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KUWAIT ECONOMY TO BENEFIT FROM OPENING DOORS TO TOURISTS Amnesty eyed for expat violators

March-May exit window

Apply for legal return

Ministries set strict vision on law enforcement

NO. 18534

KUWAIT CITY, March 2, (KUNA): Countering rumors and fake accounts spreading misinformation and false news in addition to finding solutions to those violating residency are amongst top priorities for the state, said Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Saud Al-Sabah on Saturday.

In a KUNA interview, Sheikh Fahad - also Acting Minister of Interior - affirmed

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Opinion

Is a visitor by land required to ride a Kuwaiti camel?

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

LET us be frank ... There is no doubt that Your Highness is aware of all the challenges that the majority of the people are facing. Nevertheless, there is no harm in mentioning some of them, as it may enable the correct economic path that the Kuwaitis aspire for, especially in terms of the closure of the country and its impact



urban, and even social movement. This is because Kuwait against the trend of the rest of the Gulf countries, which opened their doors to everyone in order to benefit from diversifying their income, and they weaned themselves

off of oil.

Al-Jarallah

In recent years, laws have been enacted and ministerial decisions were taken, which, to say the least, have increased the stagnation of the economy and led to the expulsion of investments, both national and foreign.

Furthermore, it led to the alienation of Kuwaiti youth, who sought opportunities in other countries, contrary to the aim of reorganizing the demographic structure. Even more concerning is the loss of valuable experience as some of them opted to leave, depriving the country of their skills and knowledge.

This came as a result of the decision to deny a resident over 60 years of age the opportunity to renew his residency unless he pays fees that he cannot afford, despite living in the country for forty years or more

Your Highness the Prime Minister, these foolish laws and decisions have cost Kuwait a lot. Those who were forced to leave Kuwait went on to find in other Gulf countries safe havens for investment, especially since their experiences are regional and familiar, and they have their life earnings which they take with them to benefit the countries they moved to. The fees collected from this category do not exceed a few million, but they have an impact on the citizen because he is the one who will pay them indirectly This same happened when the recruitment of expatriate workers from abroad was suspended, as it had led to an increase in the daily wages of workers and craftsmen. We had referred to this matter on a previous occasion. They are contractors, professionals, and merchants who spent most of their lives in Kuwait, including the barbers who improved their skills on our heads, and whose income was shared with citizens who were their partners or beneficiaries. Kuwait lost all of that, and it also increased the costs for the citizens.







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Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com



Candidates file March 4

Decree invites eligible citizens to vote April 4

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: Decree No. 29/2024 inviting eligible citizens to elect their representatives at the National Assembly on April 4, 2024 has been published in the Official Gazette.

Earlier on Tuesday, Head of the Local Affairs Sector and official spokesperson of the government Amer Al-Ajmi announced that the Council of Ministers approved the draft decree on the election and then referred it to HH the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Continued on Page 5

Keep pressure on Israel to stop attacks on Gaza: Turkiye

Antalya Diplomacy Forum kicks off with Kuwait participation

ANKARA, March 2, (KUNA): The Turkish city of Antalya hosted Friday the third Antalya Diplomacy Forum, under the auspices of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, welcoming numerous heads of state, ministers, diplomats, and prominent business figures.

The delegation representing Kuwait at the forum, which runs until March 2nd, is headed by the representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya

The main topic will be "Advancing Diplo-macy in Times of Turmoil", with the committee of leaders from the Antalya Diplomatic Forum discussing the key topic following the official opening, while discussions at the forum will include heads of state and governments, including Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and President of Northern Cyprus Ersin Tatar.

A high-level session on 'Women, peace, and security' will be held in the presence of Turkiye's First Lady Emine Erdogan.

The forum will host 38 discussion sessions including "Gaza contact group," "EU's ability to shape global shifts," "Rising racism, xeno-phobia, and Islamophobia," "Keys for sustainable peace in the Middle East," 'New challenges in counterterrorism," "Artificial Intelligence and diplomacy," alongside other sessions covering a variety of topics such as energy security, migration, climate change, space and mediation in times of turmoil.

The gathering will witness the participation of nearly 90 heads of state and government and ministers from various countries including Switzerland, Palestine, UK, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Egypt, Iraq, Hungary, Somalia, Armenia, Qatar, and UAE.

A large group of participants including businessmen, academics, representatives of thinktanks, youth, and media outlets will attend the forum

Over 20 heads of state and government are expected to attend alongside 90 ministers, including 60 foreign ministers from over 100 countries

Representatives from around 80 international organizations will also participate along with approximately 4,000 guests in the forum, which will host over 50 sessions and draw in a media presence comprising 750 journalists, including 250 international journalists. (end)

Meanwhile, Representative of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulllah Al-Yahya met Friday top diplomats of Turkiye, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, speaking during the Gaza Contact Group panel, held in Antalya late on Friday, underlined the necessity to keep up the pressure on Israel and states that support it to coerce Tel Aviv stop the "brutal attacks" on Gaza. "The worng approaches undertaken by states that back Israel obstructed bids to stop the bloodbath in Gaza,' he said.

He regretted that blood spilling continued in the enclave and linked regional security and stability to Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 borders

The Contact Group had been formed after a summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League in November.

It groups Turkiye, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Nigeria and Palestine.



MoFA photo Representative of His Highness the Amir, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the opening session.



WASHINGTON: The U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said late Friday that its forces had destroyed two Yemeni Houthi militia surface-to-air and anti-ship ballistic missile in the Red Sea.

"On March 1, at approximately 12:40 p.m. (Sanaa time), U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) forces conducted a self-defense strike against one Iranian-backed Houthi surfaceto-air missile that was prepared to launch from Houthi controlled areas of Yemen towards the Red Sea," the CENTCOM said in a statement.

It underlined that its forces had identified the missile and determined it presented an imminent threat to U.S. aircraft in the region. (KUNA)

ANKARA: Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs Fuad Hussein said on Saturday the Labor Party of Kurdistan (the PKK) is not only a problem for Turkiye but also for Iraq.

The Iraqi Constitution bans any group or organization from attacking other states from Iraqi territories, he said in a statement to the official Anatolian news agency.

Minister Hussein, speaking to the official Anatolian news agency, indicated that Iraqi and Turkish officials held a meeting on the PKK file in December. (KUNA)

DUBAI: A ship attacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels has sunk in the Red Sea after days of taking on water, officials said Saturday, the first vessel to be fully destroyed as part of their campaign over Israel's war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The sinking of the Rubymar comes as shipping through the crucial waterway for cargo and energy shipments moving from Asia and the Middle East to Europe has been affected by the Houthi attacks. (AP)

Jordan airdrops KRCS aid

Kuwait slams Israeli bombing of Palestinians waiting for aid

KUWAIT CITY, March 2, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait condemned and denounced the Israeli occupation forces latest crime of bombing crowds of Palestinian civilians who were waiting to get humanitarian and relief aid in northern Gaza Strip, leaving dozens of casualties among them, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement Thursday.

The Ministry also reiterated Kuwait's firm stance and call for an immediate ceasefire and unimpeded access to humanitarian and relief aid in the besieged Gaza Strip and Kuwait's unequivocal rejection of the Israeli occupation forces systematic targeting of defenseless civilians in the Gaza Strip.

The Ministry urged the international community, the UN Security Council to provide protection to the Palestinian people and the humanitarian and relief agencies and workers operating in the Palestinian territories.

It renewed Kuwait's call for applying the international accountability mechanisms to the Israeli occupation's violations of the international humanitarian law and the relevant UN resolutions.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian Royal Air Force has carried out an air-drop of medical appliances and equipment provided by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) into the Gaza Strip.

The move is mainly meant to mitigate the anguishes and woes of the people of the Palestinian enclave amid unbearable humanitarian circumstances involving a serious shortage of medical supplies, Chairman of Jordan Red Crescent Society (JRC) Mohammad Al-Hadeed told KUNA on Saturday.

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KUNA photo Photo during the signing of MoU between CITRA and Huawei.

CITRA, Huawei to boost Kuwait's digital economy

KUWAIT CITY, March 2, (KUNA): The Chairperson of Kuwait Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) has affirmed significance of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that CITRA recently inked with Huawei.

Omar Al-Omar, in a statement to KUNA on Saturday, said the MoU is crucial for boosting CITRA's strategic initiatives, digital innovation and skills, pushing forward the digital

economy and developing infrastructures of future smart cities.

Al-Omar said the MoU he had signed with Steven Yi, President of Huawei Middle East and Central Asia, recently in Barcelona, Spain, aims at enhancing mutual cooperation and contributing to the development of information and communications in Kuwait.

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Part of the KRCS aid.

KUNA photo

Prayer Timings 15:19 Fajr 04:54 Asr... Sunrise .. 06:13 Maghrib .. 17:48 Zohr 12:00 Isha 19:05



Expected weather for next 24 hrs: By Day: Mild and clouds will increase gradually with light to moderate freshening at times southeasterly wind, with speeds of 10-42 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain later on with a chance for fog forming at

Weather

night. By Night: Cold, cloudy and visibility will decrease due to fog with light to moderate southeasterly wind to variable wind, with speeds of 06-30 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	22	11
Kuwait Airport	22	06
Abdaly	23	07
Jahra	22	09
Salmiyah	20	15
Nuwaisib	23	07
Wafra	22	05



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

Sheikha Fadia Saad Abdullah Al-Sabah inaugurates the exhibition.



Some of the artwork

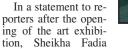
'Palestine through Kuwaiti eyes'

Children at a stall

'Brilliant exhibition reflecting thoughts of new generations'

KUWAIT CITY, March 2, (KUNA): Chairwoman of the Voluntary Women's Society for Community Development Sheikha Fadia Saad Abdullah Al-Sabah emphasized Saturday the significance of the "Palestine through Kuwaiti eyes" exhibition in educat-

ing present and future generations about the Palestinian cause, as participating artworks confirmed ingrained ideas in children's minds, reflecting their genuine understanding of the issue since 1948.



commended the outstanding organization of the "Palestine through Kuwaiti eyes" art exhibition at Martyr Asrar Al-Qabandi Bilingual School, which featured 77 artworks from 16 schools and garnered large participation from Kuwaiti schools.

Tahboub

She highlighted that the exhibited artworks focused on key aspects of the Palestinian cause, such as the historical importance of the olive tree symbolizing thousands of years of history, the symbol of return represented by the key, and the various methods Palestinians used to express themselves in the face of Zionist oppression.

Sheikha Fadia underlined the duty of educating generations to recognize Palestine, condemning the ongoing Israeli brutal practices, stating they affect not only Arabs and Muslims but also all of humanity.

She underscored Kuwait's principled

Other Voices

stance, asserting its global humanitarian role and its consistent foreign policy focusing on humanitarian action and Arab-Islamic solidarity, with Palestine as a central issue.

She described the Zionist entity as a killing machine destined to submit to international order and accept a Palestinian state.

In a similar statement, Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait Rami Tahboub expressed gratitude to Kuwait for its unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people, underlining Kuwait's historical support since 1948 and its recent support during the current crisis.

He pointed out that the exhibition is a brilliant initiative reflecting the thoughts of a new generation from bilingual schools, thanking the students for their insightful contributions

During the opening ceremony, Director of Financial and Administrative Affairs at Martyr Asrar Al-Qabandi Bilingual School Sheikha Nabila Salman Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah stressed the brilliance of participating students from various schools, whose paintings pulsate with Kuwait's steadfast support for the Palestinian cause, shedding light on Gaza's tragedy through expressive artistic depictions.

Meanwhile, School Director of Martyr Asrar Al-Qabandi Bilingual School Sawsan Al-Kandari underscored the historical intertwining of civilization, art, and architecture, and reflected on the recent tragic events affecting Arab unity, explaining that the art exhibition was organized based on a strong belief in the importance of expressing solidarity and rejecting anything that undermines Arab causes, while acknowledging Kuwait's longstanding interest in this matter throughout history.

Accountability sought in donations, gifts, grants control by govt sector

Finance ministry issues guidelines, procedures

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The Ministry of Finance, with the goal of fostering financial transparency and encouraging civil society involvement, has released a circular detailing guidelines and procedures for government agencies to efficiently accept and utilize donations.

According to the Al-Qabas daily, the circular underscores the significance of transparently disclosing donations within the state's general budget and ensuring their utilization adheres to intended objectives. This initiative seeks to simplify processes and enhance accountability in the administration of donations, gifts, and grants by government bodies.

The following are the general rules contained in the circular: Government agencies may receive donations, gifts, and the like from individuals, companies, institutions, banks, and others that contribute to achieving the goals for which they were established and are consistent with their legally stipulated powers.

- The beneficiary entity must obtain the approval of the Ministry of Finance, after the initial approval of the competent minister or his authorized representative, to receive donations, gifts, and the like, by submitting an application that includes all supporting documents in accordance with the relevant laws, regulations, decisions, circulars, and the rules contained in this circular.

-- The donation should not affect the unity and sovereignty of the state, and the goal of the donation should be specific, legitimate, and not inconsistent with the public order. values, customs, and stability of Kuwaiti society.

- The donation should not be conditional on any condition for the benefit of the donor or others, and that there are no direct or indirect interests or benefits for the donor or granting him preference, benefits, priority or benefit from the services provided by the beneficiary. -- The donation does not include any financial or in-kind

Kuwait plans to open first child protection center soon: report

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The Supreme Council for Family Affairs is in the process of opening the first child protection center in Kuwait, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The council has chosen a building in the Khaitan area, previously used as a home for juvenile boys and affiliated with the Ministry of Social Affairs, for this purpose. This initiative follows repeated requests from relevant international organizations and is also a legal entitlement under Article 77 of Law 21/2015 regarding children's rights.

Article 77 stipulates the establishment of childhood protection centers in every governorate of Kuwait, affiliated with the Supreme Council for Family Affairs. The first center will begin operations in Farwaniya Governorate, with plans to open similar centers in other governorates subsequently, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Such centers will specialize in receiving complaints about cases where a child is exposed to danger, as outlined in Article 76. Complaints can be submitted by the child, their caregiver, a relative, or professionals working with the child. The centers will take all necessary measures to treat children exposed to harm and provide assistance to their families.

Additionally, efforts will be made to rehabilitate family members who have caused harm to the child, enabling them to care for the child and reintegrate into society effectively.



2

Joanna immortalized Hepburn

By Ahmad alsarraf

Audrey Hepburn was one of the beauties of Hollywood, and when she was asked to reveal the secrets of her beauty, she said these words, which were placed next to her body before was buried: "To have attractive lips, say kind words. To have beauti-

ful eyes, look at the beauty of people. To stay thin, share your meals with hungry people. For beautiful hair, let a child run fingers their through it every day. For a fit body, walk



knowing that you will never be alone, because those who you love, love you and accompany you. As you get older, you will realize that you have two hands, one to help yourself, and the other to help those in need. A woman's beauty is not in her clothes, her face, or the way she styles her hair. A woman's beauty appears in her eyes, as it is the open door to her heart, the source of his love.

These are among her other sayings: "I was born with an enormous need for affection, and a terrible need to give it. I don't want to live alone, but I want to leave the world alone. We can learn more about a person by what he/ (she) says about others than we can by what others say about him/(her).

Audrey Hepburn (1926-1993) was born in Belgium, of British origins, and made her way to stardom through her portrayal of the title role in the film "Roman Holiday' in 1953, which gave her the title of the first actress to win three international awards: an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, and a British Film Academy.

At an early stage, Audrey devoted her life to charity work, and from 1954, at the height of her fame, she gave her time to the UNICEF agency, which deals with children, and cared for the children of poor communities in Africa, South America, and Asia, and she did not stop doing so until a few months before her death, in her early sixties.

She was fluent in speaking in sev-

eral languages, including English, Dutch, French, Italian, Spanish, and German, and she was honored, as a goodwill ambassador, by President George H.W. Bush, with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences also awarded her the Jean Hersglot Humanitarian Award posthumously. At the special session of the United Nations in 2002, her humanitarian work was honored by unveiling the "Spirit of Audrey" statue in New York.

On the evening of January 20, 1993. Hepburn died in her sleep, and upon hearing the news, international actor Gregory Peck turned to the cameras, his eyes filled with tears, and recited her favorite poem "Eternal Love" by Rabindranath Tagore.

Her funeral was solemn among those who were keen to attend. Her honor did not stop after her death, and continued for a period of time from respected international bodies, including the Jean Herslot Humanitarian Award, and the Grammy and Emmy Awards.

She has also been the subject of several biographies since her death, as well as the 2000 drama The Life Story of Audrey Hepburn. Hepburn's image was used in many advertising campaigns in all countries of the world. On May 4, 2014, the search engine Google launched a festive graphic on its home page to commemorate Audrey Hepburn's eighty-fifth birthday.

Sean Freer established the Audrey Hepburn Childhood Fund in memory of his mother shortly after her death. The US Fund for UNICEF also established the Audrey Hepburn Foundation, headed by Luca Dotti, to celebrate major donors to UNICEF, which has raised nearly \$1 billion.

I, and millions of others, got to know Hepburn through her film roles in the international films "Breakfast at Tiffany's," "My Fair Lady," and "Two for the Road," which entered my life forever. My wife and I watched it in 1976, and it is a romantic comedy-drama British film. The name of the heroine of the film was "Joanna," so we chose it as a name for our daughter, and thus Audrey, without knowing it, became a part of our lives.

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

benefits for employees of the beneficiary entity.

-- Cash donations shall be made by certified check or by automatic payment and may not be accepted by any other means

Donation

-- The type of donation, the ways to benefit from it, and the party responsible for implementation are determined by agreement between the donor and the beneficiary.

- The donation shall be directed for the purpose for which it was allocated, and if the purpose is achieved by another means, the beneficiary may direct the donation for another purpose according to what it deems to be in the public interest after the approval of the donor or his representative or heirs and the Ministry of Finance as the case may be in accordance with the rules contained in this circular, and in the event of a surplus

From the donation, the Ministry of Finance has the right to dispose of the surplus without referring to the donor or his heirs. The donor may not manage or operate the project to be donated.

-- Government agencies are prohibited from requesting any cash or in-kind donations or contributions to finance projects or for any other purpose from contractors, private companies, individuals, or others. This excludes public calls to urge citizens to provide donations provided by agencies in accordance with the powers assigned to them by law.

-- The donor or donor is given a letter of thanks and a certificate indicating his donation; donations, gifts, and the like must be disclosed in the budget and final accounts and the donor may not manage or operate the project to be donated.

Man, woman acquitted in 'prostitution' charge

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The Criminal Court has acquitted a citizen and a female Gulf national of operating a prostitution den in Bar Rahiya, reports Al- Seyassah daily.

Case files indicate that the duo established a camping site in Bar Rahiya where young women in their 20s are lured into engaging in prostitution under the guise of holding 'weekend parties

Lawyer for the accused, Attorney Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan, pointed out in court that the investigations focused on the statements of the owner, stressing such statements could be nothing but lies until the judge verifies them by analyzing the pieces of evidence and arguments presented by both parties. He urged the court to acquit his clients due to the absence of incriminating evidence.

Drug peddlers acquitted: The Court of Appeals has acquitted four individuals of drug trafficking, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The lower court had earlier sentenced the accused to 15 years in prison for the possession of narcotic substances with the intention of selling them.

Case files indicate that an officer from the Drug Control General Department at the Interior Ministry testified that his secret investigations proved one of the accused possessed narcotic and psychotropic substances for the purpose of trafficking. He obtained permission from the Public Prosecution to arrest the suspect, but the latter resisted and tried to escape. The suspect was arrested in front of his house. When the officer searched the house, he found some substances they believed to be marijuana. During investigation, the suspect disclosed that he obtained the drugs from another accused

A street vendor selling towels at a traffic signal.

Police arrest many street vendors

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The General Ad-ministration of Residency Affairs Investigations, through its Tripartite Committee Section, has apprehended numerous street vendors of various nationalities operating at intersections. These individuals have been promptly referred to the appropriate authorities for further legal action, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The administration urges the public to promptly report any instances of street vending by contacting the following numbers: 97288211, 97288200, or the emergency hotline (112), which operates 24/7.

It sternly warns against this uncivilized practice, emphasizing that individuals found vending at road intersections or public areas will face legal repercussions as they are swiftly referred to the competent authorities for necessary measures to be taken against them.



Photo by Mahmoud Jadeed

Police blocks the road leading to Erada Square. Gatherings need Mol approval

No shows for pro-Palestinian rally

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The Ministry of Interior closed all the roads leading to the Erada Square based on the directives and instructions of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Acting Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah to prevent the holding of gatherings and marches except in accordance with the established laws and regulations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

There were calls on social media for a rally in support of Gaza this afternoon, but no one had arrived at the location, as of the time when this article was written.

In a statement issued by the Directorate General of Security Relations and Media, the ministry announced that it is forbidden to hold gatherings or marches except in accordance with the established laws and regulations.

It called on everyone to abide by the laws

governing these laws and regulations for holding gatherings or marches.

The ministry affirmed that holding gatherings or marches without obtaining a license from the relevant authorities constitutes a violation of the law and exposes one to legal accountability. It also prohibits publishing any advertisements on social media regarding unlicensed gatherings or marches.

It revealed that it had not issued any permit to hold any gathering referred to on social media sites and appealed to everyone to adhere to the laws regulating this matter.

From the Kuwaiti Progressive Movement website on the "X" platform

Kuwaiti political movements declared their objection to the Ministry of Interior's statement that bans gatherings in Erada Square in condemnation of the Zionist aggression and in solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people and the resistance.

LOCAL

diwaniya 🕐 يوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Kuwait needs 'Al-Sa'adoun' as constitution savior, respected'

"ONE of the effects of the lack of a democratic system in our constitutional system is the emergence of the phenomenon of unfair evaluation of parliamentary performance in a comprehensive manner, or in particular the evaluation linked to the performance of each specif-ic member of the National Assembly," columnist **Dr Muhammad Hussein Al**-Dalal wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"In Kuwait, we sometimes charge

a parliamentary member with more than he can bear, and to clarify the above, we point out that the majority of the Council members tend towards individualism in parliamentary work, and individualism



Dr. Al-Dalal is the dominant

position in parliamentary work due to the absence of a system of political parties or groups and electoral programs.

"On the other hand, the one-vote electoral system has enshrined individualism and overshadowed collective work. A member of the National Assembly is required individually to address the problems of development and progress (and one hand does not clap), and a member of the National Assembly is required to achieve cooperation with the government in light of the continuing state of faltering cooperation between the two authorities and the Council not

completing the supposed legal period. "For example, political life has passed through three parliamentary assemblies from 2020 to date. Accordingly, the state of stumbling in the path of the National Assembly leaves the individual parliamentarian confused.

"The path of the individual parliamentarian is often linked to the elections and achieving success in them, and this is at the expense of development performance

"This ambiguous situation requires us to reconsider the faulty evaluation mechanisms for members of the National Assembly before. Some in a way that takes into account how to address the existing shortcomings in the mechanisms for forming the National Assembly and the performance of its members in the required roles.

"There is a debate among some people regarding Ahmad Al-Saadoun's participation in the upcoming elections. Some of them raise the issue of age as a justification, and others raise the issue of Al-Saadoun's recent parliamentary performance, and with respect to all opinions on this matter, the important dimension in my view, which must be highlighted in the issue of his candidacy.

