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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

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 on the commercial, urban, and even social movement.



Al-Jarallah

This is because Kuwait went 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.

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 work and 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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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.

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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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As the starting signal echoes through Souq Sharq, thousands embark on the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, a celebration of active lifestyles and community spirit. — See Page 15

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 Diplomacy 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 Turkey'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, xenophobia, 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 think-tanks, 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 Abdullah 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 wrong 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.

NewsWatch

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 surface-to-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)

Continued on Page 5

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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Part of the KRCS aid.

KUNA photo

diwaniya ديوانية

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 specific 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 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 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

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** wrote 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.

"Therefore, the countries of the world 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 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?"



Dr. Al-Dalal

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 license 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 enhanced 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 significance of truffles in Kuwaiti culture, describing them as emblematic of prosperity and cherished by the populace.

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 5 dinars.



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 expatriate working as a deliveryman on motorcycle 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

blood oozing from the back of his head, right ear and mouth. The ambulance arrived 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.

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 around 15 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 Sahl application to ensure uninterrupted processing of transactions without delays.

25 فبراير
FEBRUARY
National Day
الكويت
الوطنية

GLOBAL HOLDING CO. LONG LIVE INDO-KUWAIT FRIENDSHIP SINCE 1980 MUGHAL MAHAL

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.

oil slumps

The price of Kuwaiti crude oil fell by two cents on Friday to USD 81.82 per barrel, compared 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 demand 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 Algeria's growing role as a secure and reliable energy supplier.

Algeria positions itself as key gas supplier amid European energy shift

Algerian President Abdelmajid Tebboune said in a message on the summit's website that the gathering underscores 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 continent's second largest pipeline supplier of gas, after Norway. 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)

Market Movements 01-03-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
UAE	- DFM	+47.84	4,356.61	PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	-25.12	6,919.59
JAPAN	- Nikkei	+744.63	39,910.82				
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+866.25	65,486.46				
EUROPE	- Euro Stoxx 50	+17.09	4,894.86				
UK	- FTSE 100	+52.48	7,682.50				

Business

'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, measurable 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 outcome-based 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 outcome-based approach and are customized based on the client's desired outcome, risk tolerance, and investment horizon through sound levels of diversification.

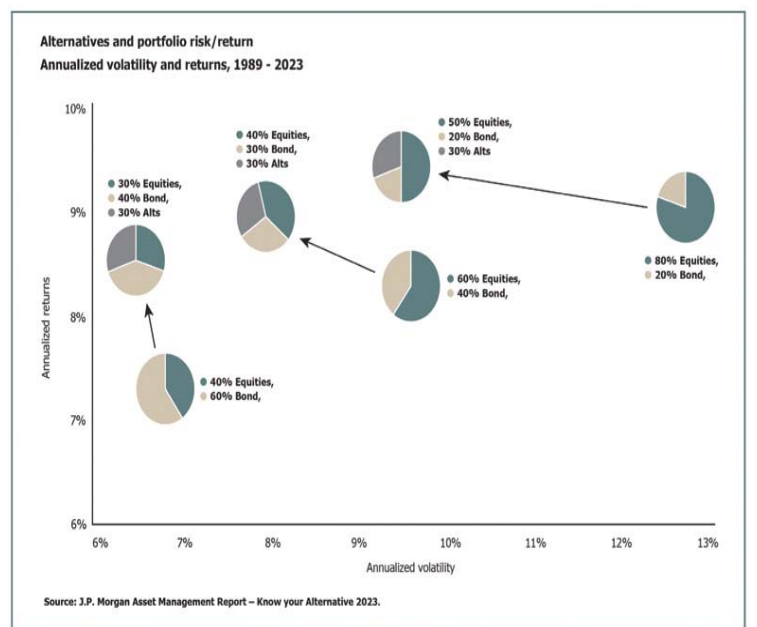
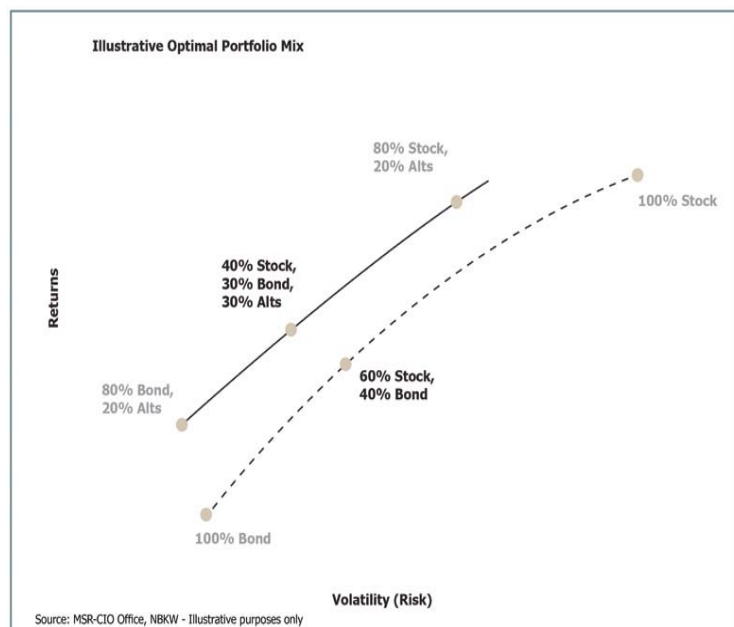
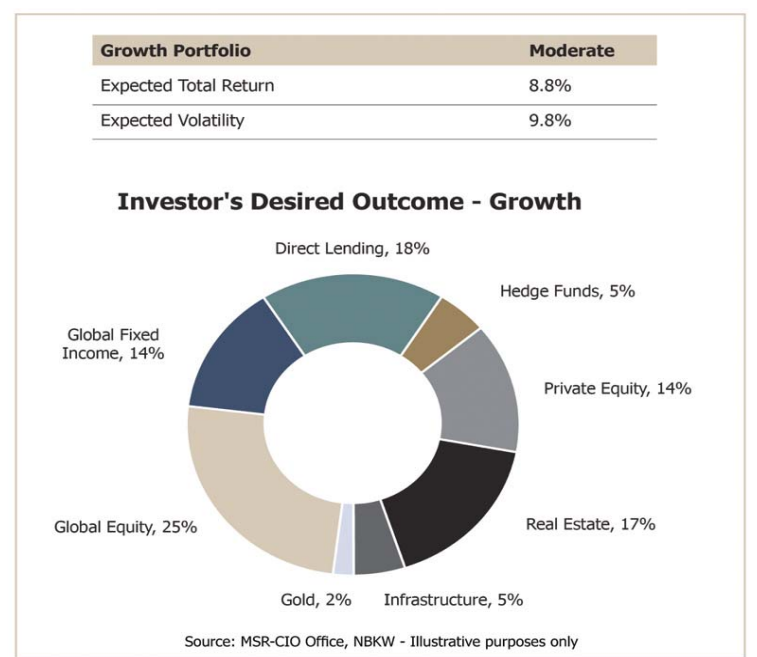
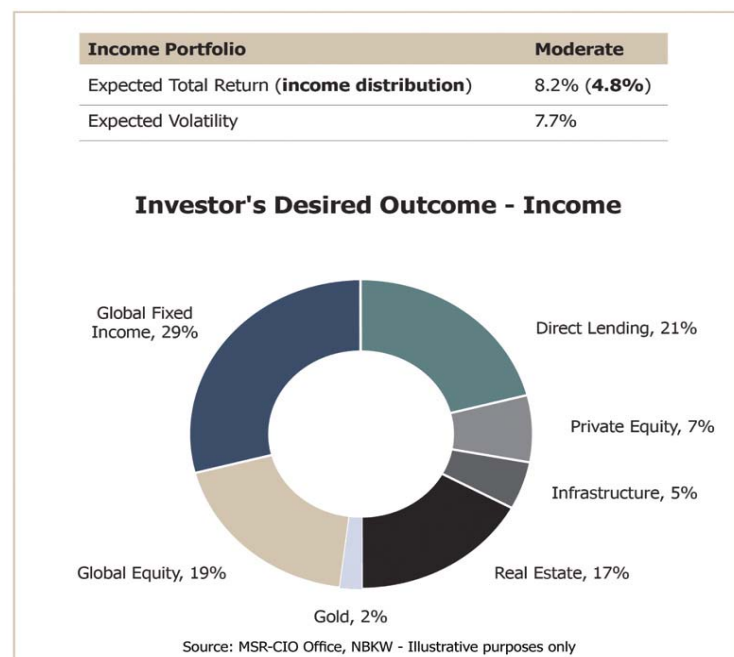
Alternative investments (usually privately held, illiquid, unlisted assets like commodities, real estate, private equity, private credit, as well as hedge funds) can potentially offer increased diversification and higher returns

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.



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 to clean energy with the aim of phasing out fossil fuels.

While 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 question 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.

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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 blue-chip stocks. However, momentum gradually picked up as the session progressed, with stocks such as Arzan, KFH, Watani, Mabane, 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.

Boursa Kuwait indices show uptick in final trading session

Premier market index rises, main market index sees marginal dip

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%.

■ 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-on-year growth in residential property prices.



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 Osama Al Mekhyal Assistant Undersecretary of Tourism inaugurated the event. Prominent Kuwaiti dignitaries present during the event included Sheikhah Halaah Bader Al Sabah and the media.

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

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

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait launches its Visa Platinum Cashback Credit Card

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.

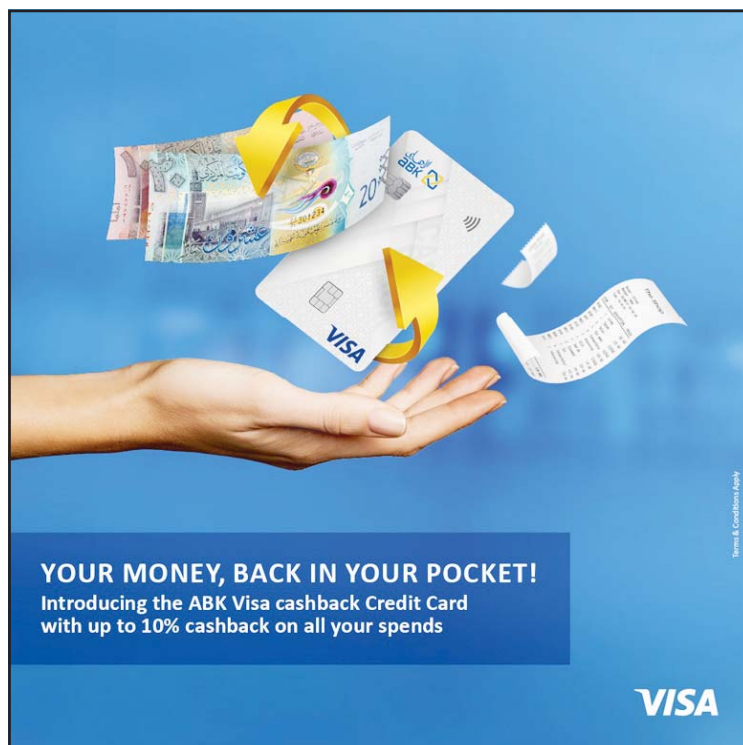
Offering an unprecedented and unparalleled cashback of up to 10% credited directly to cardholders' wallets, this card is designed to empower customers to maximize their spending power and enjoy a truly outstanding value for money as they go about their daily lives.

Expressing her enthusiasm, Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK said, "The ABK Visa Platinum Cashback is no ordinary credit card. It represents our commitment

to providing tangible, valuable cashback returns to 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



YOUR MONEY, BACK IN YOUR POCKET!
Introducing the ABK Visa cashback Credit Card
with up to 10% cashback on all your spends

ABK Cash Back Rollout flyer.

launch of the ABK Visa Platinum Cashback credit card, we feel confident in enabling customers to make 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 prod-

uct 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.

Night of organ marvels & vocal wonders

Dr Valentina Maria Baginska leads 'Great Masters For Organ' concert

KUWAIT CITY, March 2: Experience 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.

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,

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 title of a music ambassador for Poland.

Under the direction of Dr. Valentina Maria Baginska, Cantores Maiores Choir continues the legacy of 13 years of conductor activity in Kuwait.

Comprising talented individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, the choir aims to present the beauty and emotional richness of worldwide famous songs. Founded as The Embassy Vocal Ensemble "The Polish Singers" in May 2010, the choir has undertaken various 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. Peruvallanur, Dr. A. Hidayathullah, former Vice-President, initiated the whole ceremony. At the outset, the holy verses were 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. Siddeeqe 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 memento 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, TMCA 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. Youssef 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 Erumappati, 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 cross-country 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-

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 Associated 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.

Music

Variety



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

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-year-old 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 different 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.

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.

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)

Features

ARABO TIMES

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Legal battle puts fertility clinics at risk, sparks legislative response

Medical groups urge Supreme Court to revisit frozen embryo ruling

MONTGOMERY, Ala., 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.

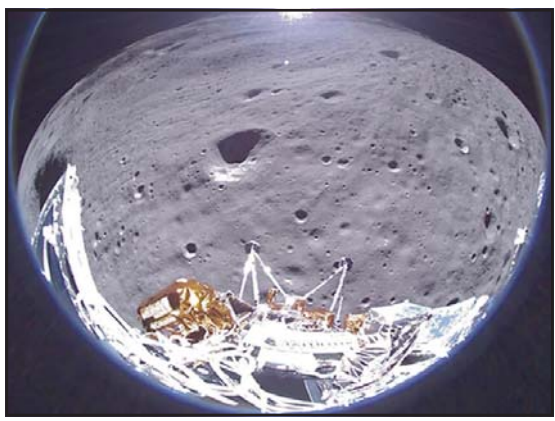
According to the lawsuit, in 2020 a patient wandered into the storage area through an unlocked door, removed several embryos from a chamber and dropped them on the floor, destroying them.



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 Lynwood, 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 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."

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.

Critics said the label change is not based on gold-standard 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.

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

increase 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 Margolis, 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.



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-Qadisiyah 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 Huebner - 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 the Volleyball Federation, 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

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 Rome.

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 post. The 18-year-old 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," Musiala 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



Kids taking part in the festival.

Kuwait School Sports festival for kindergarten draws to 'a close'

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' capabilities and fostering a love for sports, are it in group or individual games.

Faisal Al-Maqseed, President of the Federation, emphasized the commitment of the Kuwait Sports Federation for School Sports and Higher Education to their strategy. "Our Talents in Our Schools 2021-2022," which focuses on discovering, nurturing, and developing talented athletes from kindergarten to university education across all educational regions.

Al-Maqseed noted that this marks the second consecutive year for the kindergarten festival, building on the success of the inaugural 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

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 kindergarten 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.

Another four Lazio players were booked plus coach Maurizio Sarri for coaching with the officials. Five AC Milan players were issued yellow cards on a bad-tempered evening.

Pellegrini was sent off 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.

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.

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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 Marafie, 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 organizing 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 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.



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.



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

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

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 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.



Part of the children's race activities that were organized in Al 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.

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.

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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)

Sports

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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 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 semi-finals 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,



A file photo of Al-Arabi and Kuwait Club players showing sportsmanship.

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.

Kuwait Club face Al-Arabi in marquee 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 Malhiha.

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.

Clippers lose Westbrook in 'blowout' win over Wizards

Sixers handle Hornets

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

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 Minneapolis, 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



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.

Bucks 113, 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 fourth-quarter points, allowing the Pistons to get as close as 107-100. The Cavaliers improved to 39-20.



Eid Al-Rashidi with an official after the extension.

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

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.

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-

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.