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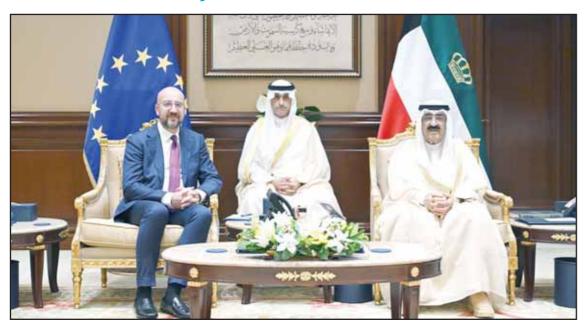
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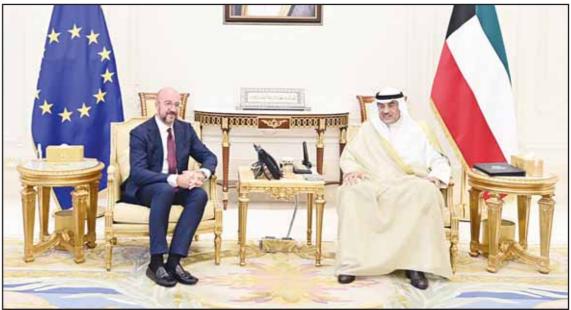
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16 PAGES

150 FILS

Kuwait Amir, Crown Prince receive visiting President of European Council





Amiri/Crown Prince Diwan photos

Left: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the European Council head. Right: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives the European Council head.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Wednesday at Bayan Palace visiting President of the European Council Charles Michel and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed the agenda of the first European Union (EU) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit which will take place in October

They also tackled the distinguished relationship between Kuwait and the EU

and ways to boost cooperation, various topics of common interest as well as the latest regional and international developments

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahva and other senior state officials.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also received at Bayan Palace visiting President of the European Council Charles Michel and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed the relationship between Kuwait and the EU, ways to boost cooperation, issues of mutual interest and the latest regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Director of the Office of His Highness the Crown Prince Gen. Jamal Theyab, and Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Ma'arafi.

Call for ceasefire

Group of nations pledge support for Palestinians

CAIRO, Sept 11, (KUNA): The Arab League, Ambassadors and Representatives of South America and the Caribbean states missions in Egypt affirmed their support for the Palestinian people rights, namely establishing an independent state within the 1967 borders.

This came in the closing statement of a meeting that grouped the Arab League's delegates with ambassa-



Al-Mutairi

tives of South African and Caribbean countries in Egypt. The session aimed at demonstrating support for Palestine in obtaining full membership in the United Nations.
Participants discussed neces-

sity that the Israeli occupation forces adhere to the council's decisions that call for a ceasefire in the occupied Palestinian territories

They also pointed out the importance of implementing

the UN General Assembly resolution dated 5/9/2024, which stresses its conviction that the State of Palestine is fully qualified for membership in the United Na-

They reaffirmed the need of peace as a strategic option to end the occupation and war based on international laws and relevant international legitimate resolutions, including Security Council 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 497 (1981), 1515 (2003), (2334) (2016), and the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002.

The participants submitted the meeting's final statement to the foreign ministers of their countries to adopt, and sign the contract for the 79th General Assembly session.

Continued on Page 5

Committee meeting to boost Kuwait-Egypt ties

CAIRO, Sept 11, (KUNA): Kuwait and Egypt are tied with deep-rooted historical relations at both official and unofficial levels, marking a model for pan-Arab

Based on deep cooperation and continued rapprochement in various domains over decades, both countries have always been sharing support and solidarity during all Arab events.

The unremitting convening of the Kuwaiti-Egyptian Higher Committee is the normal outgrowth of such close and firm ties between both sides.

In this regard, former Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammad Al-Orabi told KUNA that this year's 13th session of the joint committee was one of the outcomes of the significant visit recently paid by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Cairo.

The event comes at a time when the Arab region is undergoing critical circumstances that necessitate persistent consultation and coordination, given that it comes ahead of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which is expected to come up with decisive resolutions aiming at putting an end to the current regional tensions, he said.

The joint committee is meant to promote Kuwaiti-Egyptian bonds and to push them forward at all levels as clear-cut and unequivocal proof of deep relations between sisterly nations, the former minister noted.

Continued on Page 5

Food prices in Kuwait surge by 30 pct since start of 2024

Global scenario, wars push up inflation rates



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah takes an overview of the work progress at the new airport

GCC-Turkish FTA to give trade impetus

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Tuba Nur Sonmez said

that the anticipated

Free Trade Agree-

ment (FTA) be-

tween the Gulf Co-

operation Council

(GCC) countries

and Turkiye would

enhance trade co-

operation and new

investment oppor-

tunities for Ku-

waiti and Turkish



companies. In an interview with KUNA, Sonmez said that ongoing negotiations regarding the agreement cover a wide range of

Continued on Page 5

Gov't bodies, MPW must combine efforts to expedite work at T2: PM

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): The Kuwait International Airport's new T2 passenger terminal is seen as one of the country's mega developmental projects, said His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on

His Highness's aforementioned remarks came during the Cabinet's weekly meeting at the premises of the new project. Minister of Information and Culture Abdurrahman Al-Mutairi said, according to a Diwan statement, that His Highness the Premier after inspecting the terminal's site, directed the concerned government bodies to cooperate with the Ministry of Public Works in order to overcome all obstacles that might be faced in the execution of the project, as well as stressing the significance of speeding up work pace to meet the operation deadline.

In this vein, Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan displayed a visual presentation on latest developments in the project, pointing out the T2 is considered a modern and state-of-the-art "smart" project that would contribute to the civil aviation sector, one of the government's top priorities. Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) chief Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also showed a visual presentation on the project. His Highness the Prime Minister commended the "team spirit" of all who are involved in the "qualitative leap" that is the project, said Al-Mutairi, who is also Minister of State for Youth Affairs.

On the T2 terminal, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah also thanked the concerned government bodies for their relentless efforts to complete this vital project within the set timeframe.

Continued on Page 5

Chief of army stresses battle readiness in field trip to base

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain, affirmed on Wednesday the wise leadership's commitment to overseeing the affairs and conditions of the armed forces. He emphasized the importance of ensuring their readiness and preparedness, as they are the shields of the homeland and the first to respond to the call of duty in defending its security, stability, and territorial integrity.

This statement was made in a press release from the General Staff following an inspection visit by Lieutenant General Al-Muzain to the 26th Mechanized Brigade. He was received by the Commander of the Land Forces, Brigadier General Fahd Abdullah, the Commander of the 63rd Mechanized Infantry Battalion, and several officers from the brigade. During the visit, Lieutenant General Al-Muzain praised the efficiency, capability, and readiness of the armed forces members, highlighting their ongoing rehabilitation and training.

He wished continued success and fulfillment to the armed forces members, calling for their utmost efforts to protect the homeland and uphold

Continued on Page 5

Power cuts warned in residential areas

By Mohammad Ghanem Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The current high temperatures in the country have disrupted the calcuations of the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, forcing it to carry out programmed power outages in parts of five residential areas - Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential, West Abdullah Al-Mubarak, Rumaithiya, Salwa, and Bidaa.

According to informed sources, this measure is intended to maintain the stability of the electrical system and manage the increased demand for electricity during peak hours, which are from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, according to the ministry's

Continued on Page 5

By Najeh Bilal Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Head of the Kuwait Society for Consumer Protection Mishal Al-Manea has highlighted the significant rise in food prices in Kuwait since the beginning of 2024.