"Ahmad Al-Saadoun is linked to the role played by him, given his great experience and high commitment to the constitution and the law, not to mention the respect that exists for him from all forms of cooperation between the two authorities.

"In conclusion, we wish our friend and colleague Al-Shaheen, all the best and success in his upcoming professional life, and may God reward him with all the best for his contributions and his parliamentary and political roles in serving Kuwait, its people, and Arab and Muslim issues.

Also:

"One member said in his response that no country stops appointments. Is this true? Is the state obligated to every individual citizen with what people know are absolute rights, such as the right to work, housing, educational missions, and treatment abroad? Or do these rights have limits and restrictions in the constitution?," columnist Talal AbdulKarim Baqir rote for Al-Jarida daily

"The Constitution did not ignore this question, as it answered in the explanatory memorandum to Article 41 regarding work, "This article does not mean the right of every individual to oblige the state to provide him with work, otherwise he will be held liable, because the state's commitment in this regard is limited by its capabilities.

"This is seen in many cases, the state may stop hiring for certain periods due to its lack of capacity, or for other reasons such as its organization and its need to direct certain specializations to serve the labor market, as is the case in some Gulf countries. Regarding education (Article 40), the explanatory memorandum says, "Education, like all other public rights and freedoms, is naturally limited by the state's capabilities and capacity," and this applies to educational missions, housing, treatment abroad, and others.

are interested in improving their economies and increasing their resources so that they can fulfill these rights. They are also working to create a large private sector to help them in employment, and they are also seeking to bring in foreign investors from companies, factories and universities, in order to employ part of the work force and provide scholarships, and this is one of the most important things.

"The duties of the government and the next council... will they fulfill them? There is also a limit to the public interest. It is not reasonable, for example, for the state to allocate all its financial resources to one budget item and neglect the rest of its necessary items. It is not right, for example, for salaries and subsidies to constitute 80 percent of expenses while the rest of the items such as housing, construction, education, defense, and health constitute only 20 percent.

"Likewise, it is not right to withdraw from the generational reserve, which is necessary for the future, or to disrupt security and Kuwait's international reputation in order to serve current and bloated items in the budget for populist reasons.

The bottom line is that achieving the

Ways mulled to tackle traffic congestion

Stringent measures adopted for driving test

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The committee will deliberate on the Ministry of the Interior's memorandum, highlighting the collaborative efforts undertaken with relevant authorities to address traffic congestion issues, particularly in the Sabah Al-Salem suburb and nationwide. The positive impact of these initiatives on traffic flow in the area has been duly noted, reports Al-Qabas daily

Furthermore, the Ministry convened a meeting involving all stakeholders to discuss proposed solutions for alleviating traffic congestion and to establish a timeline for their implementation. Noteworthy electronic procedures implemented by the Ministry include

-- Adoption of the electronic market li-cense through the "My ID" application, eliminating the need for printed IDs for expatriates.

-- Enhanced linkage between the Ministry and the Public Authority for Manpower to ensure compliance with traffic-related conditions.

- Streamlined electronic renewal process for driving licenses via the unified government application or the Ministry's website.

-- Electronic verification of licenses to ensure compliance with traffic regulations, leading to the cancellation of licenses if found in violation.

In terms of procedural steps, stringent measures have been enforced for the driving test, requiring candidates to pass theoretical and practical examinations as per traffic laws and regulations.

Additionally, the Ministry is exploring the implementation of a unified driving test among Gulf Cooperation Council countries to enhance efficiency.

Moreover, modern equipment has been adopted for vehicle inspection, with plans to upgrade technical inspection centers for en-hanced efficiency. Legislative amendments,

including proposed revisions to traffic laws, have been submitted for approval.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Works and the General Authority for Roads and Land Transport, several vital road development projects are underway. These include consultancy agreements for the development of ring roads and key thoroughfares, as well as contracts for infrastructure development in various regions, such as South Surra and the vicinity of the Avenues Mall.

Identifying 39 major congestion sites, the Ministry is actively engaged in developing solutions in coordination with the Ministry of Public Works. A comprehensive traffic study has been recommended by the General Traffic Department to analyze traffic patterns and develop strategic plans for mitigating congestion, including the integration of the national metro project and mass transit buses

Truffles nose-dive ... from KD 50-5

Syrian influx causes rates to plummet

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: Following the influx of substantial quantities of Syrian truffles (Al-Faqa), the market has experienced a notable downturn over the past couple of days. This surge in supply has caused the price of one kilogram to plummet from 50 dinars to a range between 5 and 15 dinars, contingent upon the size and quality of the truffles, reports Al-Rai daily.

Further deliveries of Syrian 'truffles' are anticipated in the near future, indicating a season abundant with the crop and promising more affordable prices. This comes after the cost of one kilogram of Al-Faqa breached the 50 dinars mark last January.

A visit by Al-Rai to the 'Faqa' market revealed a significant turnout of enthusiasts and experts, including both citizens and residents. The stalls were bustling with activity as customers flocked to purchase 'faqa' of varying sizes.

Vendor Ali Riyad remarked, "The initial indications of the crop surfaced early in January, with limited supplies from Iraq and Saudi Arabia. However, the market demand wasn't met adequately, leading to a surge in prices to 50 dinars per kilogram for large truffles , 30 dinars for medium-sized ones, and 15 dinars for small-sized ones." He continued, "The landscape has shifted now with the arrival of substantial quantities of Syrian truffles , disrupting the price dynamics and bringing it down to a range between 5 and 15 dinars per kilogram.'

Similarly, vendor Bu Hassan emphasized the popularity of truffles among the people of Kuwait and highlighted the ample supply and special pricing. Citizen Abdullah Al-Musafer extolled the signifi-

cance of truffles in Kuwaiti culture, describing them as emblematic of prosperity and cherished by the populace



A vendor showing off his goods



Various kinds of truffles for sale at the market

Delivery boy detained

Jaywalker on cell phone run over

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: An expatri- blood oozing from the back of his head, ate working as a deliveryman on motor- right ear and mouth. The ambulance ar-

"Therefore, the countries of the world

concerned parties in the country

"At this stage of the Kuwaiti political reality, and of the parliamentary process, we need Al-Saadoun, who is committed to the constitution and the law, and he is a fierce fighter not to tamper with them.

"We need Al-Saadoun to manage the sessions of the National Assembly and control Abdullah Al-Salem Hall. Indeed, the need for him is to strengthen the forms of cooperation between the two authorities, with the positive relations he has and mutual respect with the leaders in the executive authority.

"In short, Al-Saadoun is a distinguished national figure, who may differ with his opinions in some situations, but there is definitely no disagreement regarding his distinction, his political and parliamentary contributions, and his many experiences. He is an appropriate choice in light of the sensitivity of the political situation and the nature of the composition of the members of the two authorities -- executive and legislative.

"Former MP Osama Issa Al-Shaheen announced that he will not run in the upcoming elections, knowing that he has a great chance of success according to the assessment of a large number of observers

"This decision of Al-Shaheen surprised his electoral base and many of his fans and supporters. Based on my association with him in the February 2012 Council and the 2016 Council, he is one of the honest, distinguished, productive parliamentarians and patriots, and his parliamentary generosity is a witness to that.

"Perhaps the greatest advantage enjoyed by Al-Shaheen, which the National Assembly will miss in the coming days, is his high awareness and understanding, personal and political capabilities, and good morals, productive in achieving consensus and supporting interests and rights of citizens cannot be achieved except by increasing financial revenues on the one hand, and achieving a balance between the expenditure items in the budget on the other hand, to achieve the public interest of the country and its higher goals, and this is the duty of the executive and legislative authorities during budget discussions and the various committees in the Council... Will they perform this duty?"

"Further study! To the silent Kuwaiti people dreaming of increments, we say: 'There are press reports, 'Ma Twanes - do not make happiness,' stating that the distinguished Council of Ministers decided to postpone the increments decision, because any increment requires further study!" columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"For your information, every topic -- whether small or big -- is referred to a committee for further study, which exactly means putting it in the 'freezer' in a freezing stage. Every dreamer of more must wake up from the beautiful dream. Well, the best move is to stop dreaming altogether!

"The issue requires a decision, not further study. Regrettably, our entire problem lies in not taking a decision. As for the studies, the drawers of the Council of Ministers are full of them, up to the point that they are about to explode. The decision makers have only to shake off the dust from them and find what they need inside the drawers. They save effort and time, but the decision is locked in the chest, not in the drawers! The problem of all problems is when we accept responsibility for something we are not good at or someone is standing between us and our decision-making!

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes

Drugs seized at road checkpoint

Motive sought in physical assault

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: A citizen born, in 1984, has filed a complaint at Maidan Hawally and Shaab Police Station against a friend's friend who allegedly assaulted him, reports Al-Anba daily.

The citizen told police that the accused pushed him until he fell on the ground, then punched various parts of his body several times and used a solid object to hit the left side of his head. He submitted a medical report and the telephone number of the accused, but he did not explain the reasons that prompted the accused to assault him.

Misdemeanor Case No. 89/2024 was registered. Investigations are ongoing to verify the complaint and take action against the accused once proven guilty.

 Man held with drugs: A citizen was arrested along Salmi Road for the possession of narcotic substances, reports Al-Anba daily

Officers from Jahra Security Directorate arrested a citizen with a history of drug abuse when they found an undisclosed quantity of narcotics in his possession during routine inspection along Salmi Road.

While patrolling the area, the officers noticed a car parked on the side of the road. They approached the vehicle and conducted precautionary search; leading to the discovery of hashish, shabu, chemicals, narcotic pills and drug paraphernalia.

The citizen and the confiscated items were referred to the Drug Control General Department at the Interior Ministry.

He noted that the truffles, also known as "faqa," naturally emerge in the desert following the rainy season in mid-November, boasting high nutritional value and medicinal properties. Al-Musafer underscored the diversity in types and sizes of truffles, each served in various culinary preparations.

Regarding pricing, Al-Musafer highlighted the distinction between Kuwaiti truffles, which are locally sourced and sold fresh at a premium, and imported truffles from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Syria.

He observed that current prices are considerably more reasonable compared to the outset of the season. Large Iraqi truffles fetch 12 dinars per kilogram, while smaller ones are priced at 5 dinars.

Recent arrivals of Syrian truffles have further diversified the market, with large ones commanding 10 dinars per kilogram and small ones priced at 5dinars.

Al-Rashidi awarded

'Cyber attacks cause of \$7 billion losses/year'

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The European Commission (EC-Council) has awarded Chairman of the Cybersecurity Committee at Kuwaiti Electronic Media Union Mohammad Al-Rashidi the Medal of Honor as a Cybersecurity Advisor in recognition of his contributions and efforts in raising public awareness in the field of cybersecurity in the Middle East, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a statement to the daily, Al-Rashidi expressed his happiness and pride in receiving such recognition from EC-Council, considering it is one of the most important organizations specialized in the field of cybersecurity and protection from hacking. He underscored the importance of continuous cooperation with the commission on raising public awareness about hacking and other cybersecurity issues.

He revealed that 623 million cyber attacks are recorded in the world annually; causing losses estimated at more than \$7 billion, while the number of those affected is about 900,000 and the rate of cyber crimes in Kuwait is around15 per day.

He warned about the danger of cyber attacks as they drain resources and pose a grave threat to public money. He added artificial intelligence plays a major role in the field of cyber security, but it is a double-edged sword as it could protect systems from hacking through codes and programming or it could be used to hack systems.

'Halt on all transactions'

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The Ministry of Interior is taking a decisive step regarding individuals with outstanding debts to the ministry. Regardless of their citizenship status-whether citizens, Gulf citizens, or residents-the implementation of all transactions for such individuals will be halted. The Ministry underscores its commitment to delivering services promptly to all citizens, Gulf citizens, and residents, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Transactions are processed upon receipt, facilitated through electronic services available on the Ministry's website and the Sahl Application. Services undergo review by the department within the ministry. The Ministry urges prompt settlement of owed amounts through its website or the Sahel application to ensure uninterrupted processing of transactions without delays.

cycle was detained at Maidan Hawally Police Station on charges of seriously injuring another expatriate in the head after running him over on Tunis Street, reports Al-Anba daily.

The accused claimed that the victim was busy talking on his mobile phone while crossing Tunis Street and his attempts to warn him failed.

The victim's uncle said that he received a WhatsApp call from his nephew at 12:43 am, but he was surprised to hear the voice of an unknown person who asked if he is related to the owner of the telephone.

When he replied in the affirmative, the caller informed him that his nephew figured in an accident. He rushed to Tunis Street where he found his nephew lying in the middle of the street with rived within three to five minutes and took the victim to Mubarak Hospital.

Smuggling thwarted: Customs officers have thwarted seven attempts to smuggle prohibited items and drugs by passengers arriving at the Kuwait International Airport from various countries and of different nationalities, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a statement released by the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation, three interceptions were made at T1 Airport, two at T4 Airport, and two at T5 Airport, all in less than 12 hours.

Legal actions have been taken against the suspects involved in these smuggling attempts.



Royal Irish battalion 'Desert Rats' holds annual gala dinner

Ambassador Al-Awadhi lauds UK's heroic role in liberating Kuwait

By Nusaiba bin Shaiba

LONDON, March 2, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK Bader Al-Awadhi said Britain has played a heroic role in liberating Kuwait from the brutal Iraqi invasion.

Al-Awadhi made the statement during the annual gala dinner held by the Royal Irish battalion "Desert Rats" late Friday; which was launched on February 28, 1994 to keep bonds of friendship between the Irish soldiers who participated in the liberation of Kuwait in 1991.

The ceremony featured former British premier John Major, as Ambassador Al-Awadhi said His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has always stressed Britain's pivotal role in liberating Kuwait and protecting its sovereignty.

He expressed delight at attending this ceremony that coincides with the celebrations of Kuwait's 63rd National Day and 33rd Liberation Day, in addition to the 125th anniversary of Kuwaiti-British partnership.

Meanwhile, Major General Patrick Cordingley, Commander of Desert Rats during the liberation war, told KUNA that participating in liberating Kuwait makes "us" feel that a huge achievement has been made.

The forces' members took part in liberation feel proud and happy as they helped Kuwaiti people, he noted.

When Cordingley visited Kuwait four years ago, he extolled urban development in the

country made over 33 years.

For his part, Major General Arthur Denaro, commander of Irish Hussars' Basra Road Dining Club, said the 68-tank regiment had been getting prepared in Saudi Arabia for five months.

He noted that the tank he was onboard was equipped with protective equipment against chemical and biological weapons, in anticipation of a possible attack from the former Iraqi regime's forces, referring to some injuries of the soldiers.

The regiment entered Basra at 7:30 am on February 28, 1991; driving fast towards Kuwait, he said. It arrived in the destroyed Kuwait City one day later.

PAFN releases dietary guidelines to promote healthy eating habits

'Proper nutrition most important aspect of prevention'

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN) launched the first dietary guidelines in the presence of the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi and an elite group of specialists in this field.

In a press statement on the sidelines of the celebration, Minister Al-Awadhi said Kuwait's first dietary guidelines are the first of its kind aimed to help members of society choose healthy food.

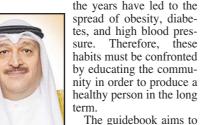
He stressed the importance of the guidelines in reducing the risks of chronic non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease, indicating that it is the best way for raising societal cultural awareness about healthy foods, and is the beginning of a healthy society in the long term.

The minister explained that the guidebook contains many important nutritional messages for society about balanced and healthy diets that are consistent with the nutritional culture of Kuwaiti society. It reviews the aesthetics of physical activity as the main key to confronting obesity and chronic non-communicable diseases.

He said, "The guide is a primary standard for society, through which we can raise aware-

ness among our children in schools about the priority of food and nutrition and how to follow proper dietary behavior by choosing healthy types of food, as well as raise awareness about the dangers of malnutrition and its association with chronic non-communicable diseases.

Malnutrition and harmful eating habits over



Dr Al-Awadhi establish the foundations, types and methods of eating in the school cafeteria,

after which it will focus on educating the community".

The minister expressed his pride in placing the guidelines within the state's development plans and government work program plans to implement it in clinics, hospitals and primary care for improving the health services provided in the country.

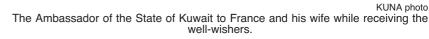
Meanwhile, the Director General of PAFN Dr. Reem Al-Fulaij said the authority led the efforts exerted by many parties in the country, including the Ministry of Health, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait University, and the Dasman Diabetes Institute, given the importance of this issue.

She explained that the State of Kuwait suffers from high rates of chronic non-communicable diseases such as Type 2 diabetes, obesity, hypertension, respiratory system diseases and other chronic diseases that countries make a great effort to spend on, hence the importance of preventing these diseases.

Proper nutrition is the most important aspect of prevention, especially since today in the State of Kuwait, with the tremendous development in food industries and consumer systems, the rates of chronic non-communicable diseases are accelerating and rising. This was the reason why experts in this field gathered to prepare this guidebook.

Dr. Al-Fulaij highlighted the importance of the guidelines as it takes into account the nutritional needs of citizens and residents, adding that it is the first of other guides that will work to raise societal cultural awareness.

She revealed the presence of the guidebook on the website of PAFN, and its distribution to various vital facilities, such as general and specialized hospitals, the private medical sector, schools, and various vital facilities.



Kuwait's Embassy in Paris marks nat'l days

Kuwait Embassy in Paris held Thursday a reception to celebrate the 63rd National Day and 33rd Liberation Day. The reception featured senior officials

I he reception featured senior officials of the French government, and heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions, some dignitaries, businessmen, as well Kuwaiti students and permanent delegate to UNESCO, the embassy's staff and others.

Speaking to KUNA in a statement, Kuwait's Ambassador to France Mohammad Al-Judai conveyed sincere greetings and congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, and Kuwait's government and people as well as residents.

He highlighted the importance of diplomatic ties between Kuwait and France, lauding their outstanding level in several domains.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to UNESCO Adam Al-Mulla extended congratulations to His Highness the Amir, and Kuwait's government and people on the same occasion. Since its membership, Kuwait has been a key and effective partner in the organization, he affirmed. (KUNA)

408 lawyers given 32 lectures

Gen-Sec of Municipal Council ends its training program for new lawyers

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The General Secretariat of the Municipal Council recently concluded the training program for new lawyers to fill the position of category B lawyers

in the municipality. The closing ceremony was held in the presence of the Head of the Municipal Council Abdullah Abdulaziz Al-Mahri, his deputy Khaled Mufleh Al-Mutairi, the Secretary-General of the February 29, 2024. The training course provided a historical overview of the Municipal Council from the time of its establishment and its pioneering role until the present time. It explained law No. 33/2016 regarding the Municipal Council, and the work mechanism of the committees of the Municipal Council and its sessions.

In the same context, Head of the Municipal Council Abdullah Al-Mahri welcomed the trainees and urged them to make an effort and benefit from the training program, as they are the youth of the future and have an important responsibility towards the country.

He wished them success in effectively contributing to the work of the Municipal Council by presenting legal studies on the topics presented to the council. He also thanked those in charge of the session. In addition, Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council Khaled Mufleh Al-Mutairi praised the trainees, and wished them success in their professional lives as lawyers in the Kuwait Municipality. He urged them to be dedicated to their work in serving the nation and use the knowledge they acquired to contribute to the development process of the country.





The International Diplomatic Club Kuwait (IDCK) is pleased to announce that the proceeds from the AlJoud International Charity Bazaar it held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Monday, February 19, amounted to KD 85,246.466. The full amount was handed to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society to benefit the medical needs of the children of Gaza. The IDCK would like to extend its deepest gratitude to all those who supported this critical humanitarian endeavor.

New policy on the horizon: Kuwait hotels may soon permit single citizens to book rooms solo

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: Recent deliberations among hotel authorities hint at a possible departure from traditional practices, potentially allowing single Kuwaiti citizens, regardless of gender, to reserve hotel rooms without the requirement of being accompanied by their spouses, reports Al-Rai daily.

While legally there are no obstacles for unmarried or married individuals to independently book hotel accommodations, practical constraints have historically discouraged citizens from doing so, often due to verbal directives from the Ministry of Interior.

Despite the absence of new security directives contradicting this practice, Fahd Abu Shaar, the General Manager of St. Regis and Sheraton Kuwait hotels, affirmed that their establishments welcome guests in accordance with existing regulations and laws. Abu Shaar emphasized that there are no legal impediments preventing citizens or residents from booking hotel rooms without the presence of a spouse, underscoring the hotels' commitment to adhere to general laws.

Addressing claims of certain hotels upholding restrictions based on security directives, Abu Shaar clarified that such measures are not enforced at the St. Regis and Sheraton Kuwait KUWAIT CITY, March 2: Director General of the Gulf Railway Authority Eng Mohammed Al-Shabrami visited the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) recently; during which he had a meeting with PART Director General Eng Khaled Al-Osaimi to discuss the latest developments in the railway project for the Gulf Coop-

eration Council (GCC) countries and the executive position of the part related to Kuwait, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources. Sources disclosed that Al-Shahrami's wight is his first of

Shabrami's visit is his first after his appointment as Director General of the Gulf Railway

Hotel Complex. He stressed the significance of promoting domestic tourism, highlighting Kuwait's untapped potential in this aspect.

Hoteliers expressed optimism that allowing room reservations in compliance with general laws for all individuals, irrespective of marital status, would breathe new

Gulf Railway Authority chief visits PART

Latest dev in GCC rail project discussed

Authority, in the presence of representatives of Gulf Railway Authority and PART.

Sources confirmed that during the meeting, the latest developments in the GCC railway project were reviewed and the executive position of the part related to the State of Kuwait, for which a tender was issued for study, consultation and design with a length of 111 kilometers -- extending from Nuwaiseeb Center to the main passenger station behind the new Kuwait Airport, Al-Shaddadiya, which represents part of the 2,117 kilometers Gulf railway project extending from the State of Ku-

life into the hospitality sector, especially considering the limited local tourism options.

They welcomed the potential policy shift, attributing it to recent decisions made by Acting Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef, including the reinstatement of various visa categories, which have revitalized the stagnant wait to the Sultanate of Oman, passing through all the GCC countries, and serving the transport of passengers and goods between the GCC countries.

Data on the Gulf project was also exchanged to enable the Gulf Railway Authority to facilitate ways of cooperation among members and activate its role in developing integration plans and unifying systems among member states and providing the necessary facilities and support with the aim of reaching a unified and homogeneous system for operating, maintaining and managing the project.

economy and brought Kuwait in line with regional measures.

These decisions, they argued, not only bolster commercial and tourism activities but also enhance the operational revenues of Kuwaiti businesses and hotels, thereby creating more job opportunities for nationals and boosting economic returns. tary-General of the Al-Mahri Municipal Council,

Dr. Fahad Hammoud Abu Qaba, and Counselor Bader Muhammad Al-Adwani from the Legal Department.

An elite group of lecturers from the General Secretariat participated in the training, which lasted for three months.

The General Secretariat received 408 lawyers and gave 32 lectures. Trainees attended the sessions and committee meetings of the Municipal Council during the period from December 3, 2023 to

Hawally panel returns proposal

Council's Capital Committee okays five items out of total 9 on its agenda

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The Capital Committee of the Municipal Council, during its tenth meeting of the second session headed by Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader, approved five items out of a total of nine on its agenda. The approved items are:-

1. The letter submitted by the Public Utilities Company for the renewal of temporary surface parking permits in various areas of Kuwait.

2. The request of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy for the allocation of a secondary transformer station site in Surra Block 5 on proposed site No. 3.

3. The Amiri Diwan's request for the approval of the project components and detailed plans of the Shaheed Park project, phase three, located in block No. 2 within the Green Belt.

4. The Direct Investment Promotion Authority's request for the amendment of some provisions of the Municipal Council's decision regarding the authority's headquarters in Sharq block 2.

5. The request of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Public Authority for Industry to cancel the decision regarding plot No. 113 in Shuwaikh Industrial Area, which was allocated to the Kuwait Journalists Association.

The committee referred to the executive branch the proposal submitted by a Kuwaiti citizen for changing the use of Al-Tabari Kindergarten from a government school to a public park.

The committee reserved the letter submitted by the mayor of Mansouriya Abdul Wahab Al-Naqi regarding preserving public parks in model housing areas from tampering by companies, cooperative societies, and others, and preserving the tranquility of the people of the area.

It also reserved the letter from the Ministry of Education with the invitation to the seventh meeting of the Capital Committee for the second session of the thirteenth legislative term of the Municipal Council.

Starts March 8

Mutlaa Health Center 1 to open round the clock

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: Director of the Jahra Health District Dr Jamal Al-Duaij has announced that Mutlaa Health Center One will be open round the clock, including official holidays, starting on March 8, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a statement to the daily, Al-Duaij disclosed this is in compliance with the directive of Minister of Health Dr Ahmed Al-Awadhi to provide health services to the residents of Mutlaa City round the clock.

He also announced that the trial operation of Ali Muhammad Thunayan Al-Ghanim and Sons Health Center in Abdally will start on Sunday, indicating the official opening is scheduled for March 9 and it will be held in the presence of Al-Awadhi and Ali Muhammad Thunayan Al-Ghanem.

In line with this, the Hawally Committee in the Municipal Council, during its meeting recently headed by Nasser Al-Jadaan, returned the proposal submitted by member Fahad Al-Abd Al-Jader, regarding the construction of industrial speed bumps on Khalid Abdullatif Al-Musallam Street in Rawda block 3, to the executive body to update the response regarding it.

It also referred a letter from Kuwait Bay Marine and Logistics Services Company regarding benefiting from an unexploited plot of land outside the wall of Ras Al-Ard Port, to the executive branch to prepare a study on it.

The committee reserved on its agenda the proposal submitted by its Chairman Nasser Al-Jadaan regarding the allocation of temporary sites for the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies.

LOCAL



Kuwait University organizes the first marathon in Sabah Al-Salem University City to activate the sports aspect of the academic and student community.

KUNA photos

Kuwait University organizes marathon to promote sports

By Amna Ashour

Kuwait University organized the first-of-its-kind marathon in Sabah Al-Salem University city Saturday morning, with widespread participation from inside and outside the university. Speaking to KUNA, Acting Assistant Dean for Stu-

dent Activities at Kuwait University Dr. Salem Al-Sham-

Is a visitor

Continued from Page 1

Your Highness the Prime Minister, the negative decisions also included the one to open the door for visitors but only under ridiculous conditions, which meant that we did not want anyone to come to us.

We therefore beg to ask - What is the harm if the resident wants to bring his family to visit, and has the ability to pay the costs? Why stipulate a large salary, or limit the visitor to come on our local airline carrier?

Let us assume that he comes by land via car or on the back of a camel. Is the car or the camel required to be Kuwaiti? Will Kuwaiti accept being treated the same, or is it that "we are different, and what we permit for ourselves we prohibit for others"

All these unrealistic arguments do not exist in other countries. Openness did not harm the UAE whose citizens constitute about 12 percent of the population.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which today grants visas to visitors in less than half an hour, is not disturbed by about 30 million visitors daily. The same with Qatar, which today has become a tourist destination for about 40 million visitors annually

What is the reason behind this fear in Kuwait about opening the country? What is the benefit to the demographic composition if our economy is stagnant and closed?

Dubai Airport has become the busiest airport in the world, and tourism generates about USD 40 billion annually to the Emirates. Saudi industrial cities have become more productive and are exporting, thus not requiring the investors to have a Saudi partner. All of this means added value to the economy, whether in workers or investors, and no one is narrow-minded about these.

Your Highness the Prime Minister, just decide and open up the country like the other Gulf states, so that we do not one day say, "We wish we had done things differently."

Amnesty eyed

Continued from Page 1

dents were due to leniency in the current fines, which might lead to fatalities, stressing that the punishment must equal the size of the crime in a sense that those passing the red light; for example, must pay a hefty price for such life-threatening act.

Parents, he added, share responsibility too. "Most of the time they are paying fines for crimes committed by their kids.' Speaking of the war against illicit drugs,

Sheikh Fahad said that there was continuous cooperation with fellow GCC countries to fight drug trafficking, revealing that there were preemptive operations against drug dealers.

Since taking the helm of the Interior Ministry, Sheikh Fahad said, the ministerial teams managed to bust 30 drug-related smuggling operations and pointed out that the main targets of drug dealers were individuals between the ages of 16 and 25.

On the latest decisions to allow visit and family-joining visas, the minister said that Kuwait was affected by the loss of capable cadres in several sectors especially within the health profession.

The reintroduction of such visas would be done through several criteria, he said, and sponsors requesting the visa would be notified of the number of days the visitor should stay within rules and regulations via text and other methods.

Sponsors violating the new laws would be blocked from completing other government transactions, warned the minister.

On the benefits of introducing visit visas on the population, the minister said that the country expects 100,000 to 200,000 visitors who would be staying for a period of 30 to 60 days, which would be beneficial for the economy

Activating the economy, added Sheikh Fahad, also related to building a huge airport. "We want to open Kuwait and show them how beautiful the country and its culture are. The weather is pleasant in 4-5 months, and people are more than welcome to visit Kuwait.

Asked about how to handle the issue of illegal residents, he revealed that there is a plan to allow residency violators to leave Kuwait starting in March and ending in May, noting that violators could apply for a visa to return to Kuwait via legal and approved channels.

mari emphasized the event's mission: to invigorate the athletic involvement within the academic and student populace.

Al-Shammari further added that the Deanship of Student Affairs is actively enhancing sports and physical activities on campus, acknowledging their positive impact in fostering a healthy environment, as he commended the students' and the public's enthusiastic participation in the marathon.

In a parallel statement to KUNA, Nasser Al-Dhubaibi, director of sports activities at Kuwait University's Deanship of Student Affairs, revealed that the marathon marks its first run in Sabah Al-Salem University city, with over 2,000 participants from within and beyond the university

The primary targets for participation in the five-kilo-

meter marathon within the university city were faculty, staff, students, and then the general public, he mentioned.

The event offers participants a chance to explore college buildings and university facilities, many of which have won awards for their architectural and engineering design in international competitions, he pointed out. (KUNA)

'MoSA' to establish more business incubators for productive families

Opportunities being offered to venture into private sector

KUWAIT CITY. March 2: Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi, the Assistant **Undersecretary for So**cial Development Sector Affairs at the Ministry of Social Affairs, announced the has ministry's plans to expand the establishment of business incubators for productive families, such as the "Boutique 33" (Al-Salam Business and Enterprise Development Incubator), reports Al-Jarida daily.

These incubators serve as platforms for showcasing the work and products of productive families, offering them opportunities to venture into the private sector.

Dr. Al-Ajmi underscored the importance of these incubators for small-scale projects, serving as a gateway to the private sector. As part of the government's agenda, multiple business incubators will be established in new residential areas, providing various boutiques and shops for rent to exhibit the products of needy families and aid recipients.

MoH to fill several key vacant positions

Ministry concludes series of meetings regarding flexible school hours: official

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: On Thursday, the Ministry of Education concluded its series of meetings with representatives from the education sector to finalize the implementation procedures for flexible school hours, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Acting Undersecretary Anwar Al-Hamdan chaired the second meeting, accompanied by acting Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Hessa Al-Mutawa, Acting Director of the Coordination Department Miteb Al-Otaibi, Acting Director-General of the General Administration of the Jahra Educational District Jassem Bu Hamad, and Director of the Special Education Schools Administration Mahmoud Abdel-Rida. Representatives from the educational field in the Jahra, Farwaniya, and Mubarak Al-Kabeer regions were also in attendance.

The meeting aimed to facilitate dialogue among stakeholders in the education sector, allowing them to voice their opinions, address inquiries, and to the actual rollout of the new system, ensuring its alignment with the operational nature of schools and compliance with governing systems

and regulations. In another initiative, the General Secretariat of the Kuwaiti National Commission for Education, Science, and Culture, in partnership

States,

to-



Al-Hamdan Development Goals (SDGs).

The workshop will focus on assessing gaps and challenges in attaining this goal and is scheduled to convene next Sunday morning at by Al-Jarida.

This includes the appointment of a new director for Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital. Health sources have confirmed that the ministry is also contemplating rotating some district directors and appointing acting directors for central departments, as some positions are currently held by temporary appointments.

In other news, Dr. Jamal Al-Duaij, the Director of the Jahra Health District, announced an extension of working hours at Al-Mutlaa 1 Health Center to operate 24 hours a day, including official holidays, starting from today, Friday.

This decision reflects the ministry's commitment to providing continuous health services to the residents of Al-Mutlaa residential city, in line with directives from the Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi. Al-Duaij conducted an inspection tour of the center and noted an increase in the number of visitors across all age groups. The morning period alone saw 54 patients, and efforts are underway to expand laboratory services by operating additional equipment. Furthermore, equipment for dental clinics is being finalized and is expected to be operational within a month.

that the ministries of Defense and Interior were following a well-devised and strict vision aimed at justly enforcing the law on all without discrimination or favoritism.

He indicated that combating illicit drugs, developing traffic rules, national military service, and bolstering the country's economy by allowing several entry visas through strict regulations would be focused upon in the upcoming period.

In regards to the priorities of the Ministry of Defense, the minister indicated that they were focusing on maintaining the morale of the army and armed forces as well as developing their capabilities.

Resolving issues related to corruption would also be on the agenda of the Ministry of Defense to continue anti-corruption action triggered by the late Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, he said, adding that extending cooperation with regional and international military entities was also an important goal.

Sheikh Fahad referred to the public prosecutor last month a file containing suspicion of crimes related to public funds, money laundering and financial irregularities.

The Ministry of Defense said the referral was taken as further action against crimes of public funds and would enhance transparency, as well as cement justice and neutrality.

Asked about the issue of national military service, the minister said that it was essential to implement the step to fend off threats, citing the resistance of Kuwaitis during the Iraqi invasion in 1990-91.

Having skills in combat and military helped Kuwaitis use weapons, rig explosives, and set plans to defeat the invaders and there are several benefits of the national service, Sheikh Fahad affirmed.

He noted that challenges like the previous COVID-19 pandemic had made it clear that national service in the army was a must, noting that the service taught more than utilizing weapons, it instilled skills to run the country in case of man-made or natural disasters.

On refuting and combating false news and rumors, Sheikh Fahad said that the Interior Ministry was keen on countering such threats, which might lead to instability and fear.

Those behind the rumors would surely face justice, he affirmed, adding that whether in Kuwait or abroad, those committing such acts would be held accountable.

"Regarding those using fake names and publish from abroad, we will in a short period of time attempt to control this issue and know who is providing owners of those accounts, and I promise that we will eliminate many of these accounts in the near future," he said.

In regards to the new traffic law, the minister said that the draft law would be discussed and possibly ratified in the first session of the National Assembly, saying that it was a law for the betterment of Kuwait as a whole.

He noted that many of the traffic acci-

He called upon those violating residency to take advantage of the law or face permanent deportation from Kuwait.

Kuwait slams

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait-dispatched medical packages have been air-dropped into a Jordanian field hospital in southern Gaza, he said, adding that Jordan seeks hard to ensure smooth and easy delivery of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian territory.

In this context, the JRC chief voiced sincere thanks and gratitude to Kuwait for its role in alleviating the agony of Gazans.

The Jordanian Royal Air Forces has already carried out a series of relief aid airdrops into the Gaza Strip amid the continued Israeli aggression on the territory.

Decree invites

Continued from Page 1

Article One of the Decree states that after reviewing the Constitution, Law No. 42/2006 and its amendments on specifying the constituencies and Decree No. 16/2024 on dissolving the National Assembly according to the presentation of Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and acting Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah and with the approval of the Council of Ministers; all eligible citizens are invited to vote for their legislative representatives on April 4, 2024.

Article Two mandates the Prime Minister and Ministers to implement this decree from the date of issuance.

Meanwhile, former MP Al-Saifi Mubarak Al-Saifi has announced that he will not run for the election without revealing the reason; while sources have been quoted as saying that former Assembly Speaker Ahmed Al-Saadoun will soon announce his intention to contest the election.

The Election Affairs General Department at the Ministry of Interior will start receiving the applications of candidates on March 4, 2024.

CITRA, Huawei

Continued from Page 1

Kuwait is currently "considered the top in the world with respect of phones' operations." Al-Omar said, noting widespread usage of state-of-art technologies and the reasonable prices in the country.

Huawei provides "adequate solutions" to the operators and meet all their needs, he said, alluding in particular to the G5.5 technology that had been tested in Kuwait. "Soon, we will work out agreements to operate this technology as we had done previously with respect of G5 and G4 technologies." he revealed.

Supporting

The ministry is committed to supporting aid recipients and transitioning them into productive families that contribute to their own welfare and the country's development.

In addition to expandbusiness incubators, ing the ministry is collaborating with major commercial complexes in Kuwait to allocate temporary spaces for displaying family products. This initiative aims to enhance visibility and market access for productive families, thereby diversifying their income sources and supporting their livelihoods.

Regarding the Productive Families Market at The Gate Mall, Dr. Al-Ajmi mentioned the participation of around 125 Kuwaiti families in the exhibition, which will span four days. The ministry remains devoted to supporting productive Kuwaiti families, particularly social assistance recipients, by providing various forms of aid and support.

Meanwhile, Kuwait, represented by Dr. Maryam Al-Azmi, took part in the Arab Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The meeting focused on expediting the achievement of gender equality and empowering women and girls by addressing poverty, fortifying institutions, and ensuring adequate financing that addresses women's needs.

revolved Discussions around elevating the status, protection, and empowerment of women in Arab societies, as well as supporting their participation in decision-making processes and representation in international arenas.

provide feedback on the implementation of flexible school hours. School principals from various educational levels shared their observations and suggestions, with their queries addressed during the session.

The objective was to identify and discuss any potential obstacles prior

the meeting room on the third floor of the Ministry of Education's main building.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health is currently considering the appointment of several individuals to fill vacant positions in the coming days According to information obtained



Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the undermentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials.

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from 3 MAR 2024 up to 14 APR 2024 for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tenders will be on Monday, 22 APR 2024 @ 09:00 AM.

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES (IN KD)
1	012259	PIPE FITTINGS	15
2	012348	FLANGES	15
3	012484	STUDS BOLT & STUDS	5
4	012486	GASKETS	5
5	012487	TRANSMITTERS (PRESSURE - TEMPERATURE - LEVEL)	15
6	013013	PIPES (CARBON STEEL - STAINLESS STEEL)	5
7	013148	S/F LUFKIN AND AMERICAN PUMPING UNITS	15
8	013598	TRANSFORMER, LED FIXTURE & TERMINAL BLOCK	5
9	013772	S/F TOSHIBA VFD	5
10	013788	BALL VALVES	25
11	013789	VALVES (BALL - CHECK - GATE - GLOBE)	35
12	013895	FLANGES	5
13	013897	PRESSURE TRANSMITTER (ROSEMOUNT - YOKOGAWA - FOXBORD) OR EQUIVALENT	25
14	013898	PIPES SEAMLESS, COATED	25
15	013900	FLARE SEAL DRUM PACKAGES	250
16	013901	PRESSURE GAUGES (ASHCROFT - BUDENBURG - WIKA) OR EQUIVALENT	15
17	013902	FLOWMETER ELECTROMAGNETIC (E&H - KROHNE - YOKOGAWA) OR EQUIVALENT	15

Notes: Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender document and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please fill request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGOC or SAC) to e-mail HBJH@chevron.com and CBMS@chevron.com at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

For additional information, you may contact: Telephone No.: 23983639 - Ext.: 2502 - 3477

INTERNATIONAL

World News Roundup

Europe

Russian drone strike in Odesa kills 3: Three people were killed when a Russian drone hit an apartment block in the southern Ukrainian port city of Odesa overnight, regional Gov Oleh Kiper said Saturday.

A further eight people sustained injuries, authorities said.

Ukraine's Armed Forces reported that the Odesa region was attacked by eight drones, of which seven were shot down by air defenses

Across the country more widely, air defenses shot down 14 of 17 drones launched against Ukraine, according to the country's Armed Forces.



Kharkiv regional governor Oleh Syniehubov reported Saturday morning that over 20 settlements in the eastern Ukrainian province had sustained Russian artillery and mortar attacks, while high-rise buildings in the regional capital, also called Kharkiv, were damaged by a drone attack.

He said that there were no casualties, but that three people suffered an "acute stress reaction

Kipe

In the partly occupied Kherson region, Russian artillery shelling killed a 53-year-old man on Saturday morning, the Kherson Regional Prosecutor's Office said.

In Russia, a drone crashed into an apartment building in St. Petersburg Saturday morning, according to Russian state news agency RIA Novosti. (AP)

Navalny's mom brings flowers to his grave: The mother and mother-in-law of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny were among mourners who brought flowers to his grave in Moscow on Saturday, a day after thousands turned his funeral into one of the largest recent displays of dissent.

Police kept a heavy presence at the cemetery but the situation was calm, Russian independent TV channel Dozhd (Rain) report-

"The police let those wishing to bid farewell to the politician pass through and do not rush anyone," the outlet wrote on the Tel-

egram messaging app, quoting one of its readers on the scene. Dozhd also reported that "spontaneous memorials" to Nav-alny had been destroyed in several Russian cities. Flowers were removed in cities including St. Petersburg and Voronezh, it said.

Under a heavy police watch, thousands bid farewell Friday to Navalny after his still-unexplained death two weeks ago in an Arctic penal colony. The crowds who thronged to honor Navalny outside a church and cemetery in a snowy southeastern suburb of the capital chanted slogans for him and against Russian President Vladimir Putin and the war in Ukraine. (AP)

Editor of top independent newspaper fined: The editorin-chief of the renowned Russian independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta was detained in Moscow on Thursday and later fined after being accused of discrediting Russia's armed forces, the newspaper said

Sergei Sokolov was detained by officers from Russia's Center for Combating Extremism (Center E), and fined 30,000 rubles (\$329) in a hearing at a Moscow court later on Thursday, Novaya Gazeta said.

It said the charges - which are "administrative" and are usually punishable by a fine or a short prison sentence - are related to material posted on the outlet's Telegram channel. It was found in an examination by the authorities to contain "linguistic and psychological signs of verbally discrediting the actions of power structures," the paper said. (AP)

'Plan could cost nearly 500m pounds': The British government's contentious plan to send some asylum-seekers on a oneway trip to Rwanda could cost nearly half a billion pounds, or about \$630 million, plus hundreds of thousands for each deported person, a report said Friday.

The National Audit Office report - issued at the behest of parliamentary committees that complained of being in the dark about costs of the plan - provided the most comprehensive cost estimate so far.

The Conservative government had earlier only revealed a 290 million pound (\$366 million) commitment, so the new figures opened the plan to wider scrutiny from critics. "These figures reveal the extortionate bill the taxpayer will



Children play on the snow off Donner Pass Road on March 1 in Truckee, Calif. The most powerful Pacific storm of the season is forecast to bring up to 10 feet of snow into the Sierra Nevada by the weekend. (AP)

Powerful storm in Calif & Nevada shuts interstate, dumps snow on mountains

A powerful blizzard raged overnight into Saturday in the Sierra Nevada as the biggest storm of the season shut down a long stretch of Interstate-80 in California and gusty winds and heavy rain hit lower elevations, leaving tens of thousands of customers without power.

Up to 10 feet (3 meters) of snow is expected in some areas. The National Weather Service in Reno said late Friday it expects the heaviest snow to arrive after midnight, continuing with blizzard conditions and blowing snow through Saturday that could reduce visibility to one-quarter mile or less. "High to extreme avalanche danger" is expect-

ed in the backcountry through Sunday evening throughout the central Sierra, including the greater Lake Tahoe area, the weather service said

California authorities on Friday shut down 100 miles (160 kilometers) of I-80 due to "spin outs, high winds, and low visibility." They had no estimate when the freeway would reopen from the CaliforniaNevada border just west of Reno to near Emigrant Gap, California. Pacific Gas & Electric reported around 10 p.m.

Friday that 24,000 households and businesses were without power.

A tornado touched down Friday afternoon in Madera County and caused some damage to an elementary school, said Andy Bollenbacher, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service Hanford. (AP)



have to pay the Rwandan government for an unworkable and inhumane scheme that will not deter people seeking protection on our shores," said Enver Solomon, chief executive of the Refugee Council. (AP)

Dutch military helps clean oil along beaches: Armed forces from the Netherlands have been deployed to the Dutch Car-ibbean island of Bonaire to clear beaches of oil coming from an offshore spill blamed on an overturned barge hundreds of miles away

The military cleaned up several beaches on the island that were reopened to the public on Friday.

"The situation seems to be under control," acting Lt. Gov. Reynolds Oleana said Thursday. "It remains to be seen what will happen in the coming days.

Environmental officials said they can start assessing the damage once the polluted areas have been cleaned. (AP)

Irish President Higgins to remain in hospital: Irish President Michael Higgins was expected to spend the weekend in the hospital as a precaution after he felt ill, his office said Friday.

Higgins, 82, was admitted to St James's Hospital on Thursday after feeling unwell. He underwent tests and was to remain in the hospital to monitor his blood pressure.

The president thanked the public for an outpouring of messages wishing him well. He was expected to return to his official residence early next week.

Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said he had been touch with Higgins and wished him a speedy recovery.

Higgins, a onetime factory worker who is a poet, writer, academic and human rights advocate, has been president since 2011. (AP)

'Nordic country enters a new era': Alexander Stubb was sworn in Friday as Finland's new president and said that the Nordic country "is facing a new era" after becoming a NATO member - something he will demonstrate by making his first foreign trip to inspect the military alliance's drill in neighboring Norway's Arctic region. The 12-day NATO exercise is called Nordic Response and be-

gins on Sunday. Stubb said that he will go for one day, on March 7.

"If someone had told me two years ago that the president of Finland would make his first working visit to NATO exercises a week after his inauguration, I wouldn't have believed it," Stubb told reporters at a news conference in the seaside Presidential Palace in Helsinki following inauguration ceremonies. (AP)

Hungary's Orban to visit Trump: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán confirmed Friday that he will visit Donald Trump in Florida next week, and described a possible comeback by the former US president as the "only serious chance" for an end to the war in Ukraine.

Addressing a diplomacy forum in Turkey, Orbán also suggested that Trump's possible return to the White House could help end the conflict in Gaza.

Orban's meeting with Trump comes as the former US president seeks to turn his attention to his looming election rematch with US President Joe Biden. Trump's political standing within his own party seems stronger than ever, having easily won the early presidential Republican primary contests. (AP)

'Drug feud led to dozens of killings': Greek police on Friday announced the outcome of a yearslong, multinational investigation into feuding Balkan criminal gangs behind multiple killings across Europe. The probe, assisted by police agencies Interpol and Europol, has led to the arrests of 10 suspects.

Police officers in Greece, Serbia and Spain were involved in the arrests. According to police Maj. Gen. Fotis Douitsis, the decadelong rivalry among the gangs, mostly involved in drug trafficking, killed 60 alleged gang members in several European countries.

The killings include two shootings in Greece in 2020, when four members of one gang, living under false identities, were gunned down. (AP)

Forensics officers work behind a police cordon at the Von D'ring barracks in Rotenburg, Germany on March 1. Four people were killed in shootings in northern Germany, police and prosecutors said Friday, and the suspect is a soldier who turned himself in to authorities. (AP)



America

2 kids found safe in NH: Two young children who were the subject of an extensive search by New Hampshire police were found safe at a restaurant parking lot Friday with their father, who is accused of killing their mother, authorities said.

Police had earlier issued an Amber Alert after finding the children's mother dead Thursday night at an apartment in the city of Berlin. The children and their father were found at an Applebee's parking lot in the city of Keene, about 170 miles (275 kilometers) away. Authorities said people had spotted the car identified in the alert and called police.

An autopsy Friday found Caitlyn Naffziger, 31, had died from a single gunshot wound to the head, said Attorney General John Formella. Dustin Mark Duren, 37, has been charged with second-degree murder.

Witness Rick Fuller told The Associated Press he saw about five local police cars and a state trooper converge on a white car in the Applebee's lot between 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. (AP)

Paramedic gets 5 years: A Colorado paramedic was sentenced Friday to five years in prison in a rare prosecution of medical responders following the death of Elijah McClain, a Black man whose name became part of the rallying cries for social justice that swept the US in 2020.

McClain was walking down the street in a Denver suburb in 2019 when police responding to a suspicious person report forcibly restrained him and put him in a neck hold. His final words -- "I can't breathe" -foreshadowed those of George Floyd a year later in Minneapolis.

Peter Cichuniec and a fellow paramedic were convicted in December of criminally ment operating for the current fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30. Washington has been running on a series of short-term measures because Congress, as it routinely does, had failed to enact full-year spending bills on time.

Prevents

"This bipartisan agreement prevents a damaging shutdown and allows more time for Congress to work toward fullyear funding bills," Biden said in a statement Thursday evening after both the House and Senate cleared the temporary fix. "That's good news for the American people. But I want to be clear: this is a short-term fix-not a long-term solution."

The House acted first on Thursday. The vote to approve the extension was 320-99. It easily cleared the two-thirds majority needed for passage. Democrats overwhelmingly voted to avert a partial shutdown. But the vote was much more divided with Republicans, 113 in support and 97 against. The Senate then took up the bill and approved it during an evening vote of 77-13.

Meanwhile, Biden welcomed Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to the Oval Office on Friday to continue "close coordination on shared priorities" and discuss the situations in Gaza and Ukraine, according to a White

negligent homicide for injecting McClain with ketamine, a powerful sedative ultimately blamed for killing the 23-year-old massage therapist. Cichuniec also was convicted on a more serious charge of second-degree assault remain in the Republican primary against former President Donald Trump past next week's Super Tuesday - even though she can't point to an upcoming state where she expects to beat him.

The former ambassador to the United Nations noted that she outraised Trump in January and insisted that the donations have continued to flow despite her not having a longterm plan to challenge - or even really dent - the former president's

commanding lead in the primary. "When I go into a fundraiser," she said during a meeting with report-ers in Washington, "They don't ask me, 'What's your strategy?' They don't ask me, 'What's your plan?' All they say is, 'Thank you for giving me hope."

House statement.

Also:

AUSTIN, Texas: Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton beat impeachment. On Super Tuesday, he wants political revenge

The Republican, who just six months ago was on the brink of removal from office, is charging into Texas' primaries on a dramatic campaign to oust

for giving a drug without consent or a legitimate medical purpose. (AP)

SUV crashes, injures 5: A sport-utility



Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny's mother, Lyudmila Navalnaya, (left), and his mother-in-law, (no name available), visit the grave of Alexei Navalny after his yesterday funeral at the Borisovskoye Cemetery, in Moscow, Russia, on March 2. Navalny, who was President Vladimir Putin's fiercest foe, was buried after a funeral that drew thousands of mourners amid a heavy police presence. (AP)

Joe Biden and GOP challenger Donald Trump on Thursday surveyed the US-Mexico border and tussled from a distance over who is to blame for the nation's broken immigration system and how to fix it.

Immigration has emerged as a central issue in the 2024 presidential campaign, which is widely expected to be a Biden-Trump rematch, and each man is seeking to use the border problems to his own political advantage.

Their itineraries were remarkably similar: They arrived in Texas within a half-hour of one another. Each chose an optimal location from which to make his point, got a briefing on operations and issues, walked along the scrub brush by the Rio Grande and spoke directly to the public.

dozens in his own party. They include rank-and-file legislators, state judges and one of the most powerful figures in Texas Republican House Speaker Dade Phelan, who oversaw the historic vote last year to impeach Paxton on corruption charges.

Paxton's purge attempt is part of a wild brawl engulfing the state's dominant political party, where the attacks are blunt and the haymakers personal.

vehicle crashed into a Walmart in suburban Detroit, injuring several people Friday afternoon, police said.

The vehicle did not smash into the Canton Township store's main entrance but near the pharmacy around 1:30 pm.

"She went in about 45 feet," Chief Chad Baugh told WXYZ-TV, referring to the driver. "We know there's a number of injuries, probably up to about five injuries right

now, including a 2- or 3-year-old child." It wasn't immediately known what led to the crash or the conditions of the injured people.

WDIV-TV interviewed a woman in the parking lot who tearfully said she had rescued a child from a shopping cart. (AP)

Austin faces criticism: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin faced pointed bipartisan criticism at a congressional hearing Thursday for his failure to promptly notify US President Joe Biden and other US leaders about his hospital stay last month. Republicans demanded to know why no one has been disciplined.

Members of the House Armed Services Committee condemned the lapse as an embarrassment and a failure of his leadership. They said the fact that Biden was kept in the dark about Austin not being in command for days could have meant confusion or delays in military action, even though decisionmaking authorities had been transferred to the deputy defense secretary. (AP)

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

INTERNATIONAL

7

Lat/Am

'City center at war'

Top candidates vow 'security' in Mexico

IRAPUATO, Mexico, March 2, (AP): Tens of thousands of people packed a stadium in a violence-torn western Mexico state while even more did so in Mexico City's central square Friday as the country's leading presidential candidates officially kicked off their campaigns with promises of greater security and sup-

port for the outgoing president's social programs. Former Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's chosen successor, drew a multitude of supporters to the heart of the capital who expressed a desire to see her continue her mentor's policies.

In Irapuato, Guanajuato, the country's homicide capital, there was no greater priority than improving security.



Gálvez

Opposition coalition candidate Xóchitl Gálvez launched an aggressive attack on López Obrador's security policies Friday and said voters would have a clear choice of continuing on the same path or electing her to take a much more aggressive approach to securing the nation.

Malena Gómez, an Irapuato resident and activist with a civic group, said safety was her biggest concern. "Here in Guanajuato and in

the entire country," she said. "This Morena govern-ment (of López Obrador) allowed organized crime to get into everything." Organized crime has long controlled swaths of

Mexico through violence and corruption. It has diversified beyond drug trafficking in recent years, extorting businesses big and small for protection payments. Farmer Amadeo Hernández Barajas, who grows

corn and beans on his farm in Acambaro, Guanajuato, said he supported Gálvez because Sheinbaum just promised to be more of the same. He said farmers are also targets of organized crime.

"How do you get the product out?" he asked. "Because the criminals charge you for every ton of corn you take out and they charge the combines and harvesters too.

Reliance

He said the reliance on the military, which López Obrador, as well as his predecessors, used against the heavily armed cartels hasn't worked. "What are soldiers and National Guard in the streets worth if they don't do anything, just put up yellow tape after something happened?

But López Obrador enjoys high popularity, largely because of his extensive social spending that has benefitted his low-income base and efforts to target corruption.

Those are the programs that Sheinbaum has promised to extend.

Gabriel Ruiz, holding a silhouette of Sheinbaum, said "we have to continue with what we have."

"I've liked this government and that it has tried to eradicate corruption and that it's with the people,' said the 54-year-old teacher.

He expected Sheinbaum to continue López Obrador's security policies, but noted that no administration has managed to contain organized crime. "There has always been violence," he said.



A South Korean military tank hits the Hat Yao beach during the Cobra Gold joint military exercise in Chonburi province, eastern Thailand on March 1. The annual drills are co-hosted by the Royal Thai Armed Forces and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. Other nations also participating are Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia and the South Korea. (AP)

Asia

'Tuvalu shares democratic values with Taiwan' SKorea president calls for unification

SEOUL, South Korea, March 2, (AP): South Korea's president lambasted North Korea on Friday over what he called its repressive rule and vowed to achieve a free, unified Korean Peninsula, weeks after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un rejected the idea of peaceful unification and threatened to occupy the South in the event of war.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol spoke on March 1 Independence Movement Day, a holiday marking a 1919 Korean uprising against Japanese colonial rule.

"Now, we must move toward a free, unified Korean Peninsula," Yoon said in a televised speech. "The North Korean regime relies solely on nuclear weapons and missiles while trapping its 26 million citizens in a quagmire of misery and despair."

"Unification is precisely what is needed to expand the universal values of freedom and human rights," Yoon said. "Our unification efforts must become a source of hope and a beacon of light for the people of North Korea."

surprise.

Many experts say Kim likely aimed to take the initiative in dealings with the South while trying to diminish South Korean cultural influence and bolster his family's rule at home.

During Friday's speech, Yoon called Kim's vow of enmity "truly deplorable." He earlier said Kim's speech showed the "anti-national and anti-historical" nature of the North Korean government.

Yoon's speech didn't touch on the abuses of the Japanese colonial rulers in Korea, which left painful memories and have long been a source of tension between the two countries.

"On a holiday commemorating Korea's resistance against Japanese colonialism a century ago, Yoon touted his administration's improved relations with Tokyo," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor of international studies at Ewha University in Seoul. "He emphasized that the independence movement will only be complete once the northern and southern halves of the Korean Peninsula are finally unified and free."

Since taking office in 2022, Yoon

secure the swift passage of a 112 trillion yen (\$744 billion) budget bill that has been repeatedly stalled.

Opposition lawmakers were outraged Friday when budget committee chair Itsunori Onodera, a governing party member, scheduled a vote later in the day on the budget bill. They submitted the no-confidence motion against Onodera, accusing him of attempting to push through the bill without sufficient debate on the budget. The no-confidence motion was rejected because of the governing party's majority in Parliament.

Kishida has fought plummeting support ratings since the corruption scandal emerged. He has removed a number of Cabinet ministers and others from party executive posts, but support ratings for his government have dwindled to around 20%. The scandal centers on unreported political funds raised through tickets sold for party events. It led to 10 people - lawmakers and their aides - being indicted in January.

MELBOURNE, Australia: The new



South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol delivers his speech during a ceremony of the 105th anniversary of the March 1st Independence Movement Day in Seoul, South Korea on March 1. (AP)



Sheinbaum has maintained a comfortable lead over Gálvez in polling. The race's third candidate is Jorge Álvarez Máynez of the smaller Citizen Movement party. The 38-year-old launched his campaign in La-

gos de Moreno, Jalisco Friday. But it is highly likely that Mexico will elect its first woman as president June 2.

Four Mexican soldiers were killed by a land min e in the state of Michoacan, López Obrador confirmed Friday. The president called it a "trap" likely set by a cartel.

The soldiers inspecting a camp on the outskirts of Aguililla Thursday when an anti-personnel mine was triggered.

Also:

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti: Haitian police were overwhelmed by a series of coordinated violent attacks by gang members across the capital in which four officers were killed, a national police spokesman said Friday.

The attacks Thursday in Port-au-Prince were led by gunmen who opened fire on targets including Haiti's international airport and seized control of two police stations, prompting people to flee dozens of communities in fear as schools and businesses closed.

"The situation yesterday was horrible," spokesman Garry Desrosiers said in an interview with Radio Caraibes. "The city center was at war.'

Jimmy Chérizier, a former elite police officer known as Barbecue who now runs a gang federation known as G9 and Family and Allies, claimed responsibility for the attacks.

He said the objective was to capture Haiti's police chief and government ministers and prevent the return of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who was in Kenya to push for the U.N.-backed deployment of police from the East African nation to fight gangs in Haiti.

Neither the police chief nor government ministers were injured or captured during Thursday's attacks.

As of late Friday morning, most of Port-au-Prince remained peaceful as people timidly resumed their routines. The main international airport reopened, but by Friday afternoon, the U.S. embassy reported heavy gunfire near the airport and said it was temporarily halting all official travel to it.

Meanwhile, the capital's downtown was largely deserted as most schools and businesses remained closed.

Desrosiers said the young officers stood up and fought "to guarantee the security of the population," adding that authorities could not reach the station in time to repel the attack.

THE HAGUE, Netherlands: Appeals judges at the International Criminal Court ruled Friday that an investigation into alleged crimes against humanity committed by Venezuelan security forces under President Nicolás Maduro 's rule during a crackdown on antigovernment protests in 2017 may proceed.

Appeals panel Presiding Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut said that the court "rejects the appeals' brought by Venezuela.

The ruling was immediately welcomed by the Human Rights Watch advocacy group.

"The ICC decision today is a beacon of hope for the victims of systematic human rights violations by the Maduro government," it said in a statement. "The decision confirms what these victims already know, with no meaningful justice in Venezuela, the ICC provides an essential path to accountability".



Mnangagwa Ruto

Africa

6 men sentenced to death: A military court in Somalia's northeastern semiautono mous state of Puntland sentenced to death six Moroccans believed to be foreign fighters for the Islamic State extremist group in Somalia.

The individuals entered Somalia to cause harm to Muslims and Somalis and incite unrest in the country, the presiding judge in the Puntland region, Col. Ali Ibrahim Osman, said late Thursday. The six men, identified as Mohamed

Hassan, Ahmed Najwi, Khalid Latha, Mohamed Binu Mohamed Ahmed, Ridwan Abdulkadir Osmany, and Ahmed Hussein Ibrahim, can appeal and if they are unsuccessful they will be shot to death by firing squad.

Additionally, an Ethiopian and a Somali were each sentenced to 10 years in prison, while another Somali defendant was acquitted due to lack of evidence.

It was not immediately clear if any of the men had access to legal representation or where they were being held Friday. The eight men claimed they were misled into joining the group and expressed a desire to be repatriated, Osman said.

According to Osman, the six Moroccans were accused of receiving training with IS at its base in the Cal-Miskaat Mountains in northeastern Somalia, which serve as a stronghold for the group. (AP)

Zimbabwe prez cancels speech: A

bomb scare shut down Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls Airport on Friday, forcing the country's president to cancel a planned address at a conference on renewable energy, an official said.

Zimbabwean President Edson Mnangagwa was due to address the conference in the morning, but "had to suspend his trip to allow for investigations which are already underway," presidential spokesman George Charamba said.

Authorities couldn't confirm local media reports that the president's plane made a Uturn while traveling to the conference.

Charamba said that airport authorities were informed by Fastjet airline about an email sent "by a John Doe" claiming a "credible bomb/firearm threat" targeting Zimbabwe's airports.

Security systems are "now on heightened alert," Charamba said, urging people to be calm while investigations proceed.

"While our country is peaceful, and all our ports of entry are well secured, such alerts on possible terrorist attacks are taken very seriously," he said. The Civil Aviation Authority of Zimba-

bwe said that the incident had forced some flights to divert or delay landing, and more disruptions were likely "to allow for the

Yoon and Kim's conflicting comments on unification come after Korean animosities have run high for more than two years, with North Korea ramping up missile tests and South Korea expanding military drills with the US in a tit-for-tat cycle.

For most of the 70 years since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, unification was a prized goal of leaders in both Koreas, which are divided by the world's most heavily fortified border. But the prospects for unifying the rich, democratic South and the nominally socialist, authoritarian and poor North any time soon are extremely dim, observers say.

Despite extensive US-led sanctions and its own economic mismanagement, North Korea has appeared politically stable. Exchange programs between the Koreas have been dormant since Kim's high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with then-President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019.

In a speech in January, Kim vowed to rewrite the constitution to remove the long-running state goal of a peaceful Korean unification and cement South Korea as an "invariable principal enemy." He said the new constitution must specify North Korea would annex and subjugate the South if another war breaks out. The sudden abandonment of a policy to seek peaceful unification took observers by

continuous monitoring of the environment." (AP)

Kenya, Haiti sign agreements: Kenya

and Haiti signed agreements Friday to try to salvage a plan for the African country

has worked to beef up South Korea's military alliance with the US and resolve historical disputes with Japan, aiming to forge a stronger Seoul-Washington-Tokyo partnership against North Korea's nuclear threats.

"Now, Korea and Japan are working together to overcome the painful past,' Yoon said. "Sharing the values of freedom, human rights and the rule of law, our two countries have become partners in the pursuit of common interests for global peace and prosperity."

Also:

TOKYO: Outraged Japanese opposition lawmakers submitted a no-confidence motion on Friday, accusing the governing party of trying to push through a budget bill without adequate debate because of disruptions caused by a scandal over its fund-raising practices.

Opposition politicians slammed Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** for failing to provide details about slush funds created by members of the governing Liberal Democratic Party's leading faction, or where the money went. Kishida apologized for the scandal, which has rocked his government, on Thursday in a rare appearance before the parliamentary ethics committee that was broadcast live.

Kishida, who also proposed reforms of the Political Funds Control Law, apparently attended the session in an effort to end debate on the scandal and

to deploy 1,000 police officers to the troubled Caribbean nation to help combat gang violence that has surged to unprecedented levels. Kenya agreed in October to lead a UN-authorized international police force to Haiti, but the Kenyan High Court in January ruled the plan unconstitutional, in part



Mexico's presidential candidate Claudia Sheinbaum greets supporters upon her arrival to her opening campaign rally at the Zocalo in Mexico City on March 1. General Elections are set for June 2. (AP)

prime minister in the Pacific island nation of **Tuvalu** said on Fridav his country shares democratic values with Taiwan and reaffirmed that his government would maintain diplomatic ties with Taipei, ruling out a shift to Beijing.

Prime Minister Feleti Teo spoke to The Associated Press via Zoom, his first interview with international media since his government took office earlier this week. "Our ties with Taiwan are purely based on democratic principles and they have been very loyal to us," Teo said.

Teo, a 61-year-old first-time lawmaker, and his eight Cabinet ministers were sworn into office on Wednesday, a month after general elections in the strategically significant nation of 11,500 people half way between Australia and Hawaii.

Election campaign issues included whether Tuvalu should switch its diplomatic allegiance from Taiwan to Beijing. An elected candidate proposed scrapping a treaty, which has yet to be ratified, that would give Australia veto power over any security-related agreement Tuvalu wants to make with any other country, including China.

The new administration announced it would maintain diplomatic ties with the self-governing Taiwan. China has claimed Taiwan since a 1949 split amid civil war.

because of a lack of reciprocal agreements between the two countries. Kenya's President **William Ruto** said in

a statement that he and Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry witnessed the signing of the reciprocal agreements between the two countries on Friday.

It was not immediately clear how, or if, the agreements could circumvent the court's ruling, which also said that Kenya's National Police Service cannot be deployed outside the country. (AP)

Liberia mining protests kill 1: Violent protests in Liberia over the presence of armed guards in mining areas in the country's northwest killed one demonstrator and left several injured, a government official said. Both protesters and police were armed when the clashes erupted on Thursday in the mining town of Kinjor, according to the minister of information and culture, Jeronlinmek Piah. He told reporters that the death is being investigated and that 18 protesters were arrested.

The protests followed a demand by the mining district's lawmaker, Mohammed Dosii, who on Tuesday asked for an immediate withdrawal of armed guards in the community and at the gold mine operated by Bea Mountain Mining Company.

"Our people need free movement and the army needs to be in the barracks and not among civilians," Dosii told lawmakers in the House of Representatives. (AP)

oil slumps

The price of Kuwaiti crude oil fell by two cents on Friday to USD 81.82 per barrel, com-pared with USD 81.84 pb a day earlier, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Saturday. In international markets,

Brent crude went up USD 1.64 to reach USD 83.55 pb, while the West Texas Intermediate crude rose by USD 1.71 to hit USD 79.97 pb. (KUNA) Algeria is looking to cast itself as a critical supplier of natural gas for European countries seeking to lessen their dependence on Russia as it welcomed Thursday envoys from energy rich nations to a key summit.

For three days, Algeria will host leaders from 13 other nations in its capital of Algiers, including Russia, Iran, Qatar and Venezuela as the industry confronts waning de-mand for oil and gas and new competition from renewable energy sources.

The summit will offer participants a chance to coordinate on investments and ties with purchasing countries and to further develop production capacity. Officials have also indicated the summit will provide a venue to showcase Alge-

Change Closing pts

6,919.59

-25.12

Market Movements 01-03-2024



Algeria positions itself as key gas supplier amid European energy shift

Business

ria's growing role as a secure and reliable energy supplier. Algerian President Abdelmajid Tebboune said in a mes-

sage on the summit's website that the gathering under-

scores how "natural gas is increasingly in demand as a

crucial energy source for socio-economic development,

being one of the main clean and environmentally friendly

alternative energy sources." As European countries have tried to wean themselves

off Russian energy, Algeria has emerged as the conti-

nent's second largest pipeline supplier of gas, after Nor-

way. It is the top supplier of gas to Spain and also Italy,

whose Premier Giorgia Meloni visited last year. Algeria's

state-owned energy company Sonatrach recently signed a

deal to sell natural gas to Germany's VNG. Karim Allam, an oil and gas industry analyst, said the summit would provide an opportunity to make the case for gas as "a product of the future."

Algeria "wants to finalize long-term contracts that will provide security for the future, while seeking to bolster its status

as a credible and serious producer country," he said. However, headwinds remain. Despite aggressive plans to expand production between now and 2030, Algeria has struggled to deliver more gas to Europe at the pace promised. Sonatrach continues to confront infrastructure needs, slowing demand for gas and new competition from countries like Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. (AP)

'Shifting mindset for long-term outcomes'

NBK Wealth unveils outcome-based investment solutions

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: In the ever-changing landscape of investing, outcome-based investment solutions focus on achieving specific, measur-able results rather than seeking to outperform a benchmark. It involves aligning investment decisions with desired outcomes, such as capital appreciation (growth), cash flow generation (income), wealth preservation, their individual financial goals, risk tolerance, and time horizons leading to a personalized investment strategy.

This approach requires a shift in mindset, moving away from the traditional emphasis on short-term financial gains and towards long-term sustainable outcomes. Furthermore, it is crucial to consider various constraints that may impact the design and implementation of the investment strategies, due to High Net-Worth (HNW) investors' distinct characteristics, preferences, and complexities that need to be taken into consideration. When designing an outcomebased solution, factors such as wealth preservation, income and growth, asset and liability structures, social responsibility, family governance and succession planning are all equally relevant.

Advisors can develop tailored investment strategies that lay the foundation for achieving sustainable outcomes. These strategies reflect the complexities and long-term aspirations of their clients, while also assessing their financial situation, goals, risk tolerance, time horizon, tax implications, and estate planning.

The two moderate-risk portfolios below [for illustrative purposes only] embody the principles of an outcomebased approach and are customized based on the client's desired outcome, risk tolerance, and investment horizon through sound levels of diversification

Alternative investments (usually privately held, illiquid, unlisted assets like commodities, real estate, private equity, private credit, as well as hedge funds) can potentially offer increased diversification and higher returns

through an illiquidity premium. By incorporating alternative investments into a portfolio, investors can enhance the risk-reward trade- off, as Alternatives have the potential to provide returns that are distinct or have lower correlations to stocks and bonds, regardless of market cycles or varying macroeconomic conditions.

The impact of allocating different proportions to alternative investments can significantly influence a portfolio's risk and return, as illustrated in the following charts, demonstrating the importance of considering alternative investments when constructing a well- diversified portfolio. A 60/40 stocks/ bonds portfolio yielded an annualized return of 8.5% with a volatility of 9.6%. On the other hand, a 40/30/30 portfolio, with 30% allocated to alternatives, showed an improved annualized return of 9.0% and lower volatility of 7.9%

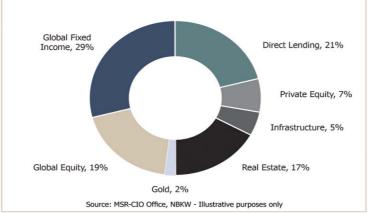
In summary, there is historical evidence and a strong incentive to explore diversification beyond a 60/40 portfolio by incorporating exposure to alternative asset classes.

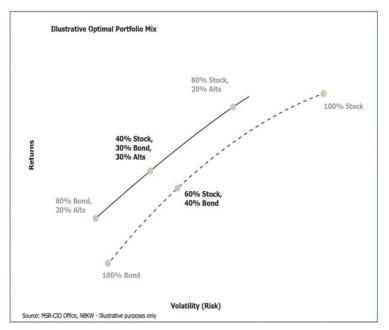
Key takeaway: By starting from the evaluation of what they identify as the desired outcomes from their investments through a balanced and diversified investment strategy, and guided by their advisor's expertise, HNW investors can achieve their financial goals while minimizing risk as compared to narrowing the investment choices to only one or two asset classes or products. This approach prioritizes personal objectives and leverages investment principles to offer a clear path towards predictable and consistent investment results.

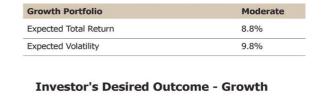
By aligning investment strategies with specific outcomes, this approach empowers clients to navigate uncertainties, mitigate risks, and achieve their desired financial goals, based on their desire to achieve clear outcomes through a comprehensive holistic approach, away from the single-product bias. Overall, as the investment landscape continues to evolve, adopting this approach will be key to success.

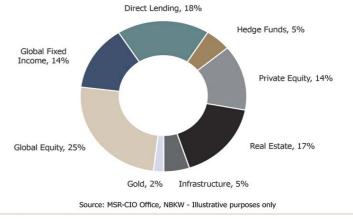
Income Portfolio Moderate Expected Total Return (income distribution) 8.2% (4.8%) Expected Volatility 7.7%

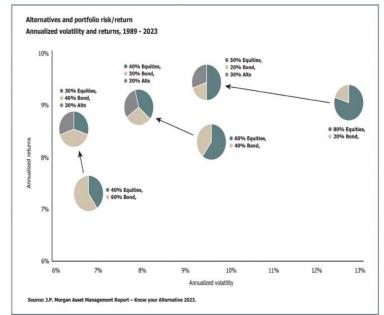
Investor's Desired Outcome - Income











Other Voices

Non-OPEC members gain market share

Oil surplus: Optimal defense against increasing oil prices

By Kamel Al-Harami Independent Oil Analyst

The abundance of oil worldwide is hindering oil prices from surging to higher levels and preventing them from reaching \$90 per barrel or beyond.

This is due to the widespread availability of oil from nearly every corner of the globe, coupled with the ongoing race



against time in the global transition clean to energy with the of aim phasing out fossil fuels.

While

Al-Harami

the US is taking the lead globally with the highest production level of 13.3 million barrels per day, OPEC+ is scaling back its production to stabilize oil prices, aiming to prevent further weakening of the barrel and maintain it within the range of \$80 per barrel, if feasible, for the foreseeable future. It appears that OPEC+ will uphold its production cuts of over five million barrels.

New producers are aggressively entering the markets, surpassing the production levels of countries like Kuwait, Iran, and Iraq, examples being Brazil and Canada. They are flooding the US markets with their oil, which leaves OPEC+ to compete for market share in other regions, notably missing out on the largest oil consumers worldwide, which consume over 20 million barrels per day. Consequently, nearby countries with smaller production volumes, such as Canada, Brazil, and Venezuela, with less than one million barrels per day, are gaining traction. They are capitalizing on OPEC+'s decision to sacrifice volumes for oil stability. The non-OPEC+ members are exploiting this situation to consume OPEC+'s market share.

Throughout the remainder of the year, the oil market is expected to encounter challenges in retaining its market share. If not, non-OPEC members may aggressively expand their share, potentially compelling the oil organization to implement additional production cuts. Otherwise, the market risks descending into further chaos, leading to a possible weakening of the barrel price, a scenario that appears increasingly probable

On the flip side, the ques-tion arises - how much longer will OPEC+ endure the burden of sacrifice while new producers encroach on its market share? OPEC+ is witnessing the erosion of its long-term investments in fossil fuels as it maintains idle capacity without yielding any returns.

This presents a new challenge for OPEC+ to confront, i.e., reclaiming its lost volume and market share amidst potential price weakening, price wars, or market share loss. Additionally, there is the looming risk of lost investments incurred from idling six million barrels of production capacity.

Email: naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com

Boursa Kuwait indices show uptick in final trading session

Premier market index rises, main market index sees marginal dip

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: During the final trading session of the abbreviated week, the Boursa Kuwait indices exhibited a noteworthy uptick, with the market price index climbing by 0.27 percent to settle at 7,440.58 points. Liquidity surged twofold during the session, reaching 65.7 million dinars, partly attributed to the impending implementation of the MSCI Emerging Market Indices review, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Key stocks such as KFH, Watani, Zain, Agility, and Boubyan Bank garnered substantial investor interest, contributing to the overall positive market sentiment. According to the daily, a total of 213.5 million shares were exchanged through 13,604 transactions, with 60 stocks advancing, 56 declining, and 11 remaining unchanged.

The Premier Market Index also saw an uptick of 0.35 percent, concluding at 8,159.01 points, accompanied by liquidity totaling 55.7 million dinars. Meanwhile, the main market index experienced a marginal dip of 0.13 percent, closing at 6,086.05 points, with liquidity surpassing 10 million dinars.

Trading activity during the session commenced relatively subdued, with initial liquidity focused on Arzan shares, KFH, and other select bluechip stocks. However, momentum gradually picked up as the session progressed, with stocks such as Arzan, KFH, Watani, Mabanee, Commercial, and Boubyan Bank witnessing growth, albeit with constrained liquidity.

Notably, Arzan stock stood out with significant growth of approximately 10 percent by session's end. Anticipation surrounding the auction period, particularly for leading stocks, was palpable as investors awaited the MSCI Morgan Stanley index review.

Dubai emerges as attractive hub for investment

Robust economy drives global real estate investments

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: A robust economy serves as a fundamental driver for real estate investments worldwide, with indicators such as increasing GDP and financial stability influencing investment decisions. The allure of real estate investment lies in the potential for generating rental income, making higher returns on investment an appealing prospect for investors. Population growth is another significant factor contributing to the demand for housing and rental properties, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Government policies aimed at attracting foreign investors to residential or commercial real estate further stimulate market growth. Additionally, interest rates play a crucial role in shaping the real estate industry, as higher interest rates elevate the cost of investment and subsequently dampen demand.

On a global scale, the real estate sector is influenced by interest rates, which have historically been kept high to curb inflation. However, following a period of stringent monetary policies, interest rates are anticipated to stabilize in 2024. This favorable macroeconomic environment is expected to present lucrative opportunities for real estate investors worldwide.

Despite the lingering effects of high interest rates and inflation, global real estate markets, including those in Gulf countries like the UAE, are poised for resilience in 2024. Dubai, in particular, stands out as an attractive hub for both commercial and residential real estate investment. The increasing demand for affordable housing in Dubai has created ample opportunities for real estate developers to capitalize on market trends.

Recently, Reddit released a list highlighting the top 10 countries for real estate investment, emphasizing factors such as annual growth in house prices, economic stability, and growth. These factors collectively contribute to enhancing foreign investment opportunities and bolstering demand within the real estate market, for example:

Türkiye ranks first among the 21 best countries to buy property according to Reddit. In 2023, the country recorded real GDP growth of 4%. In the third quarter of 2023, the annual growth in residential real estate prices in Turkey reached 59.63%.

Russia is another country that invests in real estate and in the third quarter of 2023, an annual growth in residential property prices in Russia was recorded at 10.7%. During 2023, the country's real GDP grew by 2.2%.

According to Reddit, Hungary is one of the countries considered suitable for buying real estate. Annual growth in residential property prices in the country was reported at 6.56% in the third quarter of 2023

Another recommended country for real estate investment is Singapore. In 2023, the country's real GDP growth is recorded at 1%. In the third quarter of 2023, residential property prices in the country rose by 5.85% year-on-year. ■ In the third quarter of 2023, an

annual growth in residential property prices in Japan was recorded at 4.85%. During 2023, the country's real GDP grew by 2%. Hence, Japan is ranked as one of the best countries to buy real estate according to Reddit.

Portugal is ranked as one of the best countries to buy property. The annual growth in residential real estate prices in the country was recorded at 4.81% in the third quarter of 2023. The country also recorded a growth in real gross domestic product of 2.3% in 2023.

Slovenia is classified as another country considered suitable for investing in real estate. In the third quarter of 2023, the country recorded a 4.08% year-on-year growth in house prices. Slovenia also saw its real GDP grow by 2% in 2023.

The annual growth in residential property prices in Luxembourg was recorded at 3.96% in the third quarter of 2023. Luxembourg ranks among the best countries to buy

property. ■ Redditors have generally recommended Ireland as a country to invest in real estate. Annual growth in residential property prices in Ireland was recorded at 2.94% in the third quarter of 2023. The country's real GDP was reported to grow at 2% in 2023.

Switzerland is ranked among the 21 best countries to buy real estate. According to the International Monetary Fund, Switzerland's real GDP grew by 0.9% in 2023. In the third quarter of 2023, the country recorded a 2.84% year-onyear growth in residential property prices.

lvocal transport in much of Germany hit by strikes

Local buses, subway trains and trams ground to a halt in much of Germany on Friday, at the peak of a week of walkouts by employees demanding better working conditions. The Ver.di service work-

ers' union called for a week of strikes lasting from Monday to Saturday, with the main day of walkouts on Friday. The union is being backed by the Fridays for Future climate activist group,

which called on supporters to take to the streets for "good work and climate-friendly mobility." This week's walkouts follow a previous round of strikes on Feb.

The dispute centers on demands for better working conditions, such as a shorter working week and extra compensation days for night work. The exact demands and the timing of the walkouts vary from place to

place. Bavaria, where there are no negotiations at present, has been the only region not affected. An agreement between the union and employers in the small western state of Saarland was reached earlier this week, ending the strikes there.

Limited "warning strikes" such as these are a common tactic in German contract negotiations.

Brazil's economy grows 2.9% in Lula's 1st year

Brazil's economy grew 2.9% in 2023, beating expectations in the first year of the administration of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, according to the government statistics institute Friday.

The number announced by IBGE impressed many econo-mists, whose overall forecast early last year was for only 0.8% growth in 2023. Brazil's economy grew 3% in

2022, partly due to government

spending programs pushed by then-President Jair Bolsonaro amid his failed reelection bid. The credit rating agency Austin

Ratings said Brazil's economy is now the ninth biggest in the world, based on the preliminary gross domestic product numbers announced Friday. Reaching \$2.17 trillion in GDP last year moved the South American nation ahead of Canada and Russia, it said.

The Brazilian statistics agency

said Brazil's record production of soybeans and corn helped the overall results.

'Agriculture represented about a third of all the growth of Brazil's economy last year," Rebeca Palis, a coordinator at IBGE, said in a statement.

The government said after the results that it expects 2024 growth to be at 2.2%, which would again above market expectations. (AP)

Aligned with international standards

KFH Injaz investment plan tailored to meet aspirations of the youth

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) maintains its distinction as a pioneer in offering unique solutions and innovative products. Committed to fulfilling customers' aspirations, KFH provides the best investment plans and solutions, adhering to the highest international standards.

Understanding the aspirations of young investors, KFH offers the versatile Injaz plan. Through Injaz, the youth can plan ahead and achieve their future dreams by investing their savings for specific goals, such as starting a business or purchasing a home. To open an Injaz investment

be between 21 and 55 years old. The plan offers terms ranging from 2 to 15 years. Injaz allows for monthly savings to generate investment returns. Additionally, if the customers are interested in starting a business, they can access both the accumulated savings and investment returns. Upon opening the investment plan

plan, prospective customers must

Takaful insurance policy will be automatically issued in the customer's name. The policy will cover the remaining unpaid target amount in case of death or permanent total disability (due to illness or accident) during the plan's va-



lidity period.

Injaz plan offers customers various benefits. These include the ability to adjust the investment amount, or the monthly payments at any time, automatic monthly transfer from the customer's account to Injaz investment plan, the ability to withdraw 60% of the balance in the first year and 60% subsequently each year after the first withdrawal. Customers can make additional financial deposits alongside the monthly deductions without impacting the investment plan time frame. Upon completion of the investment term, the investment amount and accrued profits will be payable to the customer. The customer can, at any time, cancel the investment plan, and the investment amount with its accrued profits will be refunded up to the plan cancellation date.

It is worth noting that KFH offers a variety of saving plans tailored to different investment goals. These plans include Jameati Higher Education Investment Plan which is designed to support children's college education when they reach 18 years old.Customers can set a target amount for the plan. The invested amount accumulates profits annually, allowing them to benefit from the total sum, including both the principal and accumulated profits, when their children enter university.

KFH has also designed Rafaa Marriage Investment Plan to help parents cover their children's wedding expenses and plan for their future family life. Parents can start contributing towards their children's marriage now by setting a specific amount to cover the anticipated costs. The plan allows them to save the targeted amount along with all accumulated investment profits, which they can then receive at the end of the plan.

Additionally, Thimar plan assists individuals in achieving a comfortable retirement after years of dedication. Customers can choose a desired contribution amount which will be invested throughout the plan term. The accumulated funds will mature upon reaching the chosen retirement age.

Key supplier on troubled 737 Max

Boeing confirms it's in talks to buy Spirit AeroSystems

DALLAS, March 2, (AP): Boeing said Friday that it is in preliminary talks to buy Spirit AeroSystems, which builds fuselages for Boeing 737 Max jetliners, including the one that suffered a door-panel blowout on an Alaska Airlines flight in January

Boeing used to own Spirit, and it said that bringing the supplier back into the Boeing fold would improve plane quality and safety, which has come under increasing scrutiny by regulators, Congress and airlines.

Buying Spirit back would reverse a longtime Boeing strategy of outsourcing key work on its passenger planes. That approach has been criticized as problems at Spirit have disrupted production and delivery of popular Boeing jetliners including '37s and 787s.

Concerns about quality came to a head after the Jan. 5 blowout of a panel on an Alaska 737 Max 9 at 16,000 feet over Oregon.

Days after the incident, the Federal Aviation Administration announced increased oversight of Boeing and Spirit. This week, the FAA gave Boeing 90 days to submit a plan to improve quality and address safety concerns raised by a panel of experts who spent a year studying the company Boeing CEO David Calhoun has long defended the outsourcing strategy, but his tone changed after the blowout. On Jan. 31, as Boeing reported a fourth-quarter loss, Calhoun said that outsourcing probably went too far. In a statement Friday, the company said, "We believe that the reintegration of Boeing and Spirit Aero-Systems' manufacturing operations would further strengthen aviation safety, improve quality and serve the interests of our customers, employees, and shareholders. A deal would give Boeing more control over its production chain, but fixing Spirit would present Boeing with new challenges while regulators are pressuring the company to improve its own work. And it could add to Boeing's debt load, already at \$52 billion.

Shares of Spirit rose more than 15% after media reports that the two companies were talking about a sale. Boeing spun off Spirit in 2005. In recent years, quality problems have mounted at Spirit, including fuselage panels that didn't fit together precisely enough and holes that were

improperly drilled. Spirit - which is not related to Spirit Airlines - removed its CEO in October and replaced him with Patrick Shanahan, a former Boeing executive who served as acting defense secretary in the Trump administration.

Things seemed to be going more smoothly until the Alaska Airlines incident. Investigators said a panel used in place of an extra emergency door had been removed at a Boeing factory to let Spirit workers fix damaged rivets, and bolts that help hold the panel in place were missing after the repair job. It is not clear who removed the bolts and failed to put them back.

Two weeks later, during a tour of the Spirit factory in Wichita, Kansas, Calhoun and Shanahan pledged to work together to improve manufacturing quality. "We will restore confidence," Shanahan vowed. About 70% of Spirit AeroSystems' revenue last year came from work done for Boeing, according to Spirit's latest annual report. That is up from 60% two years earlier. Most of the company's other revenue comes from making parts for Airbus, Boeing's European rival. The talks between Boeing and Spirit were first reported by The Wall Street Journal, which said Spirit hired bankers to consider strategic options and had held preliminary discussions about a sale to Boeing. Spirit also is looking into selling operations in Ireland that make parts for Airbus, the newspaper reported. Spirit lost \$616 million last year and hasn't turned a full-year profit since 2019. Since then, it has lost more than \$2.5 billion. Boeing agreed in October to give more financial help to Spirit. Boeing said it would provide \$100 million for Spirit to retool its factory and adjust prices to give the supplier another \$455 million over two years.

European inflation eases to 2.6 pct as energy prices dip

FRANKFURT, Germany, March 2, (AP): The inflation that has ravaged the European economy eased again in February, falling to 2.6% as high interest rates, moderating oil and gas prices, and sluggish growth held back price increases in stores.

February's figure for the 20 countries that use the euro currency compares to 2.8% from January, the European Union's statistical agency Eurostat said Friday

Food inflation slows



Spirit AeroSystems also confirmed the talks, while cautioning that it could not make any promises about closing a deal or its terms.

IRS launches crackdown on 125,000 wealthy 'non-filers'

WASHINGTON, March 2, (AP): The IRS plans to go after 125,000 high-income earners who did not file tax returns going back to 2017 - and the agency says hundreds of millions of dollars of unpaid taxes are involved in these cases.

Beginning this week, the IRS will start sending out noncompliance letters to more than 25,000 people who earn more than \$1 million per year and 100,000 people with incomes between \$400,000 and \$1 million who failed to pay their taxes between 2017 and 2021.

The campaign announced Thursday is part of the agency's ongoing effort to pursue high wealth tax cheats - mandated in part by funding provided through Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act passed into law in 2022 and a directive from Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to IRS leadership not to increase audit rates on people making less than \$400,000 a year annually.

"When people don't file a tax return they're required to, it's not fair to those hardworking taxpayers who responsibly do their civic duty under the laws of our nation,"

IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel told reporters Thursday morning. "And when people don't file

their taxes, they need to know there's a consequence.'

The IRS in recent months has announced a slew of new campaigns aimed at targeting high-wealth individuals who misuse the tax system or fail to pay their obligations.

For instance, last week IRS leadership said the agency will start up dozens of audits on businesses' private jets and how they are used personally by executives and written off as a tax deduction. And earlier this year, the agency announced it had collected roughly half a billion dollars in overdue taxes from delinquent millionaires.

Werfel said the agency's nonfiler programs have only run sporadically since 2016 due to lack of funding and staffing. But since the federal tax collector received resources from the IRA, "the IRS now has the capacity to do this core tax administration work," he said.

"This isn't a small group of people we're talking about.'

Inflation is now far below its peak of 10.6% in October 2022, which it hit after Russia cut off most supplies of natural gas and sent energy prices through the roof.

But the return of inflation to 2%. the goal set by the European Central Bank, is taking time. Food inflation eased to 4% from 5.6%, offering some relief to people on modest incomes who spend more of their pay on necessities than the well-off. Another factor was energy prices, which fell by 3.7%

One key sign that inflation is losing steam was so-called core inflation, which excludes swings in food and fuel prices. The figure, closely watched by the European Central Bank as a measure of underlying inflation pressure in the economy, came in at 3.1%, down from 3.3% and the lowest since March 2022

Prices spiked after Russia cut off most supplies of natural gas to Europe, sending energy prices through the roof, and as the postpandemic rebound led to logjams in supplies of parts and raw materials. Those troubles have eased, but lost purchasing power slowed the economy and many workers have yet to catch up through new wage agreements.

The drop in the inflation rate brings the European Central Bank closer to achieving its goal of 2% inflation, the rate considered best for the economy. The central bank for the eurozone swiftly raised interest rates to squeeze inflation out of the economy, taking its key rate to a record high of 4% in September.

Higher rates combat inflation by making it more expensive to buy things on credit, dampening demand for goods and upward pressure on prices. Higher credit costs can hold back growth, however, and that has been in short supply in Europe. The eurozone showed zero growth in the last three months of last year, following shrinkage of 0.1% in the quarter before that.

Worries about growth and moderate inflation have shifted the focus to when the ECB might start cutting rates. The bank's ratesetting governing council meets Thursday but is not expected to change rates yet.

The council and ECB President Christine Lagarde are likely to wait for more data on wages and prices to be sure inflation is under control before cutting rates in June, said Carsten Brzeski, global head of macro at ING Bank.

Algharabally and Lee with Zain and Samsung executives.

Agreement explores future joint collaboration

Zain and Samsung sign 'strategic' MoU at Mobile World Congress 2024 in Barcelona

ebrate the launch of the all-new Sam-

sung Galaxy S24 series. The event was

attended by executive management

teams from both companies, along

with Zain's dedicated customers, Sam-

sung enthusiasts, and content creators

from the local tech community. Us-

ers got to experience the new devices

up-close prior to their official launch

and learned more about the lineup's

top innovations and best AI-powered

The exclusive event offered an op-

portunity to experience the all-new

lineup, which included the flagship

Galaxy S24 Ultra, Galaxy S24+, and

Galaxy S24. Guests were introduced to

revolutionary features from the three

In another achievement, Zain be-

came in 2022 the first operator glob-

AI-powered devices.

features.

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: Zain announced it has signed a memorandum of understanding with global partner Samsung avvvt the Mobile World Congress (MWC 2024) in Barcelona, Spain. The agreement explores future joint collaboration and new opportunities to expand on Zain and Samsung's long-term partnership to bring the best tech innovations to consumers and businesses in the Kuwaiti market.

The signing ceremony was attended by Zain Kuwait Acting CEO Nawaf Algharabally, Samsung Gulf President Doohee Lee, Zain Group Chief Investment and Digital Transformation Officer Malek Hammoud, Zain Kuwait CCO Meshal Al Kandari, Zain Kuwait Chief Enterprise & Business Officer Hamad Al Marzouq, Samsung Gulf Senior Sales Director Fadi Abu Shamat, and executives from the two partners

The MoU explores future collaboration opportunities between Zain and Samsung to grow their existing, longterm partnership that has seen numerous operational and commercial successes throughout the past years. The agreement also sets pillars for the two companies to join forces and expand their efforts to bring the best services. solutions, and innovations to the local market. This springs from Zain and Samsung's joint vision to leverage on innovation to achieve sustainable growth in both consumer and business sectors.

In a recent success of this partnership, Zain hosted a special event to cel-

OpenAl and Musk sues Altman CE

NEW YORK, March 2, (AP): Elon Musk is suing OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman over what he says is a betrayal of the ChatGPT maker's founding aims of benefiting humanity rather than pursuing profits.

In a lawsuit filed at San Francisco Superior Court, billionaire Musk said that when he bankrolled OpenAI's creation, he secured an agreement with Altman and Greg Brockman, the president, to keep the AI company as a nonprofit that would develop technology for the benefit of the public.

Under its founding agreement, OpenAI would also make its code open to the public instead of walling it off for any private company's gains, the lawsuit says.

However, by embracing a close relationship with Microsoft, OpenAI and its top executives have set that pact "aflame" and are "perverting" the company's mission, Musk alleges in the lawsuit.

OpenAI declined to comment on the lawsuit Friday.

"OpenAI, Inc. has been transformed

Strategic Partnership MOU Signing Ceremony SAMSUNG SAMSUNG SAMSUNG SAMSUNG SAMSUNG

9zain

SAMSUNG

Nawaf Algharabally and Doohee Lee sign the MoU.

ally to commercially launch voice over 5G (Vo5G) with nationwide coverage on the Samsung Galaxy S series, bringing crystal-clear voice calls over 5G on the nation's biggest network. The step reaffirmed the leadership position Zain's award-winning network holds as the first and best choice for a seamless digital experience.

Zain maintains its leadership position within the local ICT industry through its robust ecosystem of strategic partnerships with the world's biggest technology leaders. Building upon early investment in cutting-edge technology infrastructure and harnessing the talent of its national workforce, the company remains at the forefront of innovation, consistently delivering groundbreaking technologies to Kuwait's largest customer base.

into a closed-source de facto subsidiary of the largest technology company in the world: Microsoft," the lawsuit filed Thursday says. "Under its new

Board, it is not just developing but is actually refining an AGI to maximize profits for Microsoft, rather than for the benefit of humanity.

AGI refers to artificial general intelligence, which are general purpose AI systems that can perform just as well as - or even better than - humans in a wide variety of tasks.

What's On



Photos during the two-day tourism promotion event organized by the Embassy of India in Kuwait.

Indian Embassy organizes tourism event

The Embassy of India in Kuwait organized a two-day tourism promotion event under the title 'Explore, Experience and Enjoy Incredible India' at the Avenues Mall in Kuwait on 29 February - 1 March 2024. The Ambassador of India to Kuwait, HE Dr Adarsh Swaika and HE Osa-

ma Al Mekhyal Assistant Undersecretary of Tourism inaugurated the event. Prominent Kuwaiti dignitaries present during the event included Sheikha Halah Bader Al Sabah and the media.

This event focused on diverse facets of Indian Tourism -- Summer Tour-ism, Luxury Trains of India, Wellness & Rejuvenation, the Golden Triangle Adventure & Wildlife and more.

Jo-

card. It represents

Under the theme of 'Summer Tourism', information about places in India

like Kashmir to Shimla-Kulu Manali to Mussoorie and Nainital in the north; Darjeeling, Gangtok and Kalimpong in the east and Ooty in the south were provided

Under the theme of luxury trains, tourism trails covered by the well-known Palace on Wheels, Maharajah Express, Golden Chariot and Deccan Odyssey trains were showcased.

Wellness tourism in Kerala continued to attract a lot of visitors to the stalls. The themes of wildlife tourism and adventure sports drew a lot of attention from young people. Tourism pamphlets on different touristic sectors of India were distributed.

Prominent tour and travel agencies ITL World, Caesar's Travel Group,

Luxury Travels and Aurora Holidays from Kuwait collaborated with the Embassy, each of them showcasing one of the touristic themes. The event also showcased various Indian Art and Dance forms, such as,

Bharatnatyam, Kathak, Kuchipudi, Mohiniyattam, in addition to folk dances and popular contemporary bollywood dance. Activities like Henna designs, Zardosi artwork, instant quiz etc were also organized to engage with the visitors.

The event was in continuation of ongoing efforts of the embassy to showcase different aspects of Indian tourism as a land of diverse cultures, landscapes, and heritage, making it a captivating destination for tourists from around the globe.

ABK sets new market standard

Night of organ marvels & vocal wonders

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait launches its Dr Valentina Maria Baginska leads Visa Platinum Cashback Credit Card 'Great Masters For Organ' concert

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) proudly introduced the ABK Visa Platinum Cashback Credit Card, a new addition to its financial products suite and a game changer in the competitive market.

Offering an unprecedented and unparalleled cashback of up to 10%



KUWAIT CITY, March 2: Experi-ence the enchanting "Great Masters For Organ" concert on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 7 pm at the Yarmouk Cultural Centre, part of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah's 28th Cultural Season 2023/2024. Admission is free.



Czech Republic, Germany, France, and Kuwait, Dr. Baginska is celebrated for her contributions to organ music in Kuwait. She has recorded CDs, conducted music therapy projects, and collaborated with governmental and social organizations. Her tireless efforts in promoting

Polish music abroad have earned her the

Under the direction of Dr. Valen-

tina Maria Baginska, Cantores Maiores

title of a music ambassador for Poland.

credited directly to cardholders' wallets, this card is designed to empower customers to maximize their spending power and enjoy a truly outstanding value for money as



Marafi

our commitment to providing tangible, valuable cashback returnsto our customers like never before. We understand the importance of earning while you spend, where we have developed a card that allows cardholders to earn noteworthy cashback that truly elevates their everyday shopping experience."

Cashback credit cards have become increasingly popular due to their worthwhile incentives. By offering up to 10% cashback, ABK is providing their cardholders with the opportunity to earn back a large percentage of their spending, effectively and noticeably reducing the overall cost of their purchases.

Marafi clarified that this card is particularly advantageous for individuals and families who rely on credit cards for everyday transactions, such as grocery shopping, dining, and other day-to-day expenses. She continued, "We aim to provide a seamless, rewarding, and financially empowering experience. Through the

VISA

ABK Cash Back Rollout flyer.

launch of the ABK Visa Platinum Cashback credit card, we feel confident in enabling customers tomake the most of their spending while enjoying the unique reward experience that the Bank has to offer.'

ABK constantly endeavors to create worthwhile products and services for customers to express the Bank's gratitude for their loyalty and support. The launch of their new cashback credit card is a testament to their dedication to offering groundbreaking and innovative financial solutions that directly benefit customers.

Mohamed Reyad, Visa's Head of Financial Institutions for Kuwait, said, "This rewarding digital payments product is part of our efforts to support the growth of digital commerce in Kuwait, and extend the benefits of digital payments to more consumers and businesses in the country. We're delighted to partner with Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait to launch the ABK Visa Platinum Cashback Credit Card and support their efforts in encouraging a shift towards a more digital and cashless society."

Marafi concluded with an invitation to follow the Bank's social media accounts to remain up to date with the latest marketing initiatives and to benefit from the current promotional campaigns and offers.

Renowned Music Director and concert organist Dr. Valentina Maria Baginska, an internationally acclaimed artist, pianist, music professor, juror, lecturer, and impresario, will lead the event.

The Organ Recital will include works of Bach, Balbastre, Boellmann, Pachelbel, Sawa Vocal Concert Latin, German, French and English popular songs featuring the Cantores Maiores Choir -- Agnes Rodrigues, Becky Joy, Diany Coutinho, Lovella Mendoza, Odilia Silva, Pamela Viegas, Rachel Rodrigues, Stella Fernandes, Gaspar Baptista, Peter Fernandes, Peter Rodrigues and Ryan D'Silva.

Dr. Valentina Maria Baginska graduated with first class honors degree at the Frederic Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, the Music Academy in Gdansk (PhD in organ performing) and in Riga. She perfected her virtuoso skills in prestigious European music centers.

She was assistant professor and associate conductor at the Frederic Chopin University of Music and supervisor in the National Philharmonic in Warsaw, conducted many choirs and orchestras.

Some of her students are currently famous Polish vocalists, opera singers and conductors. Maestro Baginska performed in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, France, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine during prestigious international music festivals.

Dr. Baginska introduced the organ into Kuwaiti music life. Since 2006 in Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah, she regularly performs organ recitals, chamber concerts and lectures with versatile repertoire ranging from Renaissance to Modern periods. These include organ,

Dr.Valentina Maria Baginska

symphonic and piano music arranged by her for organ. She also performed Arabic music arranged for organ.

She is the initiator and animator for organ music in Kuwait, one from the founders and a former member of DAI Music Circle Committee.

With a first-class honors degree from the Frederic Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, a PhD in organ performing from the Music Academy in Gdansk, and studies in Riga, Dr. Baginska has honed her virtuoso skills in prestigious European music centers. Having performed across various

countries including Austria, Belgium,



projects, including "Polonia Restituta," 'Music from Mazurka's Land," and 'The Phantom of the Opera.'

Dr. Baginska consistently fulfills her artistic visions, perfecting vocal abilities of the singers and uniting the members of Cantores Maiores into a harmonious musical instrument.

This exceptional evening promises to display the artistry of great masters for organ and captivating vocal performances by Cantores Maiores Choir under the baton of Dr. Valentina Maria Baginska.



Cantores Maiores Choir

TMCA arranges Blood Donation Camp honoring Kuwait National and Liberation Days

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: TMCA arranged Blood Donation Camp honoring Kuwait National and Liberation Days. Tamilnadu Muslim Cultural Association (TMCA), Kuwait, one of the biggest and oldest Indian associations in Kuwait duly registered with the Embassy of India, since 1995, now in its 28th year of service, serving the most needy people at large irrespective of caste, color, creed etc. arranged 19th year of Blood Donation Camp honoring the auspicious occasions of Kuwait's 63rd National Day and 33rd Liberation Day on Sunday, the 25th February 2024 from 08.30 a.m. till 01.30 p.m. at Central Blood Bank in Jabriya. Tamilnadu Muslim Cultural Association

(TMCA) and its members, especially its Coordination Council under the guidance of its newly elected Executive body, dedicated themselves volunteering Camp activities and most notably, members of other brotherly Associations extended their support with enthusiasm honoring the occasions.

The donors started donating blood since 08:30

a.m. The official inauguration program commenced at 10:30 a.m. Peruvalanallur, Dr. A. Hidayathullah, former Vice-President, initiated the program and staged the maestro in administering the whole ceremony. At the outset, the holy verses well recited by Moulvi Mohamed Ali Rashadi.

Pullambadi, Bro. Abdul Kareem, Executive Coordinator, welcomed all guests, blood donors, members and others and Presidential address read by Trichy, Bro. Sirajudeen, Secretary-General, wherein he spoke briefly highlighting TMCA's innumerable activities with his high vision of taking TMCA to the forefront and as a good model.

Chief guest addresses delivered by State President of Manithaneya Jananayaga Katchi (MJK) who visited Kuwait to participate in grand conference arranged by Humanitarian Cultural Association, Bro. Tamimun Ansari, former Member of Tamilnadu State Legislative Assembly (Nagapattinam constituency), Bro. Siddeeque Valiyakath, former President of Federation of Indian Muslim Associations (FIMA),



Photo from the TMCA's Blood Donation campaign.

Dr. Amir Ahamed, former President of Indian Doctors Forum (IDF).

A special memonto has been presented to Blood Bank Administration by all our Guests in the presence of TMCA Executive committee as

a token of Thanks and Appreciation, on behalf of TMCA for providing an opportunity to be of service here on this day. TMCA distributed special gifts to all Donors appreciating their gesture. Around 70 donors turned-out to make it

as a remarkable one donating blood expressing their humanitarian spirit. One of our outstanding performer, TMĈA Life Member, Tanjore Syed Akbar is honoured with a special memento for his 40 years of social services in Kuwait who is leaving Kuwait for good shortly.

The whole event is covered by Kuwait Television at the behest of Kuwait Ministry of Information on the eve of State of Kuwait National Day celebrations and telecasted later on that day.

Distribution of special pack of snacks to Donors was sponsored by Bro. Yousuf Maideen (former Coordinator) of M/s. Top Traders alongside contribution from TMCA Executive Committee members including Lunch pack.

Finally vote of thanks was delivered by Erumapatti, Bro. Khaleel Rahman, Joint Secretary of TMCA. TMCA conveyed its thanks to all sponsors for their notable contribution and a Certificate of Appreciation had been presented to all Donors acknowledging their participation and support to TMCA's noble cause.

As 1960s fade, historians scramble to capture Woodstock's voices

BETHEL, N.Y., March 2, (AP): Woodstock didn't even happen in Woodstock

The fabled music festival, seen as one of the seminal cultural events of the 1960s, took place 60 miles (96.5 kilometers) away in Bethel, New York, an even smaller village than Woodstock. It's a fitting misnomer for an event that has become as much legend as reality - and has less to do with location than the memories it evokes about a society's state of mind at the close of a jumbled decade.

An estimated 450,000 people converged on a swath of land owned by dairy farmer Max Yasgur to attend an "Aquarian Exposition" promising "three days of peace, love and music" from Aug. 15 to 17, 1969. Most were teenagers or young adults - people now approaching the twilight of their lives in an era where only a small portion of the population has living memories of the 1960s.

That ticking clock is why the Museum at Bethel Woods, located on the site of the festival, is immersed in a five-year project to sift facts from the legends and collect firsthand Woodstock memories before they fade away. It's a quest that has taken museum curators on a crosscountry pilgrimage to record and preserve the recollections of those who were there.

"You need to capture the history from the mouths of the people who had the direct experience," says music journalist Rona Elliot, 77, who has been working as one of the museum's "community connectors." Elliot has her own stories about the festival; she was there, working with organizers like Michael Lang, who entrusted her with his archives before his death in 2022.

Woodstock, says Elliot, is "like a jigsaw puzzle - a panoply of eve-

Variety

rything that happened in the '60s." Woodstock attendees have done hundreds of interviews through the decades, particularly on major festival anniversaries. But the Bethel Woods museum is plunging deeper with a project that began in 2020, relying on techniques similar to those of the late historian Studs Terkel, who produced hundreds of oral histories about what it was like to live through the Great Depression and World War II.

"There is a difference between someone being interviewed for a paper or a documentary and having an oral history catalogued and preserved in a museum," says Neal Hitch, senior curator and director of the Museum At Bethel Woods. "We had to go to people where they are. If you just call someone on the phone, they aren't quite sure what to say when we ask you to tell us about these personal, private memories from a festival when they may have been 18 or 19."

To find and meet people willing to tell their Woodstock tales, the museum received grants totaling more than \$235,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services - enough money to pay for curators and community connectors such as Elliot to travel the country and record the stories.

The odyssey began in Santa Fe, New Mexico - home to the Hog Farm that provided hippie volunteers such as Hugh "Wavy Gravy Romney and Lisa Law to help feed the Woodstock crowd. Museum curators have traveled to Florida, hopped on a "Flower Power" cruise ship and visited Columbus, Ohio, before making a California swing earlier this year that included a San Francisco community center located near the former homes of festival performers Jefferson Airplane and the Grateful Dead.

Richard Schoellhorn, now 77, made the trip from his Sebastopol, California, home to San Francisco to discuss his experience at Woodstock. He was initially hired to be a security guard at the ticketing booth when the festival was supposed to occur in Wallkill, New York, before a community backlash prompted a late switch to the Bethel site.

Schoellhorn still reported for work in Bethel, only to promptly discover his services weren't going to be needed because the festival became so overwhelmed that organizers stopped selling tickets.

"I was walking around at Woodstock and Hugh Romney comes up to me and says, 'Are you working?" Schoellhorn recalled to The As-sociated Press before sitting down to have his oral history recorded. "And I go, 'No, I just got fired!' He goes, 'Well, would you like to volunteer?"

Schoellhorn wound up working in a tent set up to assist people having bad experiences on hallucinogenic drugs they had taken. He wound up getting stoned himself while reveling in the first concert he'd ever attended

"It felt like everyone was in the same freaking boat," Schoellhorn said. "There wasn't like one section where people were rich. Nobody was special there, right from the get-go.

Before attending Woodstock, Schoellhorn said he was a loner intent on pursuing a career in marketing. After Woodstock, he became so extroverted that he wound up living in a Colorado commune for several years before spending 35 years as a dialysis technician.

Another Woodstock attendee, Akinyele Sadiq, also came to see the curators in San Francisco to excavate his memories of watching the festival from 25 feet (7.6 meters) away from the stage.





This image released by Polk & Co. shows Amy Ryan as Sister Aloysius, from left, Zoe Kazan as Sister James, and Liev Schreiber as Father Flynn, in Roundabout Theatre Company's new Broadway production of 'Doubt: A Parable' by John Patrick Shanley. (AP)

Broadway

LOS ANGELES: Filmmaker Ava DuVernay remembered working as a publicist years ago, struggling to draw major traffic to star-studded events for the African American Film Critics Association.

No matter which renowned Black actor showed up - from Viola Davis to Forest Whitaker - the organization known as AAFCA still had a hard time garnering mainstream media's attention and attendance from non-Black honorees to its flagship awards ceremony and other events. But the group, led by co-founder and president Gil Robertson IV, stayed its course to review and pay homage to Black actors and filmmakers detailing the African American experience.

Now, two decades after its founding as a small organization, AAFCA has grown in size and scope and built an admirable reputation in Hollywood. Its Special Achievement Awards will be held this weekend.

"It was an idea. It was a dream. It was this little dinky thing, but it was always beautiful." said DuVernay, whose public relations company represented AAFCA the first few years before she became a filmmaker. "It was rough around the edges. It was respect. The community came, the press wouldn't cover it. Actors, creatives, writers, and directors immediately jumped to it. We worked hard to establish what it was ... So, I have a great affection for this group.

These days, AAFCA has become a consistent support base for Black Hollywood and beyond. The organization's annual awards has evolved into a glitzy affair with high-profile attendees such as Oprah Winfrey, Jamie Foxx and Will Smith. Non-Black honorees have also become regulars, such as Native American and Oscar nominee Lily Gladstone, who was recognized for her breakout role in "Killers of the Flower Moon" during AAFCA's 15th annual awards ceremony last month in Beverly Hills.

Throughout the year, AAFCA pushes to leave an influential mark with a few tentpole events including its annual awards; AAFCA Goes to Broadway in New York; AAFCA TV Honors and the Special Achievement Awards, which will be given out Sunday in Los Angeles.

Pulitzer Prize-winning play lands on Broadway

Schreiber dons collar in 'Doubt' revival

NEW YORK, March 2, (AP): Liev Schreiber was in a reflective mood one recent Sunday when he got a call about possibly starring in the play "Doubt" on Broadway.

"I had just come out of Mass with my in-laws, which is odd for a Jewish boy from the Lower East Side," the actor and new dad says with a laugh.

He was in Montauk, on the tip of Long Island, where Schreiber has been moved by watching townspeople gather weekly for Catholic services at the local church.

"Maybe it's my age or maybe it's having another kid, but I've been thinking a lot about faith and its place in our society and culture," says the 56-year-old Tony Award winner.

He has found the perfect place to chew on those ideas and more in a revival of John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer Prize-winning play that lands on Broadway during Lent. It opens March 7.

The play is set in 1964 in New York City, and Schreiber plays the charming, charismatic and jovial Father Flynn, a new middle school teacher and basketball coach. His foil is the vinegary, steely-spined principal, Sister Aloysius, who forbids the kids to sing "Frosty the Snowman" and is suspicious of ballpoint pens.

The two figures butt heads over a hazy allegation that he may have sexually abused a 12-yearold male student, which he denies. The audience goes back and forth between the two, weighing the evidence but never sure - lost in doubt. "What do you do when you're not sure?" Father Flynn asks the audience.

"There's this conversation about doubt as a unifying concept that I really think is interesting in our deeply polarized society right now," says Schreiber. "If we can just all agree that we don't agree, we might make some progress instead of eviscerating each other and canceling each other."

Director Scott Ellis, interim artistic director of the Roundabout Theatre Company, said he had Schreiber - and only Schreiber - on his list of people to play Father Flynn. "Let me say, I had no doubt about it," he says.

The Tony Award-winning "Doubt" - made into a 2008 movie starring Philip Seymour Hoffman and Meryl Streep - was written in 2004 and clearly captures the nation's Catholic sex abuse crisis. But it also echoes the run-up to the invasion of Iraq, when certainty was expressed about the presence of weapons of mass destruction.

Weaponizing doubt

"It's not about him. It's about doubt. It's about what doubt does to us," Schreiber says. "I think that's a really interesting conversation right now about what doubt is doing to all of us, how we are using doubt, how we are weaponizing doubt."

Ellis and Schreiber had long talks about the play, and both agreed they didn't want to approach Father Flynn strictly in a did he-did he not paradigm.

"It was really a much larger picture of where we're at in our society now. How do we look at this story through different eyes? It's 20 years ago. We're a different society. We're in a differ-ent place, with such a divide," Ellis says.

This isn't the first time Schreiber's work has touched sexual abuse within the Catholic Church. He played a man who had been abused by a priest in "Ray Donovan" and portrayed the Boston Globe editor who pressed his paper to fully investigate the cover-up in Boston in "Spotlight."

"There's just so much to talk about in this play, and I can feel it from the audiences. When we finish, they're buzzing, which is such a treat to be in something like that," he says after a recent two-preview Wednesday.

For "Doubt," Schreiber watched the movie -"I'm one of those actors who openly admit that acting is theft, so I watch everything," he says - and talked with the playwright. He also visited the Mount Saint Vincent Convent in the Bronx and interviewed nuns and priests.

He says he was profoundly moved by the sense of service and mission the older men and women had before it was hit by the semi-truck of abuse litigation. "It kind of restored my faith in faith," he says.

Schreiber - a lifelong New Yorker who won a Tony for "Glengarry Glen Ross" in 2005 grounds his performance in the neighborhood where Shanley lived, his accent and mannerisms very Bronx-forward.

"I think if you can get it right in a microcosm, then it becomes macro, if that makes any sense,' he says. "New York is very important to me as a person. It's my home. I've been here all my life. If nothing else, it's a petri dish for the world in this very compelling way. By that, I mean, a petri dish for conflict, diversity, resolution - culture."

Preparing for the Broadway run was complicated by the late withdrawal of Tyne Daly, who experienced an undisclosed health-related issue. Amy Ryan replaced her as Sister Aloysius and quickly won Schreiber's respect, calling her a "theater athlete" by being ready in just a week.

Ryan took "a risk that you just don't see actors taking anymore," he says. Ryan initially hid script pages around the set and had a monitor with the play until she was fully ready.

"I was just blown away by her commitment," Schreiber says.

AAFCA partnered this year with Delta Air Lines for a curated in-flight film collection to celebrate Black History Month and joined forces with the British Academy of Film and Television Arts to launch a monthly conversation to help Black creatives navigate the industry. Last year, the organization collaborated with the Grammy



DuVernay Whitaker Museum to explore the intersection of music and storytelling through a yearlong program

"We have reach," said Robertson, a longtime journalist and author. His organization was launched in 2003 after the founders noticed the lack of Black journalistic voices covering the film industry from an African diaspora. The group has

grown to 130 members - including businesswoman Chaz Ebert and entertainment journalist Kelley L. Carter - from across the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean. "This is not just another chicken

dinner," he said. Madeline Di Nonno, president and CEO of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, said Robertson's ability to genuinely befriend people connected to the TV and film industry has contributed to AAFCA's sustainability. She noted how the awards has been able to draw non-Black creative attendees such as Oscar winners Frances McDormand, Kathryn Bigelow and Bong Joon-ho. (AP)

NEWS/FEATURES

People & Places



This image released by Janus and Sideshow Films shows a scene from 'About Dry Grasses.' (AP)

Obit

'Extraordinary'

Fashion icon Apfel, known for eye-catching style dies

NEW YORK, March 2, (AP): Iris Apfel, a textile expert, interior designer and fashion celebrity known for her eccentric style, has died. She was 102.

Her death was confirmed by her commercial agent, Lori Sale, who called Apfel "extraordinary." No cause of death was given. It was also announced on her verified Instagram page on Friday, which a day earlier had celebrated that Leap Day represented her 102nd-anda-half birthday.

Born Aug. 29, 1921, Apfel was famous for her irreverent, eye-catching outfits, mixing haute couture and oversized costume jewelry. A classic Apfel look would, for instance, pair a feather boa with strands of chunky beads, bangles and a jacket decorated with Native American beadwork.

With her big, round, black-rimmed glasses, bright red lipstick and short white hair, she stood out at every



Iris Apfel takes her seat before the Serena Williams Signature Statement Spring 2017 collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York, on

Sept. 12, 2016. (AP)

Ceylan's cinematic mastery explored 'About Dry Grasses' colossal melancholy

NEW YORK, March 2, (AP): Nuri Bilge Ceylan makes long films, by movie standards, but short ones by Russian literature standards.

Film

There may be no filmmaker more consciously working in a novelistic tradition. The Turkish director counts reading "Crime and Punishment" as a formative experience. His Palme d'Or-winning 2014 film "Winter Sleep" adapted a pair of Chekhov short stories. But regardless of any direct correlations, Ceylan's films - colossal, existential, talky - reach for (and often attain) an enveloping vastness that recalls those big 19th century books. He sets thorny stories

is nearly up, and he says he's bound for Istanbul. At school, Samet styles himself as a less rule-bound teacher, looking down on some of his colleagues. But he's no inspiring leader to his young students, either. "None of you will become artists," he says in one rant.

Later, Samet will ask: "Does everyone have to be a hero?" He, certainly, is more of the anti-hero variety, but he's also one of the most complicated main characters I've seen in years. He's quite bitter, particularly after the student he has the warmest relationship with - Sevim (Ece Bağci) - accuses him of inapsuch debates in his films past their natural end point, turning the exchanges into something that can feel too dryly essayist. But it also may be his nature to bring a film to the very brink of philosophical quandary. In "About Dry Grasses," he goes a step further with a fourth-wall flourish at the height of Samet and Nuray's conversation. Why, at this point, does Ceylan insert a stark reminder that this is a movie? Is it his own Sametlike withdraw or a sudden flash of candid revelation?

Either way, it goes to the heart of Ceylan as a filmmaker. Far from just a bookish movie director, he has adopted many of cinematic modes of his heroes, Tarkovsky and Bergman, and translated them into his own unique and still evolving vernacular. As much as Russian literature may be a foundation for him, his movies are richly of Turkey. There are aspects of "About Dry Grasses" - the ID-checking police, the sexist bureaucrats in the school system - that place the Samet-Nuray dichotomy in a social context that has surely shaped them. There's a profound, unresolvable melancholy to "About Dry Grasses" that's hard to shake. It's not just that Nuray is better than Samet - though she certainly is. It's the sad tragic quality to Samet. He takes photographic portraits that appear at moments in the film. Ceylan, too, was a still photographer. It's hard to wonder - especially in thinking about that metafiction moment - how much he identifies with Sevim. But I wouldn't trust any one reading of "About Dry Grasses," even my own. It contains too many multitudes for that.

fashion show she attended.

Her style was the subject of museum exhibits and a documentary film, "Iris," directed by Albert Maysles. "T'm not pretty, and I'll never be pretty, but it doesn't

matter," she once said. "I have something much better. I have style." Apfel enjoyed late-in-life fame on social media, amassing nearly 3 million followers on Instagram, where her profile declares: "More is more & Less is a Bore." On TikTok, she drew 215,000 followers as she waxed wise on things fashion and style and promoted recent collaborations.

Fashionable

"Being stylish and being fashionable are two entirely different things," she said in one TikTok video. "You can easily buy your way into being fashionable. Style, I think is in your DNA. It implies originality and courage." She never retired, telling "Today": "I think retiring at any age is a fate worse than death. Just because a number comes up doesn't mean you have to stop.

"Working alongside her was the honor of a lifetime. I will miss her daily calls, always greeted with the familiar question: "What have you got for me today?," Sale said in a statement. "Testament to her insatiable desire to work. She was a visionary in every sense of the word. She saw the world through a unique lens - one adorned with giant, distinctive spectacles that sat atop her nose."

Apfel was an expert on textiles and antique fabrics. She and her husband Carl owned a textile manufacturing company, Old World Weavers, and specialized in restoration work, including projects at the White House under six different U.S. presidents. Apfel's celebrity clients included Estee Lauder and Greta Garbo.

Apfel's own fame blew up in 2005 when the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute in New York City hosted a show about her called "Rara Avis, Latin for "rare bird." The museum described her style as "both witty and exuberantly idiosyncratic.

Her originality is typically revealed in her mixing of high and low fashions - Dior haute couture with flea market finds, 19th-century ecclesiastical vestments with Dolce & Gabbana lizard trousers." The museum said her "layered combinations" defied "aesthetic conventions" and "even at their most extreme and baroque" represented a "boldly graphic modernity."

Collection

The Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, was one of several museums around the country that hosted a traveling version of the show. Apfel later decided to donate hundreds of pieces to the Peabody including couture gowns - to help them build what she termed "a fabulous fashion collection." The Museum of Fashion & Lifestyle near Apfel's winter home in Palm Beach, Florida, also plans a gallery dedicated to displaying items from Apfel's collection.

Apfel was born in New York City to Samuel and Sadye Barrel. Her mother owned a boutique.

Apfel's fame in her later years included appearances in ads for brands like M.A.C. cosmetics and Kate Spade. She also designed a line of accessories and jewelry for Home Shopping Network, collaborated with H&M on a sold-out-in-minutes collection of brightly-colored apparel, jewelry and shoes, put out a makeup line with Ciaté London, an eyeglass collection with Zenni and partnered with Ruggable on floor coverings.

In a 2017 interview with AP at age 95, she said her favorite contemporary designers included Ralph Rucci, Isabel Toledo and Naeem Khan, but added: "I have so much, I don't go looking." Asked for her fashion advice, she said: "Everybody should find her own way.



Variety

LONDON: Prince Harry scored a tactical victory in his battles with British tabloids Friday when government ministers said he could use confidential documents that show payments by the publisher of the Daily Mail to private investigators who allegedly snooped on him and several celebrities

The Duke of Sussex, Elton John, Elizabeth Hurley and others claim that Associated Newspapers Ltd. hacked their phones or used other unlawful means, such as bugging and other electronic surveillance to spy on them.

Justice Matthew Nicklin in November had rejected the newspapers' effort to throw out the case, but his ruling also dealt a blow to Harry and the others.

Ledgers showing payments to private eyes that had been leaked to Harry's legal team from a government inquiry into phone hacking could only be used with the newspapers' permission or by an order from the judge who oversaw the 2011-12 probe or the government ministers who had ordered the inquiry, Nicklin said.

Associated Newspapers, which firmly denies the allegations and called them preposterous, refused to turn over the documents and opposed the government releasing them.

In a joint statement Friday by the home and culture secretaries - the departments that had ordered the Leveson Inquiry into press standards - said the documents could be used in the court case.

"In our judgment, the public interest in promoting the just, speedy and economic resolution of the proceedings outweighs the countervailing public interests," the statement said.

Associated Newspapers said it would not comment on the decision.

The development comes as Harry's flurry of litigation is winding down with trials due in the case against ANL and another case alongside Hugh Grant that makes similar allegations against the publisher of The Sun.

Harry won a big victory in December after a judge found phone hacking at Mirror Group Newspapers was "widespread and habitual." After winning a judgment in court, he recently settled remaining allegations for all his legal fees. The total sum wasn't announced, but he was due

peppered with prickly philosophical questions against expansive landscapes. His films don't burrow into you, you burrow into them.

Ceylan's latest, "About Dry Grasses," bears a name that - like his "The Wild Pear Tree" or "Once Upon a Time in Anatolia" - would do well as a parody arthouse title. The opening - in which a dark figure, seen from afar, steps off a bus onto a snowblanketed plain on the Eastern Anatolian steppes - is likewise not hiding its tone of solemnity.

Our solitary man is Samet (Deniz Celiloğlu), who, like Paul Giamatti's protagonist in "The Holdovers," is a snobbish, misanthropic educator in a malcontented winter. Countless movies like "The Holdovers" have conditioned us to feel an automatic sympathy for such teacher characters, but doubts steadily accrue about Samet.

He's not especially friendly with his colleague and roommate Kenan (Musab Ekici). When he's reluctantly set up for tea with a fellow teacher, Nuray (an exceptional Merve Dizdar, winner of best actress at Cannes), from a nearby village, he mostly moans about the backwardness of their rural region. His four-year term

to receive an interim payment of 400,000

Harry, 39, the younger son of King

Charles III, has bucked family tradition

by going to court in his crusade against the

press and was the first senior royal in over

a century to enter the witness box when he

His luck, so far, in the hacking cases has

pounds (\$505,000).

testified in the Mirror trial.

propriate behavior. She does it as a way to get back at him for concealing a love letter she wrote that was confiscated. He appears to be innocent, but there's also something unmistakably intimate about their interactions. He gives her discrete gifts and and purposefully leaves the door open when she visits his office.

Respecting distance

Samet is investigated for not "respecting distance" with Sevin and her classmates, a somewhat ironic charge given that Samet, a sour pessimist, seems to be keeping himself at a distance to most everything. "About Dry Grasses" tracks the investigation of Samet, yet it hinges more on his relationship with Nuray.

She bears a limp, a result of a suicide bombing during a protest in Ankara. In the film's centerpiece scene, they spar over dinner in an extended dialogue about politics. She has fight and spirit still in her, and believes in the benefits of community. Samet is more hopeless and jaded, a quality that attracts Nuray, almost against her wishes. Not because she agrees with Samet but because she fears, maybe, that he's right.

Ceylan has a knack for prolonging

proven more successful than three cases related to the government's decision to strip him of his publicly funded protection detail in the U.K. after he quit working as a member of the royal family and moved to the **U.S**.

A judge ruled Wednesday that the government did not act irrationally or treat him unfairly when it decided to provide security



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Robert De Niro, left, and Leonardo DiCaprio in a scene from 'Killers of the Flower Moon.' (AP)

"About Dry Grasses," a Janus Films release, is not rated PG by the Motion Picture Association. In Turkish with English subtitles. Running time: 197 minutes. Three and a half stars out of four.

on a case-by-case basis. Harry vowed to appeal.

He recently withdrew a libel case against the Daily Mail over an article that said he tried to hide his efforts to continue receiving government-funded security. He dropped the case after a judge ruled he was more likely to lose at trial, because the publisher could show that statements issued on his behalf were misleading and that the February 2022 article reflected an "honest opinion" and wasn't libelous.

He could be faced with big legal bills in the cases that he has lost or dropped. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: A private airplane carrying singer Karol G made an emergency landing at a Los Angeles airport Thursday evening, a news report said.

The aircraft carrying the Grammy winner and others landed at Van Nuys Airport around 9 p.m. with no immediate reports of injuries, KABC-TV reported.

The plane left Hollywood Burbank Airport with 16 people and flew east but turned around when the pilot reported smoke in the cockpit, KABC reported.

The cause of the malfunction was not immediately known.

Karol G won her first Grammy and was named Billboard magazine's 2024 Woman of the Year in February. The Colombian singer-songwriter is expected to be honored at the Billboard Women in Music Awards on March 6. (AP)

HEALTH/SCIENCE

Legal battle puts fertility clinics at risk, sparks legislative response

Medical groups urge Supreme Court to revisit frozen embryo ruling

MONTGOMERY, Alabama, March 2, (AP): Groups representing Alabama doctors and hospitals urged the state Supreme Court on Friday to revisit a decision equating frozen embryos to children, saying the ruling is blocking fertility treatments and harming the medical community.

The Medical Association of the State of Alabama and the Alabama Hospital Association filed a brief supporting a rehearing request in the case that has drawn international attention.

Courts do not often grant such requests, but the organizations argued that the ruling is having sweeping consequences as fertility clinics pause IVF services. They also said it is creating a cloud of uncertainty for the medical community.

"Many aspiring parents will not be able to have children as a result of this court's holding. This is a tragedy across Alabama," lawyers for the organizations wrote.

Last month Alabama justices ruled that three couples could pursue wrongful death lawsuits for their "extrauterine children" after their frozen embryos were destroyed in an accident at a storage facility. The decision, which treated the embryos the same as a child or gestating fetus under the state's wrongful death law, raised

concerns about civil liabilities for clinics.

The defendants in the lawsuits The Center for Reproductive Medicine and the Mobile Infirmary - filed a rehearing request with the court Friday.

Attorneys for the providers argued that the ruling is not consistent with other state laws. The state's fetal homicide law and abortion ban were written to cover fetuses and embryos "in utero," meaning in the uterus.

They also noted that Alabama lawmakers are attempting to find a way to resume IVF services by proposing lawsuit protections for clinics, writing, "The rushed reaction by our Legislature to try to address the issues created by the Court's opinion would seem to indicate the Legislature's intent is not what this Court presumed."

The plaintiffs in the case had undergone IVF treatments that led to the creation of several embryos, some of which were implanted and resulted in healthy births. The couples paid to keep others frozen at the Mobile Infirmary Medical Center.

According to the lawsuit, in 2020 a patient wandered into the storage area through an unlocked door, removed several embryos from a chamber and dropped them on the floor, destroying them.



A student wears a mask and face shield in a 4th grade class amid the COVID-19 pandemic at Washington Elementary School on Jan. 12, 2022, in Lyn-wood, Calif. Four years after the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools and upended child care, the CDC says parents can start treating the virus like other respiratory illnesses. (AP)

Lack of definitive scientific support

Yogurts can make limited claim that food reduces risk of type 2 diabetes



This image provided by Intuitive Machines shows a view from the Odysseus lunar lander made with a fisheye lens on Feb. 22, 2024. Before its power was depleted, Odysseus sent this photo in its farewell transmission, received on Thursday, Feb. 29. (AP)

US moon lander Odysseus stops

CHEVY CHASE, Maryland, March 2, (AP): Yogurt sold in the U.S. can make claims that the food may reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes, based on limited evidence, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Friday

The agency agreed that there is some evidence, but not significant scientific agreement, that eating at least 2 cups of yogurt per week may reduce the chance of developing the disease that affects about 36 million Americans.

FDA has allowed qualified health claims - a claim that lacks full scientific support but is allowed as long as there are disclaimers to keep from misleading consumers - for dietary supplements since 2000 and foods since 2002. The agency had faced lawsuits that challenged the standard of requiring scientific agreement based on claims that it violated free speech guarantees.

Among the allowed qualified health claims: consuming some types of cocoa may reduce heart disease and cranberry juice might reduce the risk of recurrent urinary tract infections in women.

For yogurt, Danone North America, the U.S. branch of the French firm whose brands include Dannon, Activia and Horizon Organics yogurts, requested a qualified health claim in 2018. It submitted information from studies that observed participants over time and found a link between eating yogurt and lower markers of diabetes. The FDA agreed that there "is some credible evidence" of benefit from eating yogurt as a whole food, but not because of any particular nutrient in it.

COVID-19 no longer means 5 days in isolation, CDC states

Why are the guidelines changing?

NEW YORK, March 2, (AP): Americans who test positive for COVID-19 no longer need to stay in isolation for five days, U.S. health officials announced Friday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention changed its longstanding guidance, saying that people can return to work or regular activities if their symptoms are mild and improving and it's been a day since they've had a fever.

The change comes at a time when COVID-19 is no longer the public health menace it once was. It dropped from being the nation's third leading cause of death early in the pandemic to 10th last year.

Most people have some degree of immunity to the coronavirus from vaccinations or from infections. And many people are not following the five-day isolation guidance anyway, some experts say.

"Our goal here is to continue to protect those at risk for severe illness while also reassuring folks that these recommendation are simple, clear, easy to understand, and can be followed," said Dr. Mandy Cohen, the CDC's director,

However, some experts worry that the change may in-

crease the risk of infection for older people and others who are more vulnerable to getting seriously ill.

COVID-19 is not causing as many hospitalizations and deaths as it did in the first years of the pandemic. The change is an effort to streamline recommendations so they are similar to longstanding recommendations for flu and other respiratory viruses. Many people with a runny nose, cough or other symptoms aren't testing to distinguish whether it's COVID-19, flu, or something else, officials say.

It may not be as stringent, but the guidance emphasizes that all people with respiratory symptoms should stay home while they are sick, said Dr. David Margolius, the head of Cleveland's health department.

People are likely still contagious when they test positive, and that hasn't changed, said Jennifer Nuzzo, director of the Pandemic Center at Brown University's School of Public Health.

"What has changed is how much COVID is harming us as a population," Nuzzo said.

Officials noted that some other countries and California and Oregon have eased isolation guidance in a manner similar to CDC's latest change - and did not see an increase in cases.

If you have symptoms, stay home until your symptoms are mild and improving and it's been a day since you've had a fever. But then you can remain cautious by wearing a mask and keeping a distance from others However, the CDC guidance for workers at nursing homes and other health care facilities is staying the same. That includes a recommendation that medical personnel stay home at least seven days after symptoms first appear, and that they test negative within two days of returning to work. The agency is emphasizing that everyone should still try to prevent infections in the first place, by getting vaccinated, washing their hands, and taking steps to bring in more outdoor fresh air. Yes, and even some who understand the rationale for the change have concerns. "My biggest worry in all of this is that employers will take this change in guidance to require employees to come back to work ... before they are ready to, before they feel well enough, and before they are not likely to pose harm to their co-workers," Nuzzo said. COVID-19 remains especially dangerous to older people and those with other medical conditions. There are still more than 20,000 hospitalizations and more than 2,000 deaths each week due to the coronavirus, according to the CDC. Those 65 and older have the highest hospitalization and death rates.

working a week after touchdown

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., March 2, (AP): The first U.S. spacecraft to land on the moon since the Apollo astronauts fell silent Thursday, a week after breaking a leg at touchdown and tipping over near the lunar south pole.

Intuitive Machines' lander, Odysseus, lasted longer than the company anticipated after it ended up on its side with hobbled solar power and communication

The end came as flight controllers received one last photo from Odysseus and commanded its computer and power systems to standby. That way, the lander can wake up in another two to three weeks - if it survives the bitterly cold lunar night. Intuitive Machines spokesman Josh Marshall said these final steps drained the lander's batteries and put Odysseus "down for a long nap."

"Good night, Odie. We hope to hear from you again," the company said via X, formerly Twitter.

Before losing power, Odysseus sent back what Intuitive Machines called "a fitting farewell transmission."

Call: 24813805

Critics said the label change is not based on goldstandard randomized controlled trials that could have proven whether yogurt reduces diabetes risk

No single food can reduce the risk of a disease that is tied to overall diet, the advocacy group Center for Science in the Public Interest said. It also said the label change might raise the risk of diabetes by encouraging consumption of yogurt, including types that include added sugars, and mix-ins such as cookies and pretzels.

Marion Nestle, a food policy expert, said qualified health claims based on limited evidence are "ridiculous on their face.'

"Translation: If you want to believe this, go ahead, but it's not on the basis of evidence," she said.

ads on

this page



Yogurt is displayed for sale at a grocery store in River Ridge, La. on July 11, 2018. On Friday, March 1, 2024, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said yogurt sold in the U.S. can make claims that the food may reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes, based on limited evidence. (AP)



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Al Sahel take on Al Shabab

Al-Tadamon and Al-Arabi set for battle

By Khaled El Anzi Al-Seyassah/Arab **Times Staff**

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: Today, two exciting matches are scheduled in the ongoing Federation Cup Volleyball Championship for the 2023-2024 season at 5:15 pm., Al-Tadamon and Al-Arabi will face off, followed by a match between Al-Sahel and Al-Shabab at 7:15 pm. Both contests will take place at Al-Ittihad Hall in the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex.

The tournament kicked off two days ago, featuring a decisive victory by Yarmouk over Sulaibikhat, se-

VOLLEYBALL

curing a three-game sweep. This result advanced Yarmouk to the next stage while eliminating Sulaibikhat from the competition. The competition will run until the 21st of this month, with a total of nine clubs participating.

In a noteworthy achievement last Thursday, the "Kuwait" Al-Shabab team clinched the Federation Cup championship title by triumphing over Al-Arabi in the final match with a three-games-to-one score. Al-Qadisiya secured the third-place position after a similar victory over Kazma.

Gut-Behrami 'wins' super-G to pad his lead over Shiffrin

KVITFJELL, Norway, March 2 (AP): Swiss ski star Lara Gut-Behrami is gliding toward the overall World Cup title in the extended absence of defending champion Mikaela Shiffrin since a crash in January

Gut-Behrami won a super-G race Saturday to earn 100 race points and pad her lead to 305 over Shiffrin, who should return next weekend with six races left this season.

SKIING

That lead is likely to grow Sunday when Gut-Behrami, the Olympic champion, starts as the favorite for another super-G on the course that staged speed races at the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Games. Her 45th career World Cup win also was the eighth this season making it the most prolific in a long career for the 2016 overall World Cup champion.

"It's amazing," Gut-Behrami said. "I never expected to be ski racing at 32 and to be that consistent is something great. Working hard pays out."

Though Gut-Behrami lost time in the foggy upper section Saturday, she sped down the tricky second half and on seeing her leading time punched both fists down by her sides in satisfaction.

She then had to watch the next two racers - Austrian teammates Mirjam Puchner and Cornelia Huetter - take big leads at time checks in the top half that melted away toward the finish.

Following the championship match, Musleh Al-Rashidi, a member of the Board of Directors of Volleyball Federathe tion, along with Hussein

Al-Roumi, Director of the Al-Arabi Team, and Jassem Al-Nabhan, Director of Al-Qadisiyah, proudly crowned the winning teams in the first three places.



Kuwait Club youth team celebrates with the Super Cup.

Bayern drop points in 2,000th Bundesliga game with a draw

Lazio lose to AC Milan in bad-tempered home game

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The Kuwait

School Sports and Education Federation is

orchestrating the culmination of sports

activities for kindergartens at the Sheikh

Saad Al-Abdullah Hall Complex in Sabah

Al-Salem. Approximately 1,000 male and

female students from all regions of Kuwait

will participate in the festival, featuring

various sports and recreational activities

aimed at developing participants' capabili-

ties and fostering a love for sports, are it in

Federation, emphasized the commitment of

the Kuwait Sports Federation for School

Sports and Higher Education to their strate-

gy, "Our Talents in Our Schools 2021-

2022," which focuses on discovering, nur-

turing, and developing talented athletes

from kindergarten to university education

festival, building on the success of the inaugu-

ral edition last year. The technical committee expanded this year's activities, with over 100

kindergarten supervisors participating in the

festival-a notable achievement in the current

period. Al-Maqseed extended invitations to

dignitaries, including the Minister of State for

Al-Maqseed noted that this marks the second consecutive year for the kindergarten

Faisal Al-Maqseed, President of the

group or individual games.

across all educational regions.

it. Came back with an indi-

vidual action. Nothing else

and the second half was OK

one half is not enough,'

Also:

ROME: Three Lazio play-

ers were sent off as they lost

to AC Milan 1-0 in a fiery

Luca Pellegrini, Adam

Serie A home game.

nounced.

BERLIN, March 2, (AP): Bayern Munich's title hopes have suffered another blow.

Lucas Höler scored late for Freiburg to frustrate Bayern with a 2-2 draw in the Bavarian powerhouse's 2,000th Bundesliga game.

Bayern, the 11-time defending champion, was on the verge of cutting the gap to league leader Bayer Leverkusen to five points

until the 87th minute, when Höler struck a fine volley with his left boot inside the far post after the visitors failed to clear the ball.

Leverkusen can move 10 points clear at the top with a win at Cologne in their derby on Sunday. Ten rounds remain after this weekend.

"It's really annoying how things are going right now. For me personally, for everyone," said Jamal Musiala, who put Bayern in front. "We all want to win and be champions. We want to get titles and we just have to stay as positive as possible and push through, and play as well as possible to maybe (win) something still."

Bayern next hosts Lazio on Tuesday for the second leg of their Champions League round of 16 tie, needing to overcome a 1-0 loss from the first leg in

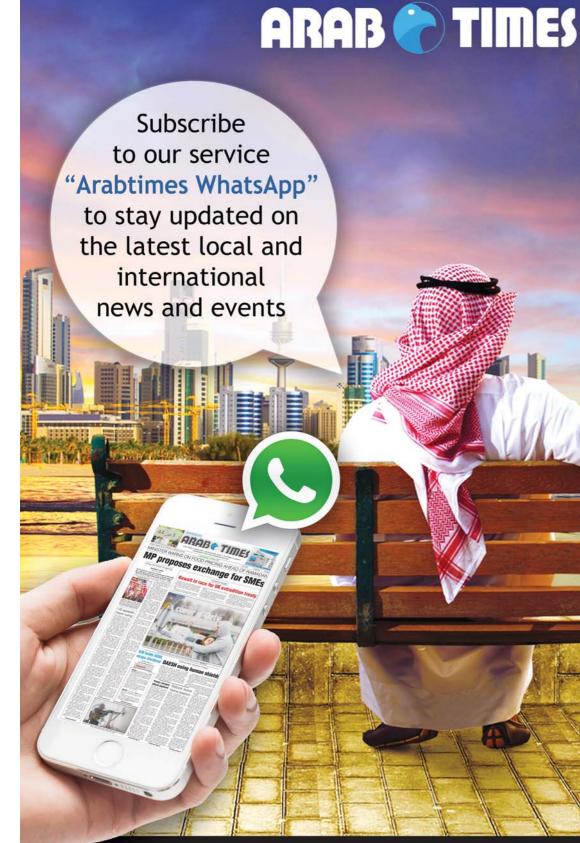


Kids taking part in the festival.

Kuwait School Sports festival for



Munich's Harry Kane kicks the ball during the Bundesliga soccer match between SC Freiburg and Bayern Munich at the Europa-Park Stadium in Freiburg Im Breisgau, Germany, Friday March 1, 2024. (AP)



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All four goals on Friday were spectacular.

Freiburg made a better start and Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer made a fine save to stop Roland Sallai's header, then Sallai hit the crossbar with an overhead kick, and Christian Günter struck the ball perfectly to send it inside the far post in the 12th.

Tel equalized in the 35th with a strike as sweet as Günter's inside the right The 18-year-old post. French forward, making a rare start because of Leroy Sané's injury, flicked the ball inside with his first touch and dispatched it past Freiburg 'keeper Noah

SOCCER

Atubolu with his next. Bayern was better after the break, when Atubolu saved from Musiala and Höler needed to clear Harry Kane's header off the line. Musiala scored in the

75th when he weaved through three Freiburg defenders and curled his shot inside the far post.

"It's just instinct," Mu-siala said. "You look to see what possibilities arise, with dribbling, with head, a change of movement, and see what you can create. Everything is seeing in the moment, what can I do."

But Höler had the final say to cost Bayern potentially decisive points in the league title race. "Mindlessly played first

half hour and punished for

PSL double-header in Rawalpindi called off because of rain

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, March 2, (AP): Two-time defending champion Lahore Qalandars finally got their first point in the Pakistan Super League after rain disrupted the country's premier T20 tournament on Saturday.

Both Lahore and Peshawar Zalmi got one point each after the umpire called the game off at 4 p.m. because of heavy

CRICKET

rain in Rawalpindi.

The evening game between Islamabad United and Quetta Gladiators was also scrapped and both teams got a point.

Lahore has lost six straight games in the absence of key Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan, who was ruled out before the tournament because of a back injury.

kindergarten draws to 'a close

National Assembly Affairs, the Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Communications, the Director General of the General Sports Authority, and Deputy Director-Generals, to witness the conclusion of kindergarten activities. These activities are seen as the foundation for nurturing a new sports generation emerging from the educational sector, reinforcing Kuwaiti sports' support for local clubs and national teams across various games and activities.

Expressing gratitude, Al-Maqseed thanked the Ministry of Education's kindergratitude, Al-Maqseed garten guidance, the general direction of physical education, and the educational development and activities sector for their unwavering support of the Union's activities and events.

Meanwhile, at Jaber Stadium's sub-field, the quarter-final round of the Warba Bank grass football league for the secondary stage will take place. The Al-Ahmadi region team will face the Jahra region, and the Capital region team will meet the Mubarak Al-Kabeer region. The winners of these matches will qualify to compete against the Hawalli region and the Farwaniya region in the next round. The final and third-place matches are scheduled for next Thursday, following the final on Tuesday.

Marušić and Matteo Guendouzi all saw red cards.

was possible at the time Another four Lazio play-ers were booked plus coach then. But sure, in the end, Maurizio Sarri for arguing Bayern coach Thomas with the officials. Five AC Tuchel said after his sec-Milan players were issued ond game since his end-ofyellow cards on a bad-tempered evening. Pellegrini was sent off season departure was an-

after 57 minutes when the score was 0-0, prompting a mini brawl.

Noah Okafor scored with two minutes remaining and a red mist descended on the Lazio players.

Marušić and Guendouzi were sent off in the dying minutes, and at the final whistle players from both sides squared up to each other.

Lazio was angered in the first half for not being awarded a penalty. Milan had a goal disallowed for offside with a quarter of an hour remaining. The result took third-placed Milan to within a point of Juventus. Juventus plays Napoli on Sunday.

Lazio remained in ninth place.

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SPORTS

Thousands gather for Gulf Bank 642 Marathon



Minister of Youth, Daoud Marafie, in a photo with a number of executive management officials at the bank

Active lifestyles and community spirit celebrated

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: On a day characterized by exceptional athleticism and a festive atmosphere, thousands of athletes, beginners, and individuals from every walk of life came together yesterday morning for the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, one of Kuwait's most significant sports and social events, distinguished by its worldwide acclaim.

With primary sponsorship from Gulf Bank and organization by Suffix Event Management Company, this year's marathon kicked off early morning on Souq Sharq Bridge, amidst an atmosphere buzzing with optimism and anticipation.

The excitement was heightened by the opportunity to journey through a spectacular marathon route, encompassing Kuwait's most iconic landmarks such as the Kuwait Towers, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Cultural Center, the Grand Mosque, Souq Al-Mubarakiya,Gulf Bank headquarters, and more.

Support sporting activities

The Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, and Minister of State for Communications Affairs, Daoud Marafi, praised the great turnout in participating in the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, which provides a good opportunity for amateur and professional runners.

He called on the private sector to follow Gulf Bank's example in or-



Walid Khaled Mandani, Mohammed Al-Qattan, and Ahmed Al-Majed with some of the winners.



Part of the events next to Gulf Bank's headquarters.



witnessed significant success, evident in the growing interest from local and regional participants."

He continued, "We look forward to consistently raising the bar for sporting events in the region. The outstanding success of the ninth edition of the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon fills us with great satisfaction. We hope that everyone had a day filled with sports and actively participated in community engagement."

Diverse Race Categories & Global Recognition

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon this year featured categories tailored to suit participants of different athletic abilities. These included a 5-kilometer race for walking or running, a 10-kilometer running race, and a half marathon covering 21 kilometers. Eligibility ranged from ages 11 and up for the 5-kilometer race, ages 16 and above for the 10-kilometer race, and ages 18 and older for the half marathon.

The Gulf Bank Marathon stands as the largest sports event held in the heart of Kuwait City, guiding runners through the scenic landmarks of Kuwait. Notably, the Gulf Bank Marathon is the sole marathon in Kuwait accredited by "World Athletics" with the prestigious "Road Race Label" designation and listed among international marathons by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS). Moreover, participants in the marathon have the chance to accumulate points and qualify for the 'AbbottWMM Wanda Age Group World Rankings," granting them entry into the world championship for



Part of the children's race activities that were organized in AI Shaheed Park

The Minister of Youth calls on the private sector to follow in the footsteps of Gulf Bank in organizing sporting events at this distinguished level.

Mohammed Al-Qattan: Pleased with this year's significant turnout and the diverse range of participants spanning various age groups and categories.

• The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon has evolved into a distinctive symbol of both local and global running events, embodying an effective blend of sports, social, and health initiatives.

• We are dedicated to promoting sustainability principles in society through the initiation of carefully curated programs and the sponsorship of impactful events.

• We thank all entities that contributed to making this day a memorable sporting and social event.

ganizing sporting events at this distinguished level, with each company adopting its own sport, indicating that the Ministry spares no effort in supporting these efforts, which are an important and complementary aspect of the state's efforts to support sporting activities.

Significant Influence on Community Health and Engagement

During this event, Mr. Mohammad Al-Qattan, the General Manager of Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank, expressed his satisfaction with the impressive turnout at this year's Gulf Bank 642 Marathon. He noted the diverse array of participants spanning different age groups and backgrounds, from athletes to beginners, and families of all generations.

During this event, Mr. Mohammad Al-Qattan, General Manager of Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank, expressed his delight at the substantial turnout for this year's Gulf Bank 642 Marathon. He noted the wide range of participants, including athletes, beginners, and families from different age groups and backgrounds. Al-Qattan emphasized that this diverse participation reaffirms Gulf Bank's commitment to promoting social sustainability, offering individuals the chance to participate in enjoyable and wholesome family sports activities.

Al-Qattan highlighted how the Gulf Bank Marathon has evolved into a distinctive symbol of both local and global running events. It embodies not only a sporting endeavor but also a social and health initiative eagerly anticipated annually both within and beyond Kuwait. He emphasized that the marathon serves as an invitation to shift towards a healthier lifestyle, encouraging regular exercise and walking as essential components of daily routines.

Furthermore, Al-Qattan stressed Gulf Bank's dedication to fostering community engagement through the initiation of carefully curated programs and the sponsorship of impactful events. He emphasized the Gulf Bank Marathon's positive influence in raising awareness about health and the significance of physical activity, particularly in addressing the increasing rates of diabetes, obesity, and heart disease. Al-Qattan expressed his appre-

Al-Qattan expressed his appreciation to everyone involved in organizing this remarkable sporting and social event. He offered special thanks to the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, the Municipality, the Public Authority for Sports, and all volunteers for their invaluable contributions.

Entertainment events.



Gulf Bank pavilion for contestants to rest.



Walid Khaled Mandani, Mohammed Al-Qattan, and Ahmed Al-Majed with some of the winners.



The joy of runners upon reaching the finish line.

Suffix Celebrates Gulf Bank 642 Marathon Success

Speaking on behalf of Suffix Sports Management Company, Mr. Ahmed age groups over 40 years old.

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.

Youngsters Shine at Gulf Bank Marathon's New Children's Category

The Gulf Bank Marathon introduced a new category for children aged 3 to 9 years old, with hundreds of young participants joining the event at Al-Shaheed Park on February 29, 2024. Each child showcased their spirit and enthusiasm.

ChatGPT: Gulf Bank Marathon Ranks Among the Best

ChatGPT considers the Gulf Bank Marathon to be among the best in Kuwait, distinguished by its unique route near the beautiful city of Kuwait. Not only is it tailored for experienced runners, but it also includes beginners and families, contributing to raising awareness and promoting sports.

Gulf Bank Booth

As part of Gulf Bank's efforts to engage with the public and customers, the Gulf Bank booth at the marathon featured numerous activities and events that attracted many participants.

Kuwait University Competition: Unveiling Local Talent

Highlighting local talent, Kuwaiti students were engaged in a competition at Kuwait University.

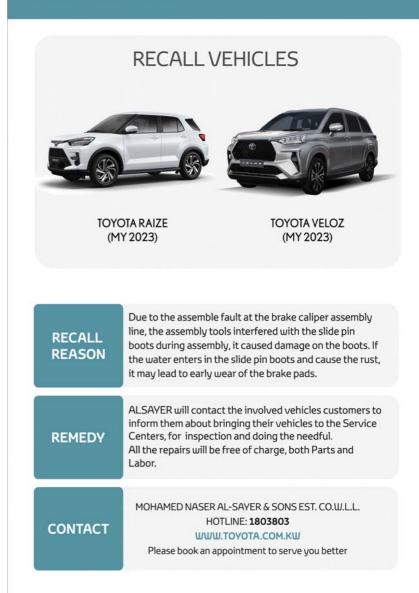
Promoting Social Sustainability

The marathon and its route are tailored to inspire participants to enjoy this delightful family day, regardless of their regular exercise habits. Gulf Bank launches the ninth edition of the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon', reaffirming its dedication to promoting social sustainability across the country. **Ahmed Al-Majed:** We take pride in sustaining our partnership with Gulf Bank to orchestrate this remarkable event.

• We look forward to consistently raising the bar for sporting events in the region by organizing exceptional sports activities.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSRY





This Recall is run pursuant to articles (42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48) of no. (27/2015)

issuing the excutive bylaws of law no. (39/2014) on Consumer Protection

Al-Majed, the General Manager, expresses, "We take pride in sustaining our partnership with Gulf Bank to orchestrate this remarkable event. With each passing year, the marathon has



Sacramento Kings guard Malik Monk (front), shoots as Minnesota Timberwolves center Karl-Anthony Towns (32) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Minneapolis. (AP)



Latest sports scores at — http://sports.arabtimesonline.com



A group photo of the Gulf Bank team, surrounded by senior executive management officials. On a day characterized by exceptional athleticism and a festive atmosphere, thousands of athletes, beginners, and individuals from every walk of life came together yesterday morning for the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, one of Kuwait's most significant sports and social events, distinguished by its worldwide acclaim. - See Page 15

Kuwait Club & Al-Arabi set for epic showdown in Zain Premier League

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: Soccer enthusiasts' focus shifts to Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium as Kuwait Club and Al-Arabi clash in a crucial seventeenth-round match of the Zain Premier League at 7:35 pm today. Preceding this matchup is the faceoff between Kazma and Al-Fahaheel at the Friendship and Peace Stadium at 4:55 pm.

SOCCER

Al-Arabi, the league leader with 39 points, aims to achieve multiple objectives in this encounter. They seek to confirm their dominance over Kuwait Club after a convincing 3-0 victory in their previous meeting. Additionally, they aim to widen the point gap with their closest rivals, Kuwait Club (37 points), and surpass the forty-point milestone.

Despite missing key players like Sultan Al-Enezi, Badr Tariq, Hassan Humaidan, and Saif Al-Hashan, Bosnian coach Darko Nestorovic has crafted a cohesive team



A file photo of Al-Arabi and Kuwait Club players showing sportsmanship

Clippers lose Westbrook in 'blowout' win over Wizards

LOS ANGELES, March 2, (AP): James Harden scored 21 of his 28 points in the second quarter and Los Angeles beat the Washington Wizards 140-115 on Friday night in a game marred by the loss of Clippers guard Russell Westbrook to a fractured left hand.

Westbrook, who had six points and one assist in 10 minutes off the bench, appeared to sustain the injury trying to poke the ball away from Jordan Poole with 10:01 left in the second quarter. Westbrook left with 8:10 remaining in the quarter.

Celtics 138, Mavericks 110

Sixers handle Hornets



that has successfully met its goals.

Darko understands the significance of a victory in extending the lead over competitors and defending champions. A loss, however, would be a setback, especially after their exit from the Amir Cup tournament.

On the flip side, Kuwait Club has regained its form recently, clinching the Super Cup title by defeating Al-Qadisiya in the semifinals and Kazma in the final with a score of 2-1. Kuwait Club has multiple aspirations for this match, including seeking revenge against Al- Arabi reclaiming the top spot,

and advancing in their quest to retain the championship title.

It's noteworthy that Kuwait Club defeat to Al-Arabi in the first division led to the departure of Serbian coach Boris Bunjak, who was replaced by Tunisian Nabil Maaloul. Maaloul has successfully maintained an undefeated record since taking charge.

In the opening match of the round, Khaitan secured a 2-1 victory over Al-Shabab, positioning them in ninth place with 12 points, while Al-Shabab remains in eighth place with 14 points.

In Boston, Jayson Tatum made five 3-pointers and scored 32 points and Boston overcame Luka Doncic's second straight triple-double to beat Dallas and extend its season-best winning streak to 10 games.

Jaylen Brown added 25 points and seven rebounds and the Celtics made 21 3s in their second victory of the season over Dallas. They lead the NBA at 47-12

Kings 124, Timberwolves 120, OT In Mineapolis, Malik Monk scored 35 of his 39 points in the second half and overtime and Sacramento outlasted Western Conference-leading Minnesota.

Anthony Edwards, Minnesota's

runner-up in the Asian Club Cham-

The tournament's final is sched-

uled for March 5. In the recent

matches, Kuwait Club secured a

victory over Al-Shabab of Bahrain

with a score of 36-34, claiming the

second spot behind Al-Rayyan of

Qatar and securing a spot in the

semi-finals alongside the Qatari

pionship.

team

Kuwait Club face Al-Arabi in marguee clash in Doha

Kuwait handball league resumes after 11-day hiatus

By Khaled El Anzi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: After an 11-day hiatus due to national holidays, Kuwait handball league resumes today with the commencement of the fourth round. The league was temporarily suspended on February 22 following the conclusion of the third round.

Today's schedule features three exciting matches to kick off the fourth round. At 4:30 pm, Kazma and Al-Fahaheel will face off, followed by a match between Al-Tadamon and Al-Sulaibikhat at 6:30 pm. The evening concludes at 8:30 pm with a match between Yarmouk and Al-Sahel.

HANDBALL

Tomorrow's action includes two matches, with Al Salmiya playing against Al Arabi, and Khaitan facing off against Al Qurain.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Club and Burgan teams are currently competing in the 40th Gulf Club Championship in Doha, Qatar. Burgan is set to play against Al-Shabab of Bahrain at

2:00 pm in the consolation rounds for fifth to eighth place, where they will also encounter Oman's Oman and Emirati's Maliha.

In the semi-finals, Al-Rayyan of Qatar will compete against Al-Dair Al-Bahraini at 4:00 pm. The most anticipated match at 6:00 pm will feature Kuwait Club, the reigning champion, against Al-Arabi of Qatar, the host of the tournament and the

Kuwait Club player out jumps Bahrain's Al-Shabab players to score.

Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (left), and Chicago Bulls' Onuralp Bitim vie for the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago. (AP)

leading scorer, had 11 points in the first half but did not play after halftime due to personal reasons, according to team officials.

Bucks113, Bulls 97

In Chicago, Giannis Antetokounmpo dominated with 46 points and 16 rebounds and Milwaukee beat Chicago for its fifth straight victory.

The Bucks led by 14 at halftime and went on a 17-0 run after Chicago pulled within eight early in the fourth. Milwaukee is 8-7 since Doc Rivers took over as coach for the fired Adrian Griffin

Pelicans 129, Pacers 102

In New Orleans, Brandon Ingram scored 19 of his 34 points in New Orleans' franchise record-tying 48-point first quarter and the Pelicans beat Indiana to split a home-and-home set.

BASKETBALL

Coming off a 123-114 loss in Indianapolis on Wednesday night, the Pelicans were 20 of 22 from the field in the first quarter in racing to a 48-26 lead.

Warriors 120, Raptors 105

In Toronto, Stephen Curry scored 25 points, Jonathan Kuminga had 24 and Golden State beat Toronto for its eighth straight road victory.

After beating the Knicks 110-99 in New York on Thursday night, Golden State had to switch planes before enduring a long wait on the tarmac, finally arriving at its Toronto hotel shortly after 7 a.m. Friday.

Cavaliers 110, Pistons 100

In Detroit, Darius Garland hit eight 3-pointers and scored 29 points, Evan Mobley had 22 points and 17 rebounds and short-handed Cleveland held off Detroit.

Playing without Donovan Mitchell (knee soreness) and Caris LeVert (elbow), Cleveland led 77-52 in the third quarter, but only scored 19 fourthquarter points, allowing the Pistons to get as close as 107-100. The Cavaliers improved to 39-20.



Eid Al-Rashid with an official after the extention.

Eid Al-Rashidi extends contract

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: The Al-Qadisiya Club's Board of Directors has officially extended the contract of first-team football player Eid Al-Rashidi for the upcoming five seasons, set to expire in 2029.

The announcement of the contract renewal was made through the club's official website, accompanied by a photograph featuring Eid alongside Sheikh Fahd Talal, the head of the football team at Al-Qadisiya.

Al-Qadisiya successfully fended off attempts by other clubs to secure the services of

76ers 121, Hornets 114

In Philadelphia, Tyrese Maxey scored 33 points, Tobias Harris had 31 points and 12 rebounds and Philadelphia beat Charlotte.

The 76ers won for only the second time in six games but remain in the hunt for a top-four seed in the East-

the international striker. "Al-Asfar" conclusively settled Al-Rashidi's file, putting an end to speculations and discussions that had sparked widespread controversy on social media. In recent times, there were reports circulating about negotiations with multiple fan clubs expressing their desire to compete for his contract.

SOCCER

At 24 years old, Eid holds a significant role as one of the key players for Al-Qadisiyah. He is recognized as one of the top talents in Kuwaiti football, particularly in the attacking position.

ern Conference as they try and stay afloat in the standings until the hopeful return of last season's MVP Joel Embiid. They are 8-17 this season without Embiid and 5-8 since he went down in a Jan. 30 game and eventually needed knee surgery. The 76ers have said there is no timetable for his return.

ARAB 🕈 TIM **Editor-in-Chief** AHMED AL JARALLAH

Editorial Office: Airport Road, Shuwaikh

Telephone: 24813566 & 24849144 Fax: 24818267 P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait E-mail: arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

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