deputy General Manager of Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank.

social media, emphasizing its power to influence and connect with diverse sectors of society. Al-Amir also brought attention to Gulf Bank's unique skills in delivering top-notch and compelling content, positioning the bank's channels at the forefront of audience views and interactions.

Moreover, Al-Amir shared valuable insights on enhancing and developing social media content, stressing the importance of tailoring content for specific platforms while ensuring its quality, speed, accessibility, and reach. He concluded by expressing Gulf Bank's pride in actively engaging with the community, and its eagerness for continuous interactions. He also recognized social media's pivotal role in connecting with diverse audiences and accomplishing the bank's objectives.

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.

Inca girl's mystery unveiled after 500 years

Experts reconstruct face of Peru's famous mummy

LIMA, Peru, Oct 25, (AP): The possible living face of Peru's most famous mummy, a teenage Inca girl sacrificed in a ritual more than 500 years ago atop the Andes, was unveiled Tuesday.

The silicone-made bust portrays a young woman with pronounced cheekbones, black eyes and tanned skin.

Produced by a team of Polish and Peruvian scientists who worked with a Swedish sculptor specializing in facial reconstructions, it was presented in a ceremony at the Andean Sanctuaries Museum of the Catholic University of Santa Maria in Arequipa.

"I thought I'd never know what her face looked like when she was alive," said Johan Reinhard, the US anthropologist who found the mummy known as "Juanita" and the "Inca Ice Maiden."

Reinhard discovered the mummy

in 1995 at an altitude of more than 6,000 meters (19,685 feet) on the snow-capped Ampato volcano.

"Now 28 years later, this has become a reality thanks to Oscar Nilsson's reconstruction," he said.

Nilsson, a Swedish archaeologist and sculptor who specializes in 3D facial reconstructions of ancient humans, told The Associated Press in an email that it took him "about 400 hours of work" to model the face.

Dagmara Socha, a Polish bio-archaeologist at the University of Warsaw's Center for Andean Studies, said at the ceremony that the first step in achieving Juanita's face was "to obtain a replica of the skull."

Then "body scans, DNA studies, ethnological characteristics, age, complexion" were used in the facial reconstruction, the university said in a statement.

According to anthropological studies, Juanita was sacrificed between A.D. 1440 and 1450, when she was between 13 and 15 years old. She was 1.40 meters (55 inches) tall, weighed 35 kilos (77 pounds) and was well nourished.

The probable cause of death was a severe blow to the right occipital lobe, according to researchers at Johns Hopkins University who performed a CT scan.

Reinhard, who has uncovered more than 14 Inca human sacrifices high in the Andes, including three children in an icy pit at Argentina's Llullaillaco volcano, said scientists have been investigating aspects of Juanita's life, such as her diet and the objects found next to her.

"These findings have helped us better understand her life and the Inca culture," he said. "Now we can see what she really looked like, which makes her even more alive."

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Brazil's team members celebrate after winning the gold medal in the men's team taekwondo final event at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. (AP)

Jenson suspended

Halep 'files' appeal against doping ban

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Oct 25, (AP): Two-time Grand Slam champion Simona Halep has asked the Court of Arbitration for Sport to overturn the four-year ban she received for doping violations.

The court said Tuesday it has registered Halep's appeal of the International Tennis Integrity Agency's decision in September.

The ITIA ruled that the 32-year-old Halep "committed intentional anti-doping rule violations" after failing a drug test during the 2022 U.S. Open and for irregularities in her Athlete Biological Passport.

Halep had blamed contaminated nutritional supplements and said she would "do everything in my power to clear my name of these false allegations and return to the court."

Halep reached No. 1 in the WTA rankings in 2017. She won Wimbledon in 2019, beating 23-time major champion Serena Williams in the final, a year after winning the French Open.

CAS said a panel of arbitrators will rule on the appeal. The court said there's no timetable for a decision.

Halep will be 35 when her suspension ends in early October 2026.

Meanwhile, American tennis player Jenson Brooksby was given an 18-month suspension after an independent tribunal determined he missed three drug tests within the span of a year.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency said Tuesday that Brooksby accepted that his "whereabouts failures" for two

TENNIS

of the missed tests "were valid" and the tribunal found his degree of fault for the other test "was high."

Under antidoping rules, athletes can be penalized without a positive test if they have three "whereabouts failures" within 12 months.

"I have never taken a banned substance in my life, and I was open and honest with the ITIA throughout my case. I understand that it is my responsibility and will learn and grow," Brooksby wrote Tuesday in a post on social media. "I accepted that 2 of my missed tests were my fault, but I continue to maintain that my June 4, 2022 missed test should be set aside."

He said he did not know a doping control officer was trying to find him that morning; his cell phone was on silent when there was a call to it; his hotel room was never called.

"I was awake and had nothing to hide," Brooksby wrote, adding that he intends to appeal the ruling.

He accepted a provisional suspension in July, so his ban will be backdated to then and end on Jan. 4, 2025. He has a three-week window in which to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, something Brooksby's advisor, Amrit Narasimhan, confirmed to The Associated Press they plan to do.

"Jenson is very disappointed," Narasimhan said. "We're focused on our efforts moving forward and appealing with CAS."

Brooksby, a Californian who turns 23 on Thursday, has been ranked as high as No. 33. He is currently at No. 301 after going most of the season without competing because he needed two operations for dislocated wrist tendons: on his left arm in March, and on his right in May.

His last match on tour came in January, when he beat three-time Grand Slam finalist Casper Ruud at the Australian Open before losing to eventual semifinalist Tommy Paul.

Brooksby's best result at a major tournament was reaching the fourth round at the 2021 U.S. Open, where he lost to Novak Djokovic in four sets.

"I will be back," Brooksby wrote Tuesday, "and I hope it will be soon."

Canada's Mac Neil dominating at Pan Ams

Andrade of Brazil wins gold in vault

SANTIAGO, Chile, Oct 25, (AP): This time, Canadian Olympic gold medalist swimmer Maggie Mac Neil didn't need her glasses to look at the scoreboard and see that she had won a race.

The 23-year-old Mac Neil, who famously squinted to see how she had placed in Tokyo three years ago, has dominated the Pan American Games this month, winning four gold medals, one silver and one bronze. Both races she didn't win were relays.

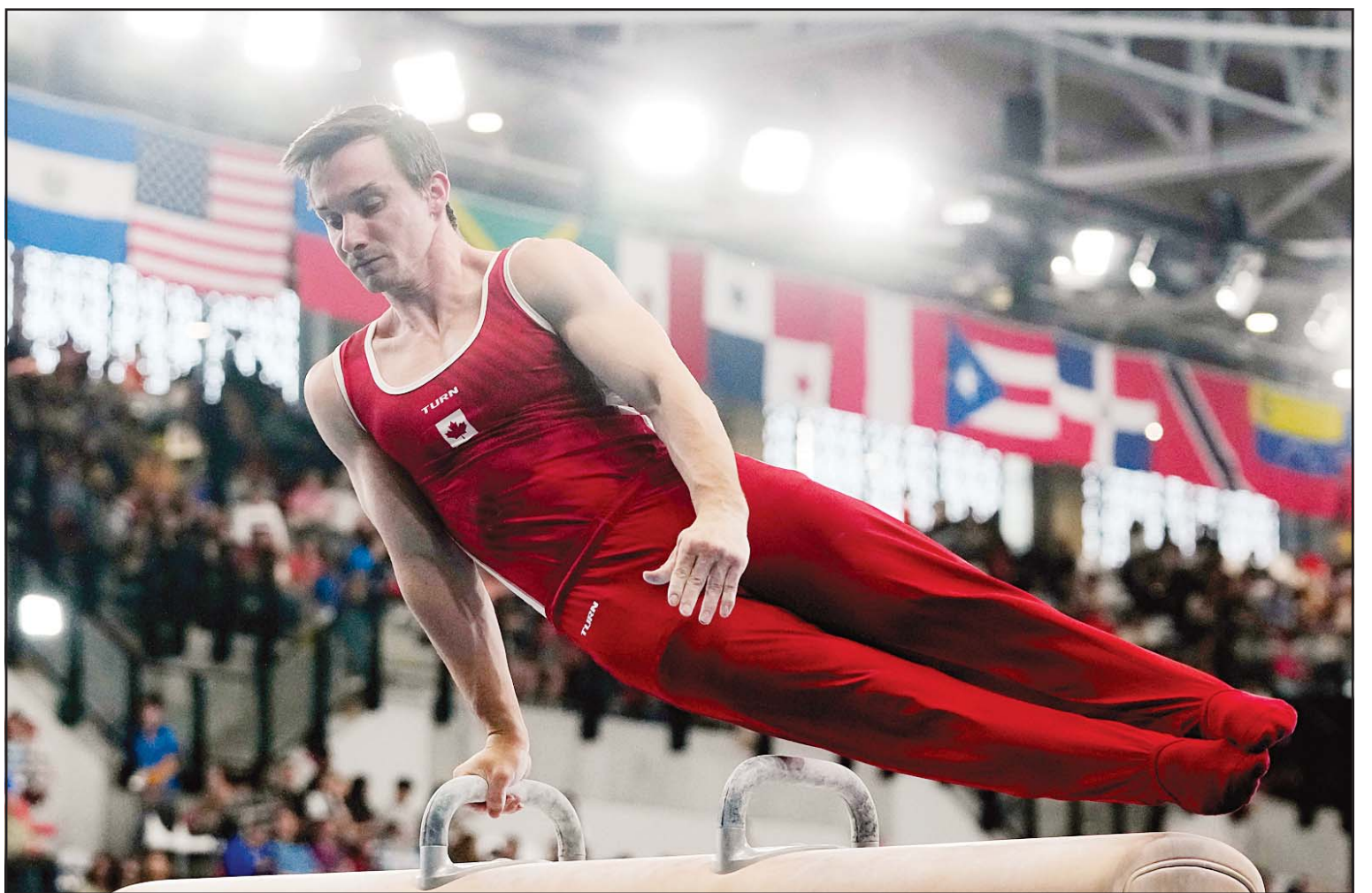
The latest for the China-born Canadian was Tuesday's gold in the 50-meter freestyle, in which Mac Neil tied with United States' Gabi Albiero at 24.84 seconds. The swimmer immediately looked at the scoreboard after her victory and showed the public in Santiago she knew she had the gold.

PAN AM GAMES

"I have my prescription goggles now so I don't have to squint, which is quite enjoyable for me," Mac Neil told The Associated Press after a race the butterfly specialist doesn't compete in often. "It's so exciting to do the 50. It's such a close race all the way. So to be able to tie with Gabi, that was really exciting."

Mac Neil won three medals at her Olympic debut in Tokyo: bronze in the 400-meter medley relay, silver in the 400-meter freestyle relay, and gold in the 100-meter butterfly. Her squinting to see how she had placed became a meme that had made her laugh ever since.

As the Canadian prepares for the Paris Olympics, she sees the Pan American Games as a good dress rehearsal, despite the fact she did not face her main rivals in Chile. Mac Neil wants to see more of Santiago, go down Chile's coast and spend a day in the mountains. The swimmer will bring her prescription goggles, ensuring she continues not to squint



Canada's Zachary Clay competes in the men's gymnastics pommel horse at the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. Clay won gold. (AP)

as she enjoys her success in South America.

The likely rival for U.S. gymnast Simone Biles in the vault competition at next year's Paris Olympics extended her winning streak.

Brazil's Rebeca Andrade, also a friend of the American star, won an expected gold medal in her favorite event at the Pan American Games.

It was the Brazilian's first gold at the biggest multi-sports event in the Americas, where she is considered among biggest stars competing. Looking effortless in execution, Andrade

scored 15.333 in her first vault, a nearly perfect Cheng, which gymnastics manuals describe as one of the toughest to perform.

Other competitors, like Dominican Camil Betances, looked shocked after Andrade's first vault, a feature frequently seen when Biles performs her arts.

The Brazilian's second vault got a 14.633 score. Her average of 14.983 beat silver medalist's Jordan Chiles of the U.S. by 0.833.

Mexico's Natalia Escalera claimed the bronze medal.

Later, Andrade won silver in the uneven bars, which is not her favorite event. American Zoe Miller took the gold medal.

Earlier this month, the 24-year-old Andrade defeated Biles to take the vault gold at the world championship in Antwerp. Three years ago, the Brazilian won the Olympic gold in Tokyo in the event in which the most decorated American gymnast in history did not take part.

Biles won four other gold medals only on the final day of the gymnastics world championships, including

dominant performances on the balance beam and floor finals, but lost to Andrade then by 0.201 after flying backward in her first vault. She has a record 37 medals at the world championships and Olympics.

The Brazilian said she doesn't want to think about the Olympics just yet.

Andrade lost her first battle with the U.S. team on Sunday, when Chiles finished as the winner in the all-round competition. The Brazilian chose to sit out the floor exercise to protect her knees, which have gone through difficult surgeries three times in her career.

'Opportunity to excel'

Tour creates another option for players who 'lose' cards

LONDON, Oct 25, (AP): PGA Tour players who finished out of the top 125 on the FedEx Cup now have another option where to play: the European tour.

The DP World Tour is offering full membership to PGA Tour players who finish between Nos. 126 and 200 this year, although there is a caveat. Only five players who accept European tour membership can play a tournament in any given week.

That would keep as many as 75 PGA Tour players from filling out European tour fields.

The European tour is creating a new category for anyone on the PGA Tour taking it up on the offer. Category 12 follows a career money exemption, but it is positioned ahead of the top 20 players who advance out of the Challenge Tour.

The PGA Tour has three tournaments left in its FedEx Cup Fall portion of the schedule. Among those currently outside the top 125 are Jimmy Walker, Patton Kizzire, Russell Knox of Scotland and Jason Dufner.

Without this option, players outside the top 125 would try to get into PGA Tour events with weak fields or go to the Korn Ferry Tour, where the top 30 players on the points list earn their way to the PGA Tour.

The announcement made Monday is part of the strategic alliance announced last year. The top 10 players from the European tour not already exempt earn PGA Tour cards for the 2024 season. Their priority comes right after the players who finish in the top 125.

GOLF

"Our 'Ten Cards' initiative will give the opportunity for DP World Tour members to excel on the PGA Tour next season and this new membership opportunity announced today will give PGA Tour members the chance to do exactly the same on our tour," said European tour CEO Keith Pelley. "I am excited at the possibilities."

The European tour also said affiliate membership will be available to any PGA Tour member during 2024. They would be part of a nonmember points list that could allow them to qualify for the postseason if they play at least four times outside the majors.

PGA Tour players who want to take up Europe on the offer will have to join by Dec. 20. Anyone wishing to play in the European tour co-sanctioned events in November and December (mostly in South Africa and Australia) would need to join by Nov. 22.

The European tour has the Qatar Masters this week, followed by the Nedbank Challenge in South Africa and the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai. The leading 10 players on the points list currently include Adrian Meronk, Ryan Fox, Min Woo Lee, Robert MacIntyre and Thorbjorn Olesen.

This is the year Talor Gooch got the best of Dustin Johnson in LIV Golf.

Gooch left Johnson's team (4 Aces) after the inaugural season and joined up with Bubba Watson and the Range-

Goats. Gooch not only won the individual title, the RangeGoats finished second and the 4 Aces finished fourth.

Two seasons into the Saudi-funded league, Gooch now has won \$45,694,512, narrowly ahead of Johnson and his \$44,377,445.

Three other players already have cleared \$25 million after two seasons - Cameron Smith (\$29,333,917), Brooks Koepka (\$25,771,933) and Branden Grace (\$25,037,167).

For all his money, Gooch is not currently eligible for any of the majors next year.

"Hopefully, people will get together in the golf world and figure out how do we make sure the best of the best are playing in the best tournaments, which are the majors," Gooch said. "It's out of my control, but hopefully I've done everything I can within my control to prove that I'm one of the best players in the world."

Billy Horschel and his wife, Brittany, launched their Horschel Family Foundation on Tuesday, geared toward supporting addiction recovery, contributing to food banks and honoring the military.

Brittany Horschel announced in 2017 she was dealing with alcoholism and since has used social media and a blog, The Sober Modern Mom. Now she will serve as founder and president of the foundation.

"Billy and I find more joy in helping and watching others succeed than we do ourselves, and we have always dreamed and spoken at length about having our own foundation," Brittany Horschel said. "We have watched from the sidelines as many of our friends have begun theirs, attended handfuls of events and supported many. We have waited in the helm until our time was right, until our hearts and minds were ready to fully invest into the causes that are near and dear to us."

She said the hope was to "help steer the world towards a more healthy, positive and loving place for future generations to come."

The Horschels are launching the foundation at PGA Tour headquarters. They are partnering with the tour to address substance abuse and mental health opportunities in North Florida.



Sarah Schmelzel of the United States hits out of a bunker on the fourth hole during the final round of the BMW Ladies Championship at the Seowon Hills Country Club in Paju, South Korea. (AP)

The 10-round fight in Saudi Arabia will count as an official bout

Fury continues treading offbeat career path with fight against former UFC star Ngannou

RIYADH Oct 25, (AP): Being the best heavyweight boxer in the world isn't enough for Tyson Fury.

Now is the time for the charismatic Brit with a personality as big as his punch to make the most of his ascent to the top of the sport, build his brand and rake in the cash.

Appearances in WWE? Sure. A Netflix reality series documenting his home life? Of course.

Heading to the Middle East to fight a former UFC star in the latest in a growing number of crossover bouts? Oh, yes, especially if it brings in a reported \$50 million paycheck.

For Fury, the chance to become the first undisputed heavyweight champion of this century can wait, even if that's a source of frustration for the boxing world and plenty outside it.

First of all, he has a lucrative itch to scratch by taking on Francis Ngannou in Saudi Arabia on Saturday in a fight that opens Riyadh Season, the kingdom's festival of entertainment through the winter months.

It's a 10-round fight and will count as an official bout according to the

BOXING

WBC, for whom Fury is the heavyweight champion. Fury's belt will not be at stake, though, on the off-chance he is beaten.

Few are giving Ngannou any hope, despite his one-time status as the standout fighter in UFC before an acrimonious departure in January that led to him signing with the Professional Fighters League on an MMA deal only.

Ngannou hasn't fought in nearly two years, since defeating Cyril Gane in UFC 270 in January 2022. Then there's the small matter of him taking on the reigning world heavyweight champion and never having boxed before.

Fury's promoter, Frank Warren, is calling the occasion a "game-changer." Others might call it a money-grab holding up the heavily trailed unification fight between Fury and Oleksandr Usyk - the WBA, WBO and IBF champion from Ukraine - for which a deal has been signed, even if a date has not been announced.

"What I'm seeing at the moment," Warren said, "is people going crazy for guys who have not had any amateur background, YouTube guys, and they're buying into it big time. If it's there, people will buy into it."

The 2.09-meter (6-foot-9) Fury has always been unconventional. The self-proclaimed "Gypsy King," who comes from a bloodline of bare-knuckle champions and was named after Mike Tyson, became heavyweight champion by bringing an end to Wladimir Klitschko's decade-long reign in a huge upset in the Ukrainian's boxing backyard of Dusseldorf in 2015.

Fury's career - and life - then spiraled out of control amid drug use and depression that led to him vacating his titles and attempting to kill himself.

After a 3½-year break, he returned to boxing in a blaze of publicity, championing himself as a mental-health advocate while still dishing out nasty



In this file photo, WBC heavyweight boxing champion Tyson Fury poses with his championship belt after the official weigh-in for his fight against Derek Chisora, in London. (AP)

abuse to most of his rivals. His prowess in the ring remained unquestionable as he completed a sensational trilogy of fights with Deontay Wilder with a victory in Las Vegas in October 2021 to bring the WBC title back to Britain, since when he has sold out huge soccer stadiums in London with victories over journeyman Brits Dillian Whyte and Dereck Chisora - on either side of reversing a decision to retire.

With that back-story, no wonder his offbeat career path wound its way to WWE, where he turns up intermittently in main events to, for example, defeat Braun Strowman or KO Austin Theory.

He has released a line of energy drinks and, in August, "At Home with the Furys" was aired on the Netflix streaming service, opening the door to his family life in northwest England in those months when he claimed to be retired.

And now this fight against Ngannou, to be labeled "The Baddest Man on the Planet."

"Sometimes I stand in front of the mirror and think I'm an absolute geni-

us," Fury said upon arriving in Riyadh late Tuesday. "When everyone thought it was all over for the Gypsy King, he comes and totally redeems himself and pulls this out of the hat."

"Only six months ago, I didn't know if I ever was going to box again. Now, here we go."

For Ngannou, it's an entry into the world of boxing that he has been eager to try out.

For Fury, it's a money-maker that allows him to shake off some rust before the planned fight with Usyk.

Boxing traditionalists will simply hope Fury emerges unscathed so a first undisputed champion since Lennox Lewis in 1999 can be crowned in the coming months.

"I need to be on my 'A' game because there's more on the line now than a boxing fight," Fury has said. "If I lost to an MMA guy, I'm never going to be able to show my face in public again. There's going to be ridicule and people are going to chuck it in my face forever. There's more riding on this than there ever has been before."

Halfpenny to retire from int'l rugby

CARDIFF, Wales, Oct 25, (AP): Wales fullback Leigh Halfpenny is retiring from international rugby after more than a century of caps for his country. The 34-year-old Halfpenny's final game in the Welsh red will be against the Barbarians in Cardiff on Nov. 4.

Halfpenny, who has played 101 games for Wales along with four tests for the British and Irish Lions, is third on the all-time list of men's points scorers for his country with 801 - behind Neil Jenkins (1,049) and Stephen Jones (917).

He has just appeared in his third Rugby World Cup, having reached 100 caps in a World Cup warmup fixture against England in August.

"There's no better feeling running out to a full Principality Stadium wearing the Welsh jersey and singing the national anthem," he said. "I'm going to miss it, but I will be forever grateful for the op-

portunities I've had and to every single person who has helped me along the way."

Wales coach Warren Gatland described Halfpenny as "probably the best defensive fullback in the world and a tremendous goal kicker."

"If you are talking about role

RUGBY

models in professional rugby, I don't think you could find someone that works harder than Leigh in terms of how he prepares," Gatland said. "The analysis, training and recovery he has done time and again has been really impressive. He is the ultimate professional." Former captain Alun Wyn Jones will also play his last game for Wales against the invitational Baa-Baas.

SPORTS



Players vie for the ball during Al-Kuwait and Aleppo AFC Cup match. (Photo by Kuwait Club)

Al-Kuwait turn focus back to Al-Qadsia after draw in Cup

RIYADH, Oct 25: The AFC Cup's third round clash between Al-Kuwait and Al-Ahly Aleppo of Syria concluded in a 1-1 draw, held at Al-Wahda Stadium in Mecca. Al-Abyad secured the second spot in Group Two with five points, following Al-Wahdat of Jordan, who accumulated six points after a 3-1 victory over Al-Kahraba of Iraq, dropping them to third place with four points. Meanwhile, Al-Ahly

SOCCER

Al-Kuwait occupied fourth place with one point.

Following their encounter with the Syrian team, Al-Abyad promptly initiated preparations for the upcoming pivotal match against Al-Qadsia in the league's sixth round, scheduled for the following Sunday.

Squandering available scoring opportunities had become a major concern for the coaching staff, as well as defensive vulnerabilities that led to early goals in the matches against Khaitan and Al-Ahly Aleppo. The Al-Abyad delegation returned from Mecca, where they had a day of rest. Beginning today, preparations are

set to commence in readiness for the clash with Al-Qadsia.

Turning the focus back to domestic competitions, the Kuwaiti team wasted no time in preparing for the impending encounter with Al-Qadsia.

Injuries sidelined Ahmed Al-Dhafiri, Ahmed Al-Zanki, Ali Hussein, and Youssef Al-Khubaizi from the Kuwaiti squad against the Aleppo team. Additionally, both goalkeepers, Dhari Al-Otaibi, Abdul-Rahman Kamil, Ibrahim Kamil, and Youssef Nasser, were suspended. It is noteworthy that the punishments against all Kuwaiti players in the Asian Championship have now concluded following the Syrian team's match.

The focus of Bonyak's training will revolve around rectifying mistakes and enhancing the team's offensive and defensive capabilities, with particular attention to the midfield, which struggled to maintain control during the first half against Aleppo.

Mohsen Falah made a significant contribution to Al-Abyad's performance in the Asian match, emerging as one of the standout acquisitions for Kuwait. He excelled both defensively and offensively on the left flank. Sami Al-Sanea also displayed a return to his previous distinguished form during the match.

Proteas move up to 2nd

De Kock century leads SAfrica past Bangladesh at World Cup

MUMBAI, India, Oct 25, (AP): Quinton de Kock blasted his second-highest ODI score as South Africa beat Bangladesh by 149 runs at the Cricket World Cup.

De Kock scored 174 runs off only 140 balls, including 15 fours and seven sixes, as the Proteas recorded the third-highest total of the tournament: 382-5 in 50 overs.

It was De Kock's third century in five innings. Heinrich Klaasen followed up his century against England with 90 runs off 49 balls. He smashed two fours and eight sixes.

Bangladesh faltered in light of the tall chase and was bowled out for 233 (46.4 overs) with Gerald Coetzee picking 3-62. Marco Jansen took 2-39 in eight overs, while Kagiso Rabada finished with 2-42 as South Africa romped to its fourth win in five games.

South Africa move up to second with eight points, above New Zealand (8 points) due to a higher net run-rate.

Mahmudullah's hundred went in vain - he scored a run-a-ball 111 runs - as Bangladesh sunk to 10th on the table with a poorer run-rate than England, albeit equal on two points.

"I was nervous at the start but it turned out to be a good day with another two points for the team," said De Kock, the player of the match who turned the spotlight on teammate Klaasen. "He has been really special in this tournament. He has taken it by storm and everyone is loving watching him."

Opting to bat, South Africa lost opener Reeza Hendricks for 12 runs, and then Raasia van der Dussen also fell lbw to Mehidy Hasan Miraz (1-44).

The Proteas were down to 36-2 in 7.5 overs in good batting conditions. Stand-in skipper Aiden Markram and de Kock then added 131 runs for the third wicket.

It was a crucial partnership and set the base for South Africa's late onslaught. De Kock reached 50 off 47 balls, while Markram got to 50 off 57

balls. Their 100-run stand came off 107 balls.

De Kock then reached his hundred off 107 balls. Unlike his past two centuries in this tournament, he bedded for a longer knock this time scoring another 74 runs off only 33 balls.

Against the run of play, Shakib had Markram caught at long off to get the breakthrough in the 31st over. It only invited more carnage: Klaasen and de Kock smacked 142 runs off only 87 balls to take South Africa past 300 in 44 overs.

While Klaasen reached 50 off 34 balls, De Kock fell four runs short of his highest score in ODIs - 178 against Australia in 2016.

Klaasen fell 10 short of a hundred even as David Miller smacked 34 not out off 15 balls at the other end. They

CRICKET

added 65 runs off just 25 balls with South Africa plundering 144 runs in the last 10 overs.

The Proteas already boasted the two highest totals in the tournament - 428-5 against Sri Lanka and 399-7 against England - and added a third Tuesday.

In reply, Bangladesh collapsed to 81-6 in 22 overs and its chase never took off.

Jansen struck twice early on to send back opener Tanzid Hasan (12) and Najmul Hossain Shanto for a golden duck. Both were caught behind off successive deliveries in the seventh over, with Klaasen keeping wickets as de Kock was suffering from cramps.

Liton Das scored 22 off 44 balls - the highest among Bangladesh's top five batsmen. He was out lbw to Rabada in the 15th over. Lizaad Williams had Shakib caught behind for one, while Coetzee sent back veteran batsman Mushfiqur Rahim for eight runs.



South Africa's Quinton De Kock plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Bangladesh and South Africa in Mumbai, India. (AP)

Qatar face Bahrain as Japan square off against Korea in semis

Kuwait face UAE for seventh place

Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

DOHA, Oct 25: Kuwait national handball team are set to face UAE for seventh place. The showdown will take place at 1:00 pm at the Qatar Football Association hall in Al Duhail, marking the conclusion of Kuwait's participation in the Asian qualifiers for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Kuwait wrapped up their matches in the second group of the preliminary round by, securing a victory against

HANDBALL

Kazakhstan, following three losses to Iran, Bahrain, and Japan. Meanwhile, the teams of Saudi Arabia and Iran are competing for fifth and sixth places, and the ninth and tenth places will be determined by matches between China and Kazakhstan, with the national team playing for the fifth and sixth places against India.

Today's semi-finals will see Qatar facing Bahrain, and Japan squaring off against Korea. The winners of these matches will vie for the championship in the final match next Saturday, with the champions securing direct qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics, while the second-place team will enter



A Kuwaiti is challenged by two players.

a playoff against European teams.

Notably, Kuwait competed in the Paris qualifiers without several key players in the backline due to injuries. Among the absentees were Saif Al-Adwani, Muhammad Amer, Abdullah Al-Gharabally and Fawaz Al-Mishari, in addition to the injured goalkeeper Ali Safar. These absences posed a significant challenge for the "Blue" team, which had recently earned a bronze medal in the 19th Asian Games held in China.

The technical staff is working diligent-

ly to rehabilitate the injured players and prepare them for the Asian Cup qualifying tournament for the 2025 World Championship. This event is scheduled to take place in the Kingdom of Bahrain from January 14 to January 25.

Before the Asian Championship, it's possible that the team's lineup will undergo some changes, with new players coming in and others departing, in line with the strategic vision and requirements of the team under the guidance of the Algerian coach Saeed Hegazy.

Nuggets drop the hammer on Lakers after 'raising' championship banner

Booker, Durant lead Suns past Warriors in season opener

DENVER, Oct 25, (AP): The bling and the banner were nice. What the Denver Nuggets really relished, though, was opening defense of the franchise's first NBA title with a 119-107 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

"We can't think about last year too much," Jamal Murray said after the Nuggets followed the raising of their championship banner by dropping the hammer on the Lakers in the NBA's season opener, which featured Nikola Jokic's triple-double and LeBron James taking a few more breathers than normal.

Jokic said the Nuggets fed off the emotion from the pregame ceremony to jump out to an early 18-point lead, which held up even after the Lakers got within three points in the fourth quarter.

"I think we controlled the game the whole time," said Jokic, who had 29 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists.

Murray added 21 points, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 20, Aaron Gordon had 15 and Michael Porter Jr. had 12.

All of LA's starters also scored in double figures, led by James' 21 points in 29 minutes - his playing time is being monitored at the start of his 21st season.

BASKETBALL

James ended up playing about five fewer minutes than he's used to.

James, the league's oldest player at age 38, stressed, "I'm not surprised or upset" about the Lakers monitoring his minutes as the season gets going.

Taurean Prince scored 18 points his debut for the Lakers, his fifth team in nine seasons. Anthony Davis had 17 points, Austin Reaves 14 and D'Angelo Russell 11.

The Lakers trailed by 18 early but trimmed that deficit to 63-54 at halftime and used a 13-0 run spanning the third and fourth quarters to pull within 87-84 before Aaron Gordon stopped the run with a 3-pointer.

The Lakers never got closer. After James' basket got Los Angeles within 103-96 with just over five minutes remaining, the Nuggets called timeout and came out of it with a 10-3 run featuring 3-pointers by Murray and Porter to put the Lakers away.

The Nuggets received their gold, diamond-encrusted championship rings - featuring a mini championship banner that rolls out from one side - in a pregame ceremony. Murray, wearing a microphone, told teammate Gordon, "I might play the first quarter with it!"

Nuggets coach Michael Malone relished one last hurrah over last season's breakthrough before turning his attention entirely to this season.

"Jason of Beverly Hills, I want to thank them for some really nice hardware. And then at that point, I was like, 'Let's get the game going,'" Malone said of watching the banner rise to rafters at sold-out, shaking Ball Arena. "And I was also thinking about my father, just wish he was here."

Brendan Malone, the longtime coach and driving force behind the Detroit Pistons "Bad Boys" defenses in the late 1980s and early '90s, died earlier this month at age 81.

The Nuggets went 16-4 in the playoffs - including a sweep of the Lakers in the Western Conference Finals - and finished things off by closing out Miami in five games to start a summer of celebrations from Denver's delirious downtown to Jokic's hometown of Sombor, Serbia. Jokic may have followed up back-to-back MVP seasons

Retiring Youngs has his first start

Underhill and Arundell back for England

PARIS, Oct 25, (AP): Flanker Sam Underhill will make his first England appearance in more than a year and winger Henry Arundell his second of the Rugby World Cup in the third-place game against Argentina on Friday. England have undergone eight changes after the semifinal was lost to South Africa 16-15 last Saturday.

"It is our second six-day turnaround in a row, we've had some pretty intense games so there was a need to make some alterations to ensure we have the energy and intensity we require against a strong team," coach Steve Borthwick said on Wednesday.

Underhill joined the squad two weeks ago as a replacement for the injured Jack Willis. He was one of the 2019 stars in England's run to the final in Japan but this test will be his first since July 2022 against Australia.

Arundell will have a chance at England's World Cup try-scoring record of six by Chris Ashton in 2011. In his only appearance in France five weeks ago, Arundell scored a record-tying five tries against Chile in the 71-0 pool win in Lille. England will field a new front row of Ellis Genge, Theo Dan and tighthead Will Stuart, who will make his first World Cup start after three games off the bench.

Ollie Chessum replaces George Martin to partner Maro Itoje in the second row, and Tom Curry has shifted to the blindside flank to make way for Underhill, reprising the dual sevens that England used so well in 2019.



England's Alex Mitchell is challenged by his teammate Ollie Lawrence as defence coach Kevin Sinfield watches on during their training session on the outskirts of Paris, France. (AP)

Curry will earn his 50th England cap from his 49th start in a week when World Rugby is investigating his allegation of being subject to a racial slur by South Africa's Bongsi Mbonambi last weekend in their semifinal.

Borthwick said he considered retiring Curry until he talked to the flanker.

"I chatted to Tom early in the week. It was around how he is physically because the way Tom plays he has more involvements than any other player on the pitch," Borthwick said.

"Everyone saw when I took him off on Saturday night, he was cut, blood-

ied. It's another six-day turnaround. He looked straight at me and point blank said, 'I am desperate to play on Friday night.' This is a guy who wants to play. There is no doubt in my mind. The way he has prepared himself has been incredible. That is Tom Curry. I couldn't be more proud of him."

The retiring Ben Youngs has his first start in his fourth World Cup and will play his 127th and last test for England. He combines with captain Owen Farrell in the halves for the first time since the 2021 Six Nations. "He has played an important role in this squad, helping

RUGBY

(fellow scrumhalf) Alex Mitchell and the team progress through the tournament," Borthwick said. "He is a brilliant player and a fantastic team man."

Marcus Smith has returned to fullback, where he started a test for the first time in the quarterfinal win against Fiji, and regular fullback Freddie Steward has slid over to the wing in place of Jonny May.

England: Marcus Smith, Freddie Steward, Joe Marchant, Manu Tui-lagi, Henry Arundell, Owen Farrell (captain), Ben Youngs; Ben Earl, Sam Underhill, Tom Curry, Ollie Chessum, Maro Itoje, Will Stuart, Theo Dan, Ellis Genge. Reserves: Jamie George, Bevan Rodd, Dan Cole, David Ribbans, Lewis Ludlam, Alex Mitchell, George Ford, Ollie Lawrence.



Denver Nuggets forward Michael Porter Jr., (left), pulls in a rebound next to Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Denver. (AP)

by leading the Nuggets to their first NBA title, but TNT left him off its graphic promoting its opening-night doubleheader featuring the Lakers-Nuggets and Suns-Warriors games.

The graphic featured LeBron James, Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant and Jayson Tatum - the last an odd choice given that the Celtics don't play until Wednesday night. The slight upset Charles Barkley, the co-host of TNT's "Inside the NBA," who apologized to the Nuggets and their fans for the omission.

That said, Barkley opined in a pregame interview that he thinks the Nuggets will have a tough time repeating.

Devin Booker scored a go-ahead layup with 4:51 remaining followed by a 3-pointer on the way to 32 points, and the Phoenix Suns beat the Golden State Warriors 108-104 on Tuesday night in a back-and-forth season opener for the

Pacific Division powerhouses.

Stephen Curry scored 27 points to former shooting partner Kevin Durant's 18 on a night the Warriors welcomed KD back for his first game in front of Bay Area fans since leaving after the 2019 NBA Finals.

Curry scored seven straight points early in the third to pull the Warriors within 64-61 at the 8:21 mark and Phoenix called timeout. Golden State opened the third on a 27-5 burst while the Suns went 2 for 14.

Jusuf Nurkic had 14 points and 14 rebounds with a driving layup in the closing seconds in his Suns debut. Josh Okogie knocked down a baseline 3 with 1:09 to play and Eric Gordon connected from long range with 45 seconds left before Curry hit from deep.

Booker started and also had eight assists and six rebounds after coming

into the game questionable with soreness in his left big toe. He made his first three shots and scored eight of the Suns' initial 13 points.

Durant was greeted with warm applause from the fans in their first time seeing him since he led the Warriors to a pair of championships with two NBA Finals MVP awards and three straight Finals berths from 2017-19.

The Warriors played video highlights and welcomed him back on the big screen during pregame introductions. Durant patted his heart and raised his arm in the air to acknowledge the love then shot 7 for 22 with 10 rebounds. Durant played at Chase Center in February 2021 with Brooklyn when no fans were allowed in the building because of the pandemic then was injured this past March when the Suns last visited.



Sevilla's Lucas Ocampos (left) challenges Arsenal's Ben White during the Champions League Group B soccer match between Sevilla and Arsenal at the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan stadium in Seville, Spain (AP)

Sports

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Man Utd ignite qualification hopes

Real maintain unbeaten run

ROME, Oct 25, (AP): A night of remembrance for Bobby Charlton turned into a night of redemption for Harry Maguire and Andre Onana.

Two of Manchester United's most maligned players this season came to the rescue Tuesday with big second-half moments in a 1-0 win over FC Copenhagen that ignited the English team's qualification hopes in the Champions League.

There were boos inside Old Trafford at halftime of the first match at the stadium since the death of Charlton on Saturday, with United's players unable to use emotions stirred by the memory of the club great to make any headway against the group outsiders from Denmark.

The jeers turned to cheers for Maguire when the oft-maligned center back headed home a cross from substitute Christian Eriksen in the 72nd minute.

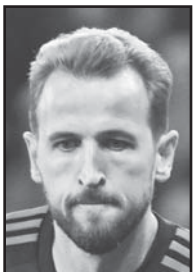
Onana, another player under pressure in the early stage of this season, preserved the win with a penalty save off the last kick of the game, clawing away the shot of Jordan Larsson - the son of former United striker Henrik Larsson - that was taken in the seventh minute of stoppage time.

"It was meant to be," Maguire said. "We were meant to win the game - a magnificent save and a win dedicated to Sir Bobby and his family."

After back-to-back losses to open Group A, this was a huge victory for Erik ten Hag's team ahead of the return match against Copenhagen in two weeks.

They are potentially huge moments, too, for Maguire and Onana. Maguire's United career looked over when he was stripped of the captaincy in the off-season and appeared close to a move to West Ham.

Maguire stayed, has continued to get game time with the England national team, and now seems back in Ten Hag's good books, having started United's last three games in all competitions.



Kane

Harry Kane produced the crucial goal to help Bayern Munich earn their 16th straight win in the group stage with a 3-1 victory over Galatasaray, and Bayern lead Group A with a perfect nine points at the halfway stage and haven't dropped a point in group play since 2020.

Galatasaray are next with four points, United have three and Copenhagen have one.

Kane made little impact until late in the second half for Bayern's second goal. The England captain first tried a flashy backheel off Jamal Musiala's low cross but the ball hit defender Sacha Boey. It then bounced favorably for Kane to score with his second effort in the 73rd.

Musiala then scored Bayern's third. Kingsley Coman had scored early

SOCCER

for Bayern but the German team was under pressure from Galatasaray for much of the game.

Goals from Gabriel Martinelli and Gabriel Jesus earned Arsenal a 2-1 win at Europa League champions Sevilla.

Martinelli has now scored in his first start for Arsenal in the Champions League, the Europa League (vs. Standard Liege), Premier League (vs. West Ham) and League Cup (vs. Nottingham Forest).

Lens and PSV Eindhoven drew 1-1 with Johan Bakayoko and Elye Wahi trading goals.

Arsenal lead the group with six points, followed by Lens (5), Sevilla (2) and PSV (2).

Led by Jude Bellingham yet again, Real Madrid defeated Braga 2-1 to keep a perfect record in the Champions League and move closer to securing a spot in the knockout stage.

Bellingham scored his 11th goal in 12 matches since joining Madrid to help the 14-time European champion earn the away victory and strengthen its lead in Group C. Madrid have nine points from three matches, three points more than Napoli, which won 1-0 at winless Union Berlin. Braga stayed in third place with three points.

Another win against Braga at home in the next round in November will guarantee Madrid a spot in the knockout stage for the 28th consecutive time.

Braga have never advanced past the group stage. The Portuguese team is making its third Champions League appearance and first in 11 seasons.



Copenhagen's Diogo Goncalves (left), duels for the ball with Manchester United's Rasmus Hojlund during the Champions League group A soccer match between Manchester United and Copenhagen at the Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

Ronaldo scores twice in Al-Nassr victory in ACL

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Oct 25, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo scored two second-half goals as Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr beat Al-Duhail of Qatar 4-3 in the Asian Champions League.

Al-Nassr have nine points from three games in Group E, three clear of Persepolis after the Iranian team defeated Tajikistan's Istiklol 2-0.

Ronaldo's backheel set up Anderson Talisca for the opening goal and Sadio Mane doubled the lead before halftime. The Portugal star's left-footed curler from outside the area made it 3-0 before the hour mark.

Al-Duhail pulled two goals back thanks to Ismaeel Mohammed and Al-moez Ali.

SOCCER

Ronaldo intervened once more with nine minutes remaining as he volleyed a deep cross into the net, and Al-Nassr hung on after Michael Olunga's strike made it 4-3.

Al-Hilal routed Mumbai City 6-0. Aleksandar Mitrovic scored a hat trick for the four-time champion to put Al-Hilal atop Group D with seven points from three games.

In the absence of the injured Karim

Benzema, a last-minute goal from Abderrazak Hamdallah gave Saudi Arabian champion Al-Ittihad a 1-0 win over Al Quwa Al Jawiya of Iraq.

Al-Ittihad are two points clear of Iranian team Sepahan, which won 3-1 in Uzbekistan against AGMK, in Group C.

In the eastern zone - the competition

is divided into two geographic halves until the final - two teams with three titles to their name met in Japan.

Pohang Steelers of South Korea defeated host Urawa Reds 2-0. Jeong Jae-hee scored the opener midway through the first half and Goh Young-jun added a second.



Australia's Josh Hazlewood throws the ball during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Australia and Netherlands in New Delhi, India. (AP)

Keys eliminated at WTA Elite Trophy

ZHUHAI, China, Oct 25, (AP): Second-seeded Madison Keys has been eliminated from the WTA Elite Trophy after losing her second round-robin match, a 6-3, 7-6 (3) defeat to Caroline Garcia on Wednesday.

After being upset in her opening match against eighth-seeded Beatriz Haddad Maia on Tuesday, the American player had to win against No.20-ranked Garcia to keep her semi-final hopes alive.

But despite Keys firing six aces, the ninth-seeded Frenchwoman forced the only break of serve in the match to clinch the first set. Garcia then held her nerve through a tighter second set to

seal her first win over the 11th-ranked Keys since a Fed Cup playoff in 2014.

Garcia plays Haddad Maia on Friday in a straight shootout to win the Camellia group and advance to the semi-finals.

Top-seeded Barbora Krejickova's hopes of advancing took a dent after losing to Daria Kasatkina 7-5, 1-6, 6-1.

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CRICKET

The Dutch team are 1-4, its only win coming in a huge upset victory over South Africa last week.

Wrist spinner Adam Zampa picked four wickets for eight runs in three overs for Australia, as it cemented third place with six points from three wins in five games.

The margin of victory was the largest (by runs) in World Cup history and it sharply elevated Australia's net run-rate from -0.193 to +1.142.

It was also the second-highest margin of victory (by runs) in ODIs.

The Netherlands dropped from seventh to 10th in the table, with two points and below Sri Lanka, defending champions England and Bangladesh on run rate.

Opting to bat, Australia lost Mitchell Marsh early. Marsh holed out for nine runs and missed out on a good batting surface. Warner and Steve Smith then stitched together 132 runs for the second wicket.

Smith scored 71 runs off 68 balls, his first half-century of the tournament in five innings. He hit nine fours and a six, while reaching 50 off 53 balls.

Al-Dhafiri elected Boxing Federation President in heated elections

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: In a highly charged election, Abdulaziz Al-Dhafiri, representing the Sulaibikhat Club, emerged victorious as the new President of the Boxing Federation. This follows the resignation of former President Mohamed Mansi the previous month.

The General Assembly of the Boxing Federation convened at the federation's headquarters in Sabah Al-Salem, with all participating boxing clubs in attendance. Al-Dhafiri secured the presidency with 6 votes, defeating his competitor, Hussein Al-Khalidi, the representative of the Fahaheel Club.

The proceedings were marked by intense discussions, spurred by the objection of the Vice President of the Federation, Badr Al-Farraj, and Secretary Mutlaq Al-Azmi, as well as five clubs: Kuwait, Fahaheel, Al-Nasr, Burgan and Al-Qurain. They rejected the participation of Khaled Al-Jarallah, the representative of the

Jahra Club, following a letter from the Olympic Committee received on the same day. The letter instructed sports bodies to refrain from engaging with the current board of directors of the Jahra Club due to a decision by the National Sports Arbitration Authority invalidating the club's elections and their consequences.

President-elect Badr Al-Farraj, Secretary Mutlaq Al-Azmi, and the five clubs announced the postponement of the general meeting for a week, in line with the federation's statute, which faced opposition from the clubs. In response, the six "majority" clubs, namely Al-Tadamon, Al-Qadisiyah, Al-Jahra, Al-Salmiya, Al-Sahel, and Sulaibikhat clubs, adjourned to one of the federation's rooms, joined by Assistant Secretary Abdullah Turki, to hold their own general assembly with a full quorum and elect Abdulaziz Al-Dhafiri as the federation's new president.

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Maxwell hits fastest Cricket World Cup hundred

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The margin of victory was the largest (by runs) in World Cup history and it sharply elevated Australia's net run-rate from -0.193 to +1.142.

It was also the second-highest margin of victory (by runs) in ODIs.

The Netherlands dropped from seventh to 10th in the table, with two points and below Sri Lanka, defending champions England and Bangladesh on run rate.

Opting to bat, Australia lost Mitchell Marsh early. Marsh holed out for nine runs and missed out on a good batting surface. Warner and Steve Smith then stitched together 132 runs for the second wicket.

Smith scored 71 runs off 68 balls, his first half-century of the tournament in five innings. He hit nine fours and a six, while reaching 50 off 53 balls.

Al-Attar among the officials of Arab Weightlifting Champ'ship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 25: Kuwaiti weightlifting expert Ashwaq Al-Attar, known for her deep knowledge of the sport, is actively involved in the management of the Arab Weightlifting Championship for youth and juniors, currently underway in Egypt.

Al-Attar boasts prior experience in officiating numerous international and continental competitions, including the Asian Weightlifting Championship for junior and youth categories held in India last summer.

The opening ceremony of the championship, featuring the participation of 17 Arab countries, is set to be inaugurated by Dr. Ashraf Sobhi, the Egyptian Minister of Youth and Sports. Notably, Sudan, Morocco, and Palestine are notably absent from the event.

Al-Attar expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to take part in such tournaments, emphasizing how they contribute to her expertise in the field. She extended her gratitude to the Arab Weightlifting Fed-

eration for their trust in her abilities, as they have entrusted her with the role of refereeing in select championship matches. This reflects the high regard for Kuwaiti referees in the domain of weightlifting and underscores the faith that Arab federations and their counterparts hold in their capabilities.

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Maxwell hits fastest Cricket World Cup hundred

Australia rout Netherlands by 309 runs

NEW DELHI, Oct 25, (AP): Glenn Maxwell smashed a 40-ball hundred - the fastest ever at the Cricket World Cup - to help Australia beat the Netherlands by 309 runs on Wednesday.

Maxwell hit nine fours and eights towering sixes as he scored 106 runs off only 44 balls to propel Australia to 399-8 (50 overs).

Coming in to bat in the 39th over, Maxwell's feat overshadowed David Warner, who scored a second straight hundred and his 22nd overall in one-day internationals.

Warner scored 104 off 93 balls following his hundred against Pakistan. It was his sixth World Cup century, the most for an Australian batsman.

The Netherlands were bowled out for a paltry 90 runs in 21 overs.

At the other end, Warner reached 50 off 40 balls. The Netherlands didn't let the two batsmen run off with some sharp fielding.

Warner and Smith added 100 off 102 balls. Smith was out against the run of play as Roelof van der Merwe completed a sharp catch at backward point.

Marnus Labuschagne joined Warner at the crease then eased his way to 62 runs off 47 balls. He batted with more fluency than Smith, striking seven fours and two sixes.

Labuschagne added 84 off 76 balls with Warner, who slowed down toward his century. He got to the milestone off 91 balls, and is now one behind India's Rohit Sharma (seven) in the tally of most World Cup hundreds - tied with Sachin Tendulkar on six.

Warner was out caught right after his century - holing out to fine leg off Logan van Beek, who picked 4-74 in 10 overs.

In between, Bas de Leede picked two wickets - dismissing both Labuschagne and Josh Inglis (14). It proved to be a grim evening for the Dutch bowler thereafter as Maxwell arrived at the crease.

He was on nine not out off four balls, and then raced to 50 off 27 balls. Thereafter, he accelerated further and scored the next 50 off only 13 balls. Using a mix of reverse hit sixes to good effect, he punished the Dutch bowling much to the delight of a mid-week crowd at the Kotla.

Australia was 268-5 in 40 overs and smashed 131 runs in the final 10 overs, thanks largely to Maxwell. De Leede returned the most expensive figures in ODI history with 2-115 in 10 overs.

Maxwell's landmark moment came in the 49th over, as he broke South African Aiden Markram's record of a 49-ball World Cup hundred. Markram had achieved that feat on the same ground against Sri Lanka 18 days ago.

Overall, Maxwell's was the fourth-fastest ODI hundred. He was out four balls later and walked off to a standing ovation.

In reply, the Netherlands was down to 62-5 in 13.2 overs. Mitchell Starc (1-22) picked his 56th World Cup wicket when he bowled Max Oduod for six.