He attributed this increase to several key factors, with the primary one being a surge in the shipping and transportation costs in recent months compared to the end of 2023.

Al-Manea explained that increased demand and ongoing crises in the Red Sea have impacted global shipping rates and consequently led to higher prices in the

The shipping costs were lower last year when shipping routes were operating normally. The combination of higher shipping and transportation costs, along with rising global inflation rates, has contributed to an increase in the prices of basic commodities in Kuwait by approximately

The ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war continues to influence the rise in prices, particularly for food items. The prices of some food commodities have increased up to 28 percent this year.

Continued on Page 5



Iraq and Iran sign 14 MoUs in key sectors

BAGHDAD, Sept 11, (KUNA): The Iraqi and Iranian governments signed on Wednesday 14 Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) in several

The signing of the MoUs came during Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad Al-Sudani's reception of Iranian President

Masoud Pezeshkian. The MoUs

covered

and

tistic,



antiquities cooperation, and educational fields. The ments called for boosting media, communi-

training, youth

sports, cultural, ar-

and

cation, religious tourism, free trade, agricultural and natural resources cooperation.

BAGHDAD: Iraqi security forces said on Wednesday they are investigating an explosion that hit Baghdad Inter-

national Airport earlier in the day.

The explosion targeted a US-led coalition's military base at the airport at 2:30 local time (23:30 GMT), the Iraqi security media cell said in a press release. (KUNA)



Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwait Army Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain being briefed on the nature of the tasks and duties carried out by the Sabah Joint Force Command.

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening at times northwesterly wind to northerly wind, with speeds of 10-42 km/h with a chance for rising dust over

By Night: Hot to rather hot with

Weather

light to moderate northwesterly Failaka Island 47 27 wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h. Ahmadi 48 32 Station Max Exp Jal Aliyah 48 32 **Kuwait City** Nuwaisib 49 32 **Kuwait Airport** 49 Wafra 49 Abdaly Salmy

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

Kuwait presents 3 working papers at 9th meeting of Endowments in GCC

Artifacts discovered under burned section of Souq Mubarakiya

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: About three weeks ago, Kuwait Municipality teams uncovered a collection of artifacts including pitchers, plates, decorations, and stone columns that were buried in the burned section of Souk Mubarakiya during excavation work for the Mubarakiya reconstruction project, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting informed sources.

They explained that the area where the historical columns were found has been cordoned off, and the artifacts have been gathered in a designated location. The handling of these items will be overseen by the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL), in coordination with the project consultant, to decide whether to integrate parts of the columns into the project or to extract them for display in a museum.

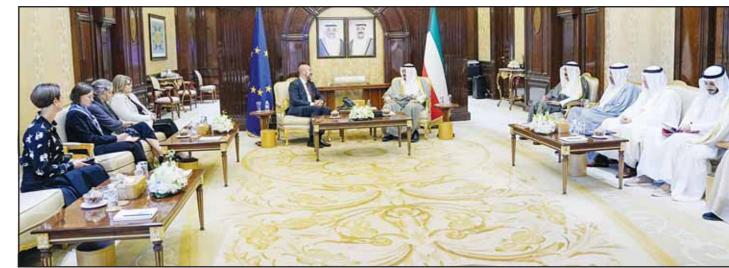
The NCCAL will determine the dating and significance of the found pieces. Meanwhile, work on the remaining parts of the project will continue as scheduled

However, sources from the NCCAL indicated that they have not yet received information regarding these discoveries or the specifics of the pots and columns found.

GCC Islamic Affairs' meeting: Kuwait presented three working papers at the ninth meeting of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs undersecretaries in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member-states held in Doha, Qatar recently, reports Al-

In a press statement, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs Dr. Bader Al-Mutairi disclosed that two of the three working papers entitled, "Gulf Week for Family Awareness," and "Vision for Rationalizing Electricity in Mosques," were referred to the Permanent Committee of Experts; while the third paper entitled, "Developments in Confronting Deviant Ideas," aims to highlight the true image of Islam.

He confirmed that the undersecretaries approved the proposals to take care of people with disabilities and to preserve historical mosques. He said Kuwait's Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs is closely coordinating with its counterparts in other GCC countries to achieve moderation and



HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah receives visiting President of the European Council Charles Michel and his accompanying delega-

Kuwait-EU relationship, ways to boost cooperation being discussed

PM Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah receives European Council President

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received on Wednesday at Bayan Palace visiting President of the European Council Charles Michel and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed the relationship between Kuwait and the EU, ways to boost cooperation, issues of mutual interest and the latest regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by Head of the Prime Minister's Diwan Abdulaziz Al-Dakheel, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, and Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Sadiq Marafi.

Minister forms panel to audit 66,732 disability certificates

Dr Al-Huwailah visits PADA to review automated systems

Kuwaiti FM receiving the visiting European Council president.

FM receives visiting European Council chief

Kuwait's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya received at Kuwait International Airport on Tuesday the President of the European Council, Charles

The two sides also delved into the latest developments in the preparations for the Gulf-European summit scheduled to be held in October in Brussels.

KUNA photo

Other Voices

A short verbal friendship ... and a quick, sad ending

By Ahmed alsarraf

My relationship with him began when I received a package from my colleague, Professor Abdullah Bishara. It contained a selection of English books and a business card with the sender's name, though it did not include his formal family name.

Curious, I asked Brother Abdullah about him, as I had neither met

nor heard of this Sheikh. Abdullah described him as one of the kindest and most respected men in the family, someone who preferred not to use his title. He added that



ings, and the books were a gift he had brought for me from London, where he was residing at the time.

"As I went through the books, their titles revealed the depth of the Sheikh's intellectual curiosity and refined taste. The first was The Return by Libyan-American writer Hisham Matar, whom I hadn't encountered before.

The second was My Friends by the same author. There was also We Are Your Soldiers by British writer and Arabist Alex Rowell, and Wahhabism by Cole Bunzel, which delves into the history of the Wahhabi movement. These were accompanied by several other valuable books that I can't fully detail

Some of these books shifted my perspectives and introduced me to new areas of knowledge. They introduced me to the wonderful work of Hisham Matar, a globally renowned novelist, whose elegant English prose has been admired by many, including President

I also thoroughly enjoyed his other books, and found in Wahhabism a wealth of information, much of which is unknown even to lifelong followers of the movement. As for Alex Rowell's book, it sparked

a deep desire in me to translate and publish it, wanting to share with Arab readers the hidden aspects of President Nasser's life.

However, after much effort, I discovered that the translation and publishing rights had already been acquired by a Lebanese publishing house directly from the author.

Despite my efforts, this house did not proceed with publication due to financial constraints, specifically a shortage of "dollars. I called the Sheikh to thank him for

the books and a second gift -- a luxurious assortment of chocolates. He interrupted me, insisting I not use any titles when addressing him, nor thank him, as he valued the enjoyment he found in reading my work far more than any material gifts. When he returned from abroad, I tried to reciprocate his kindness, but he graciously declined to share his home address, repeating his gratitude and respect.

He promised that we would meet soon, once he could move more easily, as he was dealing with knee pain at the

Our conversations continued, albeit only by phone, with repeated promises to meet in person. In the meantime, I inquired about him through his relatives, all of whom spoke highly of his gener-

osity and wonderful character. My eagerness to meet him grew, but yesterday, I received a message from one of his cousins who lives with him

The message read, "Dear Abu Tariq, I regret to bring you sad news. Sheikh Badr Nasser Humoud Al-Sabah passed away in London this week. He held you in the highest regard and deeply respected you, so I felt it was important to share this with you."

* * *

As I read the letter, a strange and profound sadness washed over me. Although I never had the chance to meet the deceased, I had always felt a deep connection, as if there were countless things that would have naturally brought us together in conversation.

I was certain we would have enjoyed talking about them, had fate allowed us to meet. But as destiny would have it, that meeting never happened.

The deceased might be the only person whose passing brought me such sorrow, despite never having met him in person -- save for a few phone calls that revealed glimpses of his beautiful personality and rich intellect.

Yet he passed without ever knowing the profound positive impact he had on me. It was a brief, verbal friendship, but its end came as a surprising and deeply saddening loss.

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



bled individuals. This is in confirmation to the article published by the daily on September 2 regarding 66,732 disability certificates under the microscope.

By Fares Al-Abdan

In this regard, informed sources explained that Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah instructed the committee to thoroughly audit all files without exception. Anyone found to have committed violations will be referred to the concerned authorities, and any improperly received financial allocations or other benefits will be reclaimed.

There will be accountability for any employee or official involved in tampering with the files of the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA).

Meanwhile, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah visited the Public Authority for Disability Affairs to review the automated systems linked to the authority's mechanization system.

During her visit, she inspected the Information Systems Center alongside the Director of Administration. Dr. Al-Huwailah confirmed that the work was progressing and meeting the needs of the visitors. She directed the authority's leaders to address and correct a system malfunction with the utmost urgency and effort.

Case against ex-MP delayed for next wk

By Jaber Al-Hamoud Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Court of Appeals adjourned to next week the trial of former MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei due to his inability to attend the session on Wednesday because he is currently receiving treatment in the hospital.

În June, the Criminal Court sentenced Al-Tabtabaei to four-years imprisonment with hard labor. The Public Prosecution had charged him with insulting Amir and encroaching on his powers through a post on his X account.

The Criminal Court, in its ruling, stated that Al-Tabtabaei was subjected to a felony penalty because he had previously been convicted of a felony for which he received a pardon from the Amir. Despite this, he committed the current offense by publicly challenging Amir's rights, criticizing him, and attempting to incite public opinion against him.



Kyrgyz Minister of Health (2nd right) during the opening of the hospital project.

Al-Safa Charity inaugurates endocrinology and dialysis hospital in Kyrgyzstan capital

BISHKEK, Sept 11, (KUNA): Al-Safa Charity and Humanitarian Society, inaugurated an endocrinology and dialysis hospital in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek, on Wednesday, with support from the General Secretariat of Kuwaiti Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Af-

During the opening ceremony, which was attended by Kyrgyz Health Minister Alymkadyr Beishenaliev, the Chairman of the Society's Board of Directors, Mohammad Al-Shaya highlighted the significance of this new medical

Al-Shaya emphasized that the hospital project enhances Kuwait's leading role in humanitarian work, showcasing the country's positive contribution to humanitarian efforts worldwide.

He also stressed the importance of implementing healthcare projects that align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, while praising the strategic partnership between Al-Safa Charity and the General Secretariat of Awqaf, which has led to numerous exceptional international projects.

On his part, Nasser Al-Hamad, the Acting Secretary General of the Awqaf Public Foundation, noted that the hospital was one of the few specializing in endocrinology and dialysis in Kyrgyzstan.

He explained that the hospital

was initially built years ago but construction was halted due to financial challenges, the charity's mission was to complete and fully

equip this hospital. Al-Hamad affirmed Kuwait's ongoing commitment to Islamic cooperation through governmental support, partnerships, and agreements fostered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other sectors focused on development and international cooperation.

This hospital opening was part of a series of humanitarian projects by Al-Safa Charity in Kyrgyzstan, as part of its 16th charity campaign, which began on Sunday and will continue until 13

From museums to historical sites

Ministry organizes tours to 32 key landmarks for students

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Ministry of Education has specified 32 tourist and historical landmarks and cultural and scientific facilities that students can visit throughout the 2024/2025 academic year, reports Al-Anba daily

The daily obtained a copy of the circular that Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities Maryam Al-Enezi issued recently. She revealed in the circular that the School Activities Department -- in coordination with other government agencies, public institutions and private companies -- organized scientific and social

tours for students. She explained these tours will instill loyalty to the homeland among the students as they will be given an opportunity to learn about historical landmarks and various cultural facilities.

She said the ministry arranged the field trips in response to the request of the schools and in line with the curricula. She disclosed the Educational Activities Department arranged tours in KidZania, Arjan Bidaya Center, Yawm Al-Bahar Heritage Village, Sheikh Mubarak Kiosk Museum, Kuwait Maritime Heritage Museum, Kuwait National Museum, Kuwait Police Museum, Qurain Martyrs House Museum, Red Palace Museum, Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Kuwait Water Distillation Station, Farah Specialized Center for the Elderly, Zakat House, Small Forest, Grand State Mosque, Bayt Al-Othman Museum, Al-Babtain Library, Ahmad Al-Jaber Gallery, Hamed Al-Fuzaie Museum, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Museum of Modern Art, Kuwait National Library, American Cultural Center, Scientific Center, Scientific Club, Nursing Institute (for Grade Nine students only), Kuwaiti Danish Dairy Company, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center and Bayt Al-Hamad Gallery.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'How religion and education used to dismantle societies'

"HOW much time do we need to dismantle and demolish an entire society, so that it becomes easy to control it and change its course from forward to backward? A personality who summed up the issue in 1960, said that all this could happen within a period of 15 to 20 years. But why so long?"

columnist and former deputy director-general of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Iqbal Al-Ahmed wrote for Al-Qabas daily. "Since it is



an entire gen-Iqbal Al-Ahmed

eration, whether good or bad; the elements of dismantling society during this period are sufficient to morally dismantle it, and then successfully complete this task. This is the period required to educate one generation of students or children. "The steps required to destroy soci-

ety are focused on:

"First: In the case of religion, it is by destroying it, belittling it, and trivializing it, reversing its priorities, focusing on its superficial aspects, and distancing itself from its essence, and reversing it until the doctrine slowly erodes.

'This is in addition to dividing loyalty from national loyalty to sectarian, doctrinal, tribal loyalty, which is likely to fragment the homeland and increase the chances of conflict and disputes and increase the rate of hatred and grudges, which may drag loyalty to the homeland alone to undesirable

"The more this erosion increases, the more society will disintegrate and fragment, because each group will present its priorities in a different way from the other, and thus conflicts will begin to impose priorities.

"Religion is established by replacing it with certain sects and exciting matters, and distancing people from God, and occupying them with matters that have no connection to the spirit of religion and its true origins, meaning that a slow erosion of the faith occurs, by occupying people and distancing them from religion, and from its basic purpose, as long as these matters paralyze them, they certainly distance them from direct and healthy contact with their Creator or the higher entity.

"Second: Focusing on teaching useless, impractical and ineffective things, things that do not benefit them in their lives, teaching them about modern wars, and side issues about economics and food, meaning teaching them anything, in a superficial manner, not based on thinking, analysis and deduction.

"As long as all these matters, and in this manner, distract them from developing their society with effective, serious and useful building elements, society is on the right path to backwardness and death.

"The erosion of the foundations of some of our practices, which we have become accustomed to in our daily lives in Kuwait, and in various fields, unfortunately, is dragging us backwards without us realizing it, and without our government realizing its danger, which requires ringing the bell loudly, even noisily, so that perhaps those who are daydreaming will wake up and rub their eyes, and see the painful truth.

"Student and media circles have interacted with the issue of the toxins of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students elections, and have joined us in calling for stopping or postponing these elections, which I believe there are circles benefiting from the current situation calling for expediting and bringing forward their date.

"Therefore, I repeat and reiterate, and I and many others who are jealous of the interests of the student community, the necessity of taking action to stop it, and studying all the flaws in it, because the university stage represents a very important aspect of the elements of guiding society, either forward or backward.

"The division of students in their elections, whether tribal, sectarian or ideological, is the destruction of the new generation, because this thinking will move with them to the ministries, institutions and organizations, and to every place where they will work."

Also:

"For years, we have consistently urged the state to take more serious steps toward achieving agricultural selfsufficiency. The increasing demands for this goal are, in our view, justified, particularly in light of past experiences, columnist Dr. Issa Mohammed Al-Amiri, wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"Over the decades, it has become clear that achieving self-sufficiency plays a crucial role in safeguarding national security, reducing the dependency on imports. The strongest evidence for this was seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, when international borders closed, and imports were halted due to the global crisis.

"Now is the time for Kuwait to prioritize agricultural self-sufficiency, as it has become an urgent necessity that demands attention.

"We hope the state will move toward adopting suitable policies to secure the requirements for self-sufficiency. This includes granting appropriate land to interested Kuwaitis who wish to engage in agriculture, in line with the unique weather conditions of this region.

"The provision of land should be at reasonable prices, and the necessary resources and support should be made available in an easy and accessible manner to facilitate this endeavor.

"Achieving self-sufficiency is crucial today. The state has the capabilities to establish such projects, and these efforts will not fail.

"The state's direct action on this matter is vital, as the need for locally produced goods grows by the day. Continuing to rely on foreign imports to meet domestic demand is simply unsustainable.

"Furthermore, if this goal is implemented correctly and in line with our circumstances, it can become a significant source of income for the state.

"This can lead to the eventual stage of exporting goods, drawing from the experiences of other nations that face similar environmental challenges as Kuwait.

"There is also a valuable opportunity to fully utilize Kuwait's climate during the period from November to April, when the weather is conducive to various agricultural activities.

"During this time, while many other countries experience harsh conditions, Kuwait can take advantage of its favorable environment to boost agricultural production.

"In conclusion, from our humble position, we urge the responsible authorities to take bold and decisive action in considering this proposal. This initiative will serve the country and provide an important resource, especially as we look ahead to the coming decades. May God grant us success.'

"A proverb that is well-known among Kuwaitis is "Hodeidah is Hot". It applies to our current reality: a wise man is often his own enemy", columnist Talal Al-Saeed wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"Every wise person sets boundaries for themselves to avoid the weight of responsibility. However, it is precisely at these times that even their closest relatives may abandon them, leaving them to face challenges alone. The first to withdraw are often those closest to you, such as your relatives and the very audience who applauded your every word. Don't place your trust in their support or expect them to act in a crisis. Just as they cheered when you raised the bar, they may also relish in your downfall.

"We don't make these observations lightly, as they are based on many experiences since 2000 up to the present day. We have witnessed symbols of popular struggle whose motives remain questionable, the disastrous "Arab Spring," and the unusual opposition that fled Kuwait to avoid legal consequences. These individuals later sought connections, maneuvered for leniency, and eventually returned after securing a pardon.

"Our concern, however, extends beyond these cases. Some have misled others into breaking the law, only to abandon them when legal judgments were handed down, fleeing the country while leaving their followers behind bars.

"Let every reasonable person understand this: those who fall will often fall alone. It is their families who will bear the consequences of their recklessness. We therefore warn - Be wary, distinguished people. The situation is extremely precarious, and the authorities will not tolerate any transgressions or abuses.

"Our constitution guarantees freedom of expression, and every Kuwaiti citizen has the right to voice their opinions in appropriate forums without fear. Constructive criticism of government officials is welcome, provided it is objective and aimed at the public good.

"We are all partners in this homeland, and each of us deserves respect for our viewpoints. It is essential that these views be taken into consideration. We also have the right to defend our opinions. However, this must be done within the bounds of what is permissible. There is a clear distinction between constructive criticism and crossing the line into disrespect or transgression, the latter of which is subject to legal consequences.

'Some "weak" individuals, tempted by the allure of fame and driven by the applause of those around them, may push their limits too far. They may become swept up in the excitement, but when they falter, they find themselves without the encouragement they once received.

"It is better for one to exercise restraint and leave matters to those in authority. This is not to say that one's opinions are to be suppressed, as Kuwait is not a police state, nor do we rule with an iron fist. However, it is important to recognize that those in charge will not overlook the need for moderation in discourse. The situation is delicate, and we must acknowledge that the circumstances are indeed very sensitive.'

> - Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyieh



Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences celebrates the graduation of 501 trainees.

KUNA photo

Saad Al-Abdullah Academy graduates 476 corporals, 25 policemen

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences celebrated the graduation of 501 trainees on Wednesday, including 476 corporals from its 41st batch and 25 police officers from its 94th batch.

The ceremony was held at the Martyrs' Hall at the academy under the patronage of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousuf Saud Al-Sabah, according to a press release from the General Directorate of Security Relations and Media at the Ministry of Interior (MoI).

The event was attended by Assistant Undersecretary of MoI for Education and Training Affairs, Major General Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of Saad Al-Abdullah Academy, Brigadier Ali Al-Wuhaib, and other security officials.

During his speech at the ceremony, Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled congratulated the graduates on joining the police force and conveyed the greetings and congratulations of Sheikh Fahad Yousef, as well as the Undersecretary of MoI, Lieutenant General Sheikh Salem Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

He urged the graduates to respect the security institution and its members, adhere to their oath, enforce the law with justice and equality without discrimination between citizens and residents, maintain a proper appearance, and respect the

PACI to delete 50,000 residential addresses due to counting errors

GTD employee gets 7 years jail for embezzling traffic fees

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Approximately 50,000 residential addresses have been deleted or will be deleted soon, after the Public Authority for **Civil Information (PACI)** identified errors in counting residential addresses in various governorates, reports Al-Jarida daily quoting informed sourc-

es. Meanwhile, government agencies that deal with individuals whose nationalities have been revoked have finished setting up their procedures within the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), the Ministry of Interior, and the Personal Investigation Department.

Sources explained that the civil identification numbers for these individuals will remain unchanged, but their unified numbers and nationalities will be updated on official documents and birth certificates.

If their original nationalities are known, these will be recorded on their birth certificates. For those with unknown original nationalities, their cases will be handled according to the regulations of the Central System for Remedying Status of Illegal Residents.

7 years imprisonment: The Criminal Court has sentenced an employee in the General Traffic Department (GTD) at the Interior Ministry to seven years in prison with hard labor, fined him KD 8,000 and dismissed him from his job for embezzling traffic transactions fees, reports Al-Anba daily.

Case files indicate that the Criminal Investigation Department in the ministry referred the accused to the Public Prosecution as he was found to have embezzled traffic transaction

DCGD on how to identify drug addiction

By Munaif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Drug Control General Department (DCGD) at the Interior Ministry recently issued guidelines on how to determine if someone at home is a drug addict, indicating drug abuse is considered a detestable crime and it is socially rejected.

The department enumerated seven methods to identify a drug addict at home as follows:

■ Persistence to do anything just to obtain drugs, as the desire to do so increases due to repeated drug consump-

■ Repeated loss of money or any household belongings, especially valuables.

■ Chronic lying, deception and fraud; as a drug addict is a habitual liar, his statements are contradictory, he exhibits symptoms of deception, and does not hesitate to engage in fraud and deception, because he cannot face

■ Appearance of new and unfamiliar friends, because a drug addict needs to make new friends due to drug use. ■ Continuous and unjustified absence, as a drug addict

disappears for hours or even days without any valid rea-

■ Spending a lot of money, as a drug addict searches for drugs in an unusual way and without any explanation.

■ Inability to estimate the distance; for example, a drug addict might cross the street without feeling he is doing so, because the drugs made him lose focus.

The department urged everyone to call the number 1884141 in case of any inquiry or to provide information, affirming it guarantees the confidentiality of such calls

fees -- around KD 4,000 by forging the seal and signature of the head of the concerned department.

3 expats to be deported: A security source revealed that Major General Hamad Al-Munifi, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Public Security Affairs, has ordered the deportation of three Asian -- over charges of blackmail

and threats, reports Al-Anba daily. The case came to light when a female expatriate reported the names of the individuals to the Salmiya police, stating they had been threatening and blackmailing her.

The suspects, who were employed at a cooperative society, were arrested and investigated. Upon conclusion of the investigations, the authorities were convinced the men were in fact involved in blackmailing the woman and decided to deport all the three men and also the female expatriate.

Restaurants in violations: Inspection teams from the Commercial Control, Inspection and Consumer Protection departments at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have inspected restaurants in Mubarakiya, and referred a number of violators to the Commercial Prosecution, reports Al-Rai daily.

Director of the Commercial Control and Consumer Protection Department Faisal Al-Ansari said "the inspection campaign covered the Capital, specifically Mubarakiya one of the most important herit age markets in the country. Several violation citations were issued for manipulating the weighing scale, selling or using subsidized flour and serving adulterated meat to customers. The owners of restaurants where the violations were uncovered have been referred to the Commercial Prosecution.'

Head of the Joint Committee in the same department Hamad Al-Mutairi added "we uncovered a number of violations related to commercial fraud. We are keen on protecting the rights of consumers and take the necessary measures against anyone proven to have committed violations.

Woman files complaint: A

24-year-old woman has lodged a complaint at Maidan Hawally Police Station against a young man who allegedly insulted her when they had an argument over a parking space in Shaab, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed that the young woman provided police with details of the vehicle of the accused. When police contacted the owner of the vehicle - a citizen, he said his friend, who is a Gulf national, is using the car. Police then contacted the Gulf national who went to the station on The officers asked the Gulf man

about the complaint and he told them that he was about to enter a market in the area when the complainant suddenly went ahead of him to take the parking space he was about to use. He denied the accusation that he insulted the young woman, indicating he merely told her to respect others, so she will be respected. However, she told him to "go away." A misdemeanor case was filed

and referred to the Investigations General Department at the Interior Ministry.



Mol photo

Some paper sheets soaked in narcotics.

Cell phones, knives seized

Narcotic-soaked papers seized from Central Jail

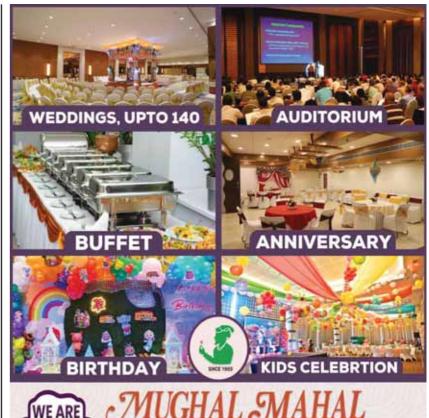
KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Personnel from the General Administration of Correctional Institutions, during an inspection campaign inside the Central Prison, have confiscated three rolls containing approximately 20 A4 papers, all soaked in narcotics, reports Al-Anba daily.

This is in addition to mobile phones, drug paraphernalia, phone chargers and knives.

The investigators are now in the process of identifying the sources as to how the contraband found its way into the facility and whether similar papers are circulating in The security officials are also checking the footage of

CCTV cameras in the belief they can nail the suspects involved in the case. The authorities at Kuwait's Central Prison say the rolls of papers saturated with narcotic chemicals were discov-

This marks a new method of drug smuggling within the prison complex, according to a security source who spoke to the daily.





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KSE & Social Fund ink MoU to revive Kuwait's popular cafés

Collaboration aims to enhance heritage spaces

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Kuwait Society of Engineers (KSE) and the Social Fund for Popular Cafés on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the headquarters of the Ministry of Social Affairs in the presence of Chairman of the **Board of Directors of the Fund** Dr. Khaled Al-Ajmi and KSE Chairman Faisal Al-Atal.

According to Al-Ajmi, "signing the MoU with the oldest professional public benefit association in the country stems from the necessity to support and develop popular cafés. These cafés are recreational and heritage spaces linking the past and the present. They need incessant support and development, so they can efficiently play their important societal role. We are proud of this collaboration. We thank Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah for fully supporting our efforts to develop popular cafés.

He pointed out that the Board of Directors of the Fund is keen on monitoring these cafés to provide them with facilities and means to achieve their goals in line with the State's policy in preserving the traditions and customs of society that have become part of the social system. "This commitment matches the desire of KSE to foster cooperation in order to realize the aspirations of the Fund," he affirmed.

On the other hand, Al-Atal stressed that KSE remains committed to provide advice and technical engineering expertise to all government agencies without any cost. He stated: "We are



Group photo during the signing of the memorandum of understanding

Al-Jarida photo

One-stop car auction site proposed

and support for the efforts exerted by

the two parties to achieve their goals in

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Jahra Governor Hamad Al-Habashi has recommended the allocation of an integrated car auction site along Salmi Road to offer all the necessary services like technical inspection, vehicle ownership transfer, commercial and other services, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a letter to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Al-Habashi stated: "We highly appreciate your commitment to improve the services provided to the

by the two parties to realize the objectives of the MoU," he explained.

people of Kuwait in general, and those residing in Jahra Governorate in particular. Given the importance of holding car auctions along Salmi Road under the supervision and oversight of the concerned authorities, we suggest asking the Kuwait Municipality to allocate a 'one-stop' car auction site along the road to provide all the necessary services, including technical inspection and car ownership transfer among many others, in the interest of the public."

a professional association that aims to He confirmed the completion of the design of the first of these cafés in contribute to the industrial and urban renaissance of the country through a Souq Sharq, indicating the designs for clear strategy. The MoU is just one other cafés depict the nature and heritof the collaborative steps we have had age of the site on which they are locatwith the Fund for several years. We ed and meet the needs of their patrons. support the development of popular He clarified that the services providcafés through the exchange of expered by KSE to popular cafés are voluntise and information permitted by law, tary. He revealed the MoU emphasizes as well as to support the efforts exerted the exchange of advice and expertise

the fields of business, projects, workshops and training programs.

He said the MoU opens the door for

either party to participate in the activities proposed by the other. "In the event that one of the parties chooses not to participate in a certain activity; its name, seal, logo and anything attributed to it will not appear in any form of the activity. Both parties have no financial obligations as per the MoU," he added.

Application runs from Sept 16-Oct 3

PAAET opens nominations for several key deanship positions

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Dr. Hassan Mohammed Al-Fajjam, Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, has announced the opening of applications for nominations for several key deanships within the Authority, reports Al-

Seyassah daily.
These include the Deanship of Community Service and Continuing Education, the Deanship of Admission and Registration, and the Deanship of Student Affairs. The application period will run from Monday, September 16, 2024, until Thursday, October 3, 2024.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Fajjam emphasized that this announcement reflects the Authority's commitment to fulfilling its 2023-2028 vision and strategy. To advance and develop, the Authority must fill critical positions related to student and community affairs.

Regarding the application criteria, Dr. Al-Fajjam outlined that candidates must be faculty members within the Authority's colleges, possess a doctorate, and hold the academic rank of at least associate or assistant professor.

Moreover, applicants must have a minimum of ten years of academic experience since their appointment as assistant professors. Their performance evaluations must have been rated "very good" or higher over the past two years, and they should not have any outstanding disciplinary decisions unless their reputation has been restored.

Dr. Al-Fajjam stressed the importance of adhering to the listed conditions and submitting the necessary documents to ensure a smooth application process.

The required documents are as fol-

- A completed nomination form for the desired deanship position, accompanied by a CV and copies of relevant documents mentioned in the CV.
- A work plan outlining the candidate's vision for the development of the deanship they seek.
- Performance evaluations from the last two years of work at the Authority. ■ A recent 4x6 passport-sized photograph and a certificate of career pro-

gression from the Department of Faculty Affairs and Training. The application can be submitted in

one of two ways:

Dr. Hassan Mohammed Al-Fajjam, Director General of the Public Au-thority for Applied Education and Training

Al-Faisal appointed as communications head

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Nadia Al-Hajji, CEO of the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC), a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, has appointed Sally Al-Faisal as the head of the communications team within the Communications and Services Department, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Faisal will report to the Director of Communications and Services, with the decision taking effect from September 10, 2024. Any previous decisions conflicting with this appointment have been annulled.

According to Al-Seyassah sources more announcements are expected from the Petrochemical Industries Company, with upcoming decisions likely to include promotions for middle management.

- In person, by delivering the required documents to the General Authority's headquarters in Shuwaikh, 12th floor, between 9 AM and 2 PM during official working hours or
- Online, via the Authority's website at www.paaet.edu.kw, from September 16, 2024, until the deadline of October 3, 2024, at 2 PM. No applications or documents will be accepted after the specified deadline.

Minister calls for bonus review

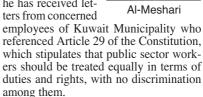
Al-Meshari urges CSC to equalize salaries for Municipality workers

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Meshari has requested Chairman of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Essam Al-Rubaiaan to compare the employees in administrative support roles at Kuwait Municipality with their counterparts in other institutions and align their salaries and benefits accordingly, as well as consider the possibility of providing them with a financial bonus, reports Al-

Al-Meshari emphasized that providing such incentives would positively motivate highly qualified national workers and their supporting colleagues.

He called for including them as beneficiaries of decision No. 27/2012 issued by CSC, which grants bonuses to national workers in literature, arts, and media professions.

Al-Meshari said he has received letters from concerned



Meanwhile, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced that Al-Meshari recently visited various directorates of the authority, and reviewed the services provided to citizens and observed the efforts of the Public Relations Department in raising public awareness.



Al-Seyassah photo Road map of the Second Ring Road on Cairo street.

PART announces temporary closure of Second Ring Road

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Public Authority for Roads and Land Transport (PART) has announced a temporary closure of the entrance to the Second Ring Road on Cairo Street, reports

Al-Seyassah daily.
This closure, affecting traffic heading towards the Qadisiya and Mansouriya areas, will be in effect for 24 hours from dawn on Friday, September 13, to dawn on Saturday, September 14.

The closure is necessary to facilitate work on the surface asphalt layer and is being conducted in cooperation with the General Traffic Department.

According to a press statement issued by PAHW, Al-Meshari listened to citizens' feedback and issued directives to streamline their transactions. He also stressed the need to accelerate the launch of new online services through the Sahel application.

Council member demands clarity on parking space inspection procedures

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Municipal Council member Dr. Hassan Kamal has submitted a query to the executive body concerning the Municipal Council's decision on the periodic inspection of parking spaces in investment and commercial buildings.

Dr. Kamal explained that the municipality's building regulations require investment and commercial buildings to provide parking spaces within the property's boundaries based on a specified equation. Some buildings have failed to comply with these regulations after receiving licenses, leading to traffic congestion and other related risks in several areas.

Dr. Kamal asked the executive body several questions, including:

1. Does the municipality conduct periodic inspections to ensure that owners of investment and commercial buildings provide the licensed parking spaces required within their properties?



Dr. Hassan Kamal - Municipal Council member

2. What are the current procedures for implementing the Municipal Council's decision on periodic inspections and issuing a certificate every four years?

He requested a copy of the periodic inspection form and a copy of the certificate.

Dr. Kamal called on the municipality to adhere to the legal timeframe for responding to Municipal Council members' questions.



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Ministry seeks to set standards for enhancing seniors' quality of life

MoH launches workshop for 'Elderly-Friendly Cities' initiative

Sheikh Fahad leads Mol meeting on security, academic year preparation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior (MoI) and Minister of Defense Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah led a meeting on Wednesday with MoI assistant undersecretaries, in the presence of Undersecretary Sheikh Salem Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The minister discussed, during the meeting, the most outstanding points of the ministry's plans and security presence nationwide, in addition to field preparations for the new academic year,

the MoI's security media and public relations department said in a statement.

He listened in detail about the ministry's preparations for the new academic year 2024-2025, and traffic plans to be implemented with the start of the academic year as well as the measures taken to address traffic congestion in areas, it added.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Sabah commended efforts made by the ministry's sectors to maintain the homeland's security, it

Food prices

Continued from Page 1

The relevant local authorities are actively working to address artificial price hikes and are fulfilling their responsibilities in this regard. However, global circumstances remain challenging, affecting most food and beverage prices.

Al-Manea also pointed out additional factors contributing to the rise in global prices, such as climate change and the challenges facing global agriculture.

On the other hand, economic expert Dr. Ahmad Al-Hisham called for allocating a portion of Kuwait's annual budget to expand the country's agricultural area.

He highlighted the importance of preserving Kuwait's strategic food reserves, focusing on local agriculture, and establishing food packaging factories.

Dr. Al-Hisham said the ongoing reliance on imported goods and food materials exposes the country to fluctuations in global markets and political instability.

He stressed the need to address high prices in the country, as some traders exploit global crises to impose excessive price increases.

Dr. Al-Hisham cited the tense political situation in Bab al-Mandab and the Red Sea for the significantly disruption in food trade that contributed to a price rise of at least 40

percent, partly due to the Houthi siege.

He explained that the Russian-Ukrainian war and the ongoing conflict in Sudan have exacerbated food supply shortages. Climate change has led to reduced rice supplies, with countries like India limiting their export quotas, which in turn increased the global rice prices. Similarly, climate-related issues such as humidity in India and extreme heat in Australia have adversely impacted wheat production.

Power cuts

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, the ministry yesterday announced that it may be forced to implement successive power cuts in certain areas due to emergency maintenance work on some electricity generation units.

It has urged customers to reduce consumption, especially during the afternoon period when the electrical load indicator reached the red zone, recording 17,100 megawatts at 3:00pm on Wednesday.

Informed sources from the ministry reported that the current high temperatures, coupled with the need for emergency maintenance work, have necessitated scheduled power outages at noon.

To address this issue, the ministry stressed the need for continued energy conservation across all residential sectors.

It also insists on the importance of pushing forward all proposed electricity production projects and overcoming any obstacles to ensure sufficient electricity supply. This would enable Kuwait to achieve self-sufficiency and reduce reliance on energy imports from the Gulf interconnection network.

The ministry's plan includes several projects, and expediting these initiatives is necessary for meeting future energy needs.

Chief of

Continued from Page 1

their oath and allegiance to His Highness the Amir, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and His Highness the Crown Prince. He prayed for their protection and guidance on the path of goodness.

The statement noted that the visit included a detailed briefing on the key duties and tasks of the 26th Mechanized Brigade. The Chief of Staff also toured several facilities within the brigade.

Additionally, the decorated team inspected the Sabah Joint Group Command, where they were received by the Group Command Commander and several officers. During the visit,

they received an explanation of the tasks and duties performed by the Sabah Joint Force Command, including the level of readiness and preparedness of its members. The visit also highlighted the existing joint military coordination and cooperation between the

Ministries of Defense and Interior, which

involves numerous joint tasks and training

Committee meeting

Continued from Page 1

Secretary of the Egyptian parliament foreign relations committee MP Tareq Al-Kholi said the committee meeting, which will be co-chaired by both sides' foreign ministers, comes under very delicate and significant circumstances.

He said the challenges haunting the Arab region, in fact, requires concerted efforts and relentless coordination involving all Arab countries, pointing out that Cairo and Kuwait have always shared identical views about various challenges and issues of mutual concern.

It is essential to work together in order to address the regional challenges, primarily the ongoing war on Gaza, said the Egyptian MP, speaking highly of the fervent efforts of Egypt and Kuwait to reach Gaza ceasefire and to halt the Israeli occupation aggression on the Palestinian people.

Group of

Continued from Page 1

The Kuwaiti delegation was headed by Permanent Representative at the Arab League Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi.

Chair of the 162nd Arab League session, and Yemeni envoy Riyadh Al-Kaabri called this congregation an embodiment of the communal cooperation and solidarity.

He mentioned that this meeting is held at a critical time prior to the UN General Assembly.

sembly.

Ambassador Al-Kaabri urged South
America and Caribbean to continue their pursuit for Palestinian people legitimate right to
an independent state with Jerusalem as capi-

GCC-Turkish

Continued from Page 1

areas, including trade in goods, rules of origin, customs procedures, intellectual property rights protection, and investment facilitation.

She explained that the FTA aims to establish a favorable investment environment that will boost trade between the GCC countries and Turkiye, fostering broader economic relations

The first round of negotiations took place in Ankara in July, and the agreement was expected to be signed soon, she said.

Gov't bodies,

Continued from Page 1

He appreciated Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan and President of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation Sheikh Hmoud Mubarak Hmoud Al-Sabah as well as all workers at the site for their hard work and dedication.

First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah briefed the Cabinet meeting on the outcomes of his visit to the United Arab Emirate last week.

The visit, which fell in the framework of the distinguished relations with the sisterly UAE, aimed to push to a new height the fruitful cooperation in all areas and realize the aspirations of both nations for development and prosperity.

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By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Ministry of Health has announced the launch of a workshop to develop the "National Guide for Elderly-Friendly Cities."

This initiative - a collaboration between the Elderly Services Department and the Healthy Cities Office of the ministry - aims to set national standards for cities that cater to the needs of the elderly and improve their quality of life.

Director of the Elderly Services Department

Director of the Elderly Services Department Dr. Fatima Dhafari affirmed the significance of this workshop in reinforcing Kuwait's commitment to supporting its elderly population.

She highlighted the goal of creating a suitable environment that meets international standards by improving services and infrastructure for seniors.

Dr. Dhafari highlighted that the workshop is part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to improve the well-being of the elderly.

She highlighted the existing collaboration with the Sharjah Office for Age-Friendly Cities, which has provided valuable insights.

Dr. Dhafiri explained that representatives from

Dr. Dhafiri explained that representatives from the Sharjah Office were invited to share their pioneering experiences and best practices that have positively impacted the lives of the elderly in Sharjah. This exchange will enable Kuwait to adapt and implement these practices in its own local context.

She went on to explain that the workshop aims to achieve several key objectives, including identifying best practices and successful experiences from the regional countries, such as Sharjah, and facilitating knowledge and expertise exchange between participating entities for improving services and the quality of life for the elderly in Kuwait. The workshop will also hold discussions on the current challenges and policies, explore opportunities to improve elderly services, and develop actionable recommendations aligned with national standards.

Social integration

Meanwhile, Director of the Healthy Cities Office Dr. Amal Al-Yahya stated that the National Guide for Elderly-Friendly Cities will focus on eight main areas - outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, community participation, respect and social integration, civic participation and employment, communications and information, and community support and health services.

She explained that these areas are in line with global trends to ensure that cities are welcoming and have suitable environments for all residents, particularly the elderly.

Elderly-friendly cities are part of broader community initiatives aimed at improving health and quality of life by working on the social deter-

minants of health. The initiative is in line with the principles and frameworks of healthy cities. Therefore, collaboration between the Healthy Cities Office and the Elderly Services Department is essential for effective coordination and follow-up, especially as the initiative will start working in Kuwaiti healthy cities.

Many entities both within and outside the Ministry of Health are involved in the initiative. Internal participants include the Public Health Department, the Emergency Medicine Department, the Physiotherapy Services Department, the Health Planning and Development Department, the Health Insurance Department, and the elderly units at Mubarak and Jaber Hospitals, as well as the Nursing Services Department and the Central Administration for Primary Health Care.

External participants include the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, the Environment Public Authority, the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, the Public Authority for Disability Affairs, Kuwait Municipality, the Public Institution for Social Security, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, and the Kuwait University, represented by the Faculty of Public Health, as well as Kuwait Public Transport Company and the Obedient Child Foundation.



KUNA photo

A number of attendees of the workshop on preparing the 'National Guide to Comfortable Cities for Seniors.'



Delegation from the Global Marketing Sector of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation to the APEC 2024 conference.

KUNA photo

KPC expands ties at APEC '24

Bolstering energy co-op

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday participated in the 40th annual petroleum conference of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC 24) held in Singapore, during which the participants broached various topics in the sector.

The KPC said in a statement the conference that grouped more than 150 experts of the international energy market and the oil industry was attended by the corporation's Managing Director for International Marketing Sheikh Khaled Ahmad Al-Sabah and his depUty, Walid Al-Mkhaizeem, in addition to personnel.

The statement quoted Sheikh Khaled as affirming the KPC's commitment to draw up strategies and ponder innovative solutions to cope with the challenges emanating from the energy transformation and its effects on the oil markets.

Economic prosperity

He noted Asian markets' thirst energy to attain growth and economic prosperity, indicating that the KPC should continue to secure safe oil supplies to many countries.

Earlier today, the KPC held its annual reception -- under the aegis of its regional bureau -- in Singapore. The event drew more than 1,000 invitees and KPC partners, namely oil companies in Asia and other parts of the globe.

Sheikh Khaled affirmed that the holding of the reception mirrored the corporation's strong keenness on expanding cooperation with its clients. He also indicated that it was an opportunity to exchange opinions on major challenges facing the oil and gas industries.

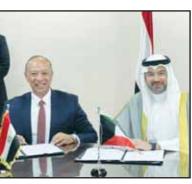
Teacher workloads reformed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Ministry of Education in Kuwait has initiated steps to regulate teachers' workloads and ensure fair distribution across various educational levels, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The School administrations have been instructed to distribute teachers' schedules through the student record system under the principle of "one teacher for each class," providing clear visibility of each teacher's class quota.

Acting Undersecretary of General Education, Mansour Al-Dhafiri, emphasized the importance of preparing for the upcoming academic year (2024/2025), especially in terms of distance education, instructing schools to update students' data in the system and ensure that teachers are accurately assigned to classes before the school year begins on September 16.

Al-Dhafiri also highlighted the need for educational stage supervisors to complete internal transfers and establish work centers for all staff. Additionally, the Ministry's Information Systems Department is preparing to update data in the "Teams" program, allowing for the activation of distance learning when necessary.



Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority during

the signing of MoU.

KUNA photo Chairman of the General Administration of Civil Aviation and Chairman of the

Kuwait, Egypt ink MoU to increase passengers

CAIRO, Sept 11, (KUNA): Kuwait and Egypt signed on Wednesday a MoU to increase passengers and operational capacity between the two sides.

Speaking to KUNA after the MoU signing, Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Humoud Al-Sabah, head of Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), affirmed that the document would boost passenger capacity between Kuwait and Egypt.

The technical aspect of such increase is included in the signed MoU, he added, noting that discussions on the matter occurred between the DGCA and the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA).

Ministry of Commerce and Industry



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World News Roundup

Europe

Charles to visit Australia

Blinken and Lammy in Kyiv on joint visit

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 11, (AP): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy arrived in Kyiv on a joint visit Wednesday, as Ukraine presses the West to allow it to use long-range missiles against Russia.

The top diplomats reached the Ukrainian capital by train from Poland hours after the U.S. presidential debate during which Vice President Kamala Harris

and former President Trump sparred over the 2 1/2-year war

been requesting approval to



use long-range weapons from the United States and Western allies to strike targets in Russia, and is expected to press harder given Russia's lat-

est reported weapons acquisition. "We hope that long-range equipment for strikes on the territory of our enemy will be reached and we will have it," Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal told Lammy. "We hope for your help and support in this issue."

Targets

At a news conference on Tuesday, Shmyhal said that "if we are allowed to destroy military targets or weapons prepared by the enemy for attacks on Ukraine, it would certainly bring more safety for our civilians, our people, and our children.

"We are working towards this and will continue to push for it every day.

Referring to the missiles from Iran, he added: "Russia's use of weapons from its terrorist allies to strike at Ukraine continues their genocidal war and terrorism on our territory. We must be able to respond to such terrorism in kind by destroying military targets on their territory to ensure greater safety for our citizens.'

Wednesday's visit comes ahead of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's upcoming trip to Washington, where he will meet President Joe Biden at the White House on Friday. Ukraine's request for permission to strike Russian targets is due to feature in the discussion.

'France foiled 3 plots targeting Olympics': French authorities foiled three plots to attack the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris and other cities that hosted the summer events, the national counterterrorism prosecutor said on Wednesday

Olivier Christen said the plots included plans to attack "Israeli institutions or representatives of Israel in Paris" during the July 26 to Aug. 11 Olympic competition. The prosecutor told broadcaster France Info that "the Israeli team itself was not specifically targeted." He did not give further details.

In all, five people, including a minor, were arrested on suspicion of involvement in the three foiled plots against the Summer Games, which were held against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas war and Russia's war in Ukraine. The suspects are facing various terrorism-related charges while they remain in pre-trial

detention, the prosecutor said. France was on its highest security alert in the months ahead of the Olympics and Paralympics, which wrapped up last week. During preparations for the Games, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin repeatedly warned that security threats included those from Islamic extremist groups, violent environmental activists, far-right groups and cyberattacks from Russia or

In May, members of the General Directorate of Internal Security arrested an 18-year-old man from Chechnya on suspicion of being behind a plan to attack Olympic soccer events that were held in the southern city of Saint-Etienne.

Partial bridge collapse in Germany: Officials are investigating why a concrete bridge partially collapsed in eastern Germany early Wednesday, disrupting a major traffic artery in Dresden and interrupting the heating system for a city nicknamed "Florence on the Elbe" for its Baroque architecture.

No one was injured when a section of the Carola Bridge fell into the Elbe River, the Dresden fire department said on its website. Police are treating the collapse as an accident, because there are no signs of foul play, according to German news agency dpa.

The bridge dates back to East Germany's formerly communist era, dpa reported, and officials at the scene said that chlorine corrosion from the time could have contributed to Wednesday's collapse. The emergency closure of the entire bridge snarled

travel for the city's tram system, as well as motorists, pedestrians and cyclists who use the span to travel between Dresden's Old Town and New Town. Boat traffic is also halted, affecting cargo ships and tourism sightseeing vessels.

UK PM faces unease in Labour: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer faced a battle of nerves with his Labour Party on Tuesday, winning a parliamentary vote on a contentious decision to cut a payment that helps millions of pensioners pay winter heating bills but not ending unease about it among his lawmakers.

Starmer says the decision to remove the winter fuel allowance, worth between 200 and 300 pounds (\$262 and \$393) a year, from all but the poorest retirees is needed because of the dire state of the public finances left by the previous Conservative government.

But the decision to hit people on fixed incomes in one of the government's first economic moves since winning a landslide election victory in July has caused disquiet in the center-left Labour Party. Seventeen Labour lawmakers backed a call to postpone the cut.

Charles to visit Australia and Samoa: King Charles III has announced plans to visit Australia and Samoa next month on a trip that will span a dozen time zones and test the monarch's stamina as he recovers from cancer treatment.

The Oct. 18-26 tour, which Buckingham Palace outlined Tuesday, marks a watershed moment for the 75-year-old king. Charles is slowly returning to public duties after taking a break following his cancer diagnosis in early February. The decision to undertake such a long journey will be seen as a sign of his recovery.

The trip will begin in Australia before the king and Queen Camilla travel to Samoa for the Commonwealth heads of government meeting, which takes place every two years. Although the tour was first announced in July, no dates were released at that time.



US Republican presidential nominee former president Donald Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris participate during an ABC News presidential debate at the National Constitution Center on Sept 10 in Philadelphia. (AP)



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy arrive at the train station in Kyiv, Ukraine on Sept 11. The British Foreign Secretary joined his American counterpart on a visit to Ukraine to discuss the country's military needs in its fight against Russia. (AP)





America

Francine takes aim at La coast: Hurricane Francine barreled early Wednesday toward Louisiana and is expected to make landfall in coming hours as forecasters raised threats of potentially deadly storm surge, widespread flooding and destructive winds on the northern U.S. Gulf coast.

Francine drew fuel from exceedingly warm Gulf of Mexico waters to jump from a tropical storm to a Category 1 hurricane on Tuesday night. The National Hurricane Center said Francine might even reach Category 2 strength with winds of 96 to 110 mph (155 to 175 kph) before crashing into a fragile coastