**Technology:**

**PIF-owned SITE, Diriyah Co. team up to boost digital solutions**



RIYADH: Saudi Arabia’s push to enhance its cybersecurity services and technological infrastructure is set to gain momentum as the Saudi Information Technology Co., also known as SITE, and Diriyah Co. signed a memorandum of understanding.

The deal aims to promote cybersecurity and technological advancements in the Kingdom, as stated in an official announcement.

SITE CEO Saad Al-Aboodi underscored the significance of fostering secure and dependable digital prospects for partners while reinforcing collaboration among Public Investment Fund companies.

This step is an extension of SITE’s contributions to the safe digital transformation journey in the Kingdom, in line with the goals of Vision 2030, Al-Aboodi emphasized.

On the other hand, Diriyah Co. Group CEO Jerry Inzerillo highlighted the significance of the partnership between the firm and SITE in promoting cybersecurity and technological advancements.

This collaboration aims to foster a safe and secure digital landscape by sharing knowledge, resources and expertise, aligning with the goals of Vision 2030, Inzerillo said.

In 2022, Diriyah Co., one of the major projects of the PIF, was launched to develop and execute the Diriyah project.

It was working to make Diriyah a global destination that reflects authentic Saudi heritage while allowing visitors to unravel the Kingdom’s history.

In July, the Ministry of Commerce’s summary bulletin revealed that the number of cybersecurity firms registered in the Kingdom grew 52 percent to 2,229 in the second quarter from 1,462 in the year-ago period.

At the time, the bulletin also showed that Riyadh topped the list in issuing 1,424 registrations, followed by Makkah at 373, the Eastern Province at 278, Madinah at 56 and Qassim at 23.

The spurt in numbers echoed the global cybersecurity community’s outlook on the growing awareness in Saudi Arabia about internet threats as the Kingdom upgrades its legislation, regulations and infrastructure to meet the challenge.

Moreover, internet users in Saudi Arabia are becoming more conscious of cyber risks as 97 percent of respondents in a recent survey conducted by global technology firm Cisco in July said they take extensive measures to protect the security of their home connections.

Cisco’s Broadband Survey, conducted with over 21,000 people across 12 countries, included 2,000 respondents from the Kingdom.

“Our survey has confirmed that consumers in Saudi Arabia are increasingly prioritizing cybersecurity when using their broadband service, and this is aligned with the results of our previous study that revealed that 73 percent of consumers in the Kingdom worry about cybercriminals hacking their devices,” said Cisco Saudi Arabia Managing Director Salman Faqeeh at the time.

**Technology:**

**UN Security Council meets for first time on AI risks**



UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council held its first meeting on artificial intelligence on Tuesday where China said the technology should not become a “runaway horse” and the United States warned against its use to censor or repress people.  
Britain’s Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, who chaired the meeting under Britain’s July presidency of the body, said AI will “fundamentally alter every aspect of human life.”  
“We urgently need to shape the global governance of transformative technologies because AI knows no borders,” he added after saying that AI could help address climate change and boost economies. But he also warned that the technology fuels disinformation and could aid both state and non-state actors in a quest for weapons.  
The 15-member council was briefed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Jack Clark, co-founder of high-profile AI startup Anthropic, and Professor Zeng Yi, co-director of the China-UK Research Center for AI Ethics and Governance.  
“Both military and non-military applications of AI could have very serious consequences for global peace and security,” Guterres said.  
Guterres backs calls by some states for the creation of a new UN body “to support collective efforts to govern this extraordinary technology,” modeled on the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Civil Aviation Organization, or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.  
China’s UN Ambassador Zhang Jun described AI as a “double-edged sword” and said Beijing supports a central coordinating role of the UN on establishing guiding principles for AI.  
“Whether it is good or bad, good or evil, depends on how mankind utilizes it, regulates it and how we balance scientific development with security,” Zhang said, adding that there should be a focus on people and AI for good to regulate development and to “prevent this technology from becoming a runaway horse.”  
Deputy US Ambassador to the UN, Jeffrey DeLaurentis, also said there was a need for countries to also work together on AI and other emerging technologies to address human rights risks that threaten to undermine peace and security.  
“No member states should use AI to censor, constrain, repress or disempower people,” he told the council.  
Russia questioned whether the council, which is charged with maintaining international peace and security, should be discussing AI.  
“What is necessary is a professional, scientific, expertise-based discussion that can take several years and this discussion is already underway at specialized platforms,” said Russia’s Deputy UN Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy.

**Sport:**

**Antetokounmpo scores franchise-record 64 points to help Bucks beat Pacers 140-126**



MILWAUKEE: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored a franchise-record 64 points to help the Milwaukee Bucks outscore the Indiana Pacers 140-126 on Wednesday night.

Antetokounmpo broke the team record of 57 set by Michael Redd in 2006 in a 113-111 loss to the Utah Jazz. Antetokounmpo’s previous career high was 55 in a 123-113 victory over Washington in January 2023. He had 54 at Indiana on Nov. 9.

Antetokounmpo was 20 of 28 from the field, made 24 of 32 free throws and had 14 rebounds.

Antetokounmpo was tackled by Aaron Nesmith on a play underneath with 10:10 remaining, setting off a brief heated exchange involving several players. Nesmith was called for a flagrant-1, and Nesmith and the Bucks’ Bobby Portis were assessed technical fouls. Portis was later called for a second technical and ejected with 9:13 remaining, finishing with 19 points.

Damian Lillard added 21 points for the Bucks.

Tyrese Haliburton and Myles Turner had 22 points apiece for the Pacers, who beat the Bucks 128-119 in the semifinals of the In-Season Tournament on Thursday night.

**76ERS 129 PISTONS 111**

Joel Embiid scored 30 of his 41 points in the first half and Philadelphia handed Detroit their 21st straight loss to open a home-and-home series.

Detroit matched the longest streak in franchise history, set at the end of the 1979-80 season and start of 1980-81. It is the sixth-longest single-season losing streak in the NBA.

Only the 2010-11 Cleveland Cavaliers and the 2013-14 76ers (both lost 26 straight), along with the 1995-96 Vancouver Grizzlies, the 1997-98 Denver Nuggets and the 2011-12 Charlotte Bobcats (all lost 23 in a row) have lost more games in a row in a season. Philadelphia holds the overall mark of 28, set at the end of 2014-15 and start of 2015-16.

Detroit dropped to 2-22, with the teams set to meet again Friday night in Philadelphia. Bojan Bogdanovic led the Pistons with 33 points.

**LAKERS 122 SPURS 119**

Anthony Davis had 37 points and 10 rebounds and Los Angeles held off Victor Wembanyama and San Antonio, extending the Spurs’ franchise-record losing streak to 18.

The Lakers were without LeBron James, with the four-time MVP sitting out the first of two straight games in San Antonio because of left calf injury. The teams will meet again Friday night.

Wembanyama had 30 points, 13 rebounds and six blocks for San Antonio, which has not won since Nov. 2. Keldon Johnson added 28 points, and Malaki Branham had 16.

**PELICANS 142 WIZARDS 122**

Brandon Ingram scored a season-high 40 points, Trey Murphy III added six 3-pointers and 27 points and short-handed New Orleans had its best offensive showing of the season to rout Washington.

CJ McCollum had 22 points and Jonas Valanciunas added 16 points and 18 rebounds. Zion Williamson sat out because of a sprained ankle.

Kyle Kuzma scored 27 points for Washington. The Wizards lost for the 20th time in 23 games, the fastest the team has reached that loss total since the 2012-13 season.

**HEAT 115, HORNETS 104**

Duncan Robinson scored 23 points, Jaime Jaquez Jr. and Kyle Lowry each added 17 and Miami beat Charlotte to finish off a two-game home-and-home sweep.

Lowry was perfect shooting — 5 for 5 from the floor, 4 for 4 of those on 3-pointers and 3 for 3 from the line. Jimmy Butler had 15 points and 10 assists.

Terry Rozier scored 28 points for Charlotte.

**RAPTORS 135 HAWKS 128**

Pascal Siakam scored 33 points, Scottie Barnes had 27 points and 10 rebounds and Toronto beat Atlanta to end a four-game losing streak.

O.G. Anunoby added 22 points for the Raptors in the opener of a two-game home set against the Hawks. Trae Young scored 35 points and matched a season high with 17 assists, but Atlanta’s season-worst losing streak reached five.

The teams will meet again Friday night in Toronto.

**ROCKETS 117 GRIZZLIES 104**

Tari Eason scored a career-high 25 points, Jabari Smith Jr. added 20 points and 10 rebounds and Houston beat Memphis to extended its home winning streak to 11.

Eason came off the bench to shoot 10 for 16 and matched a career high with 14 rebounds.

Jaren Jackson Jr. had a career-high 44 points for Memphis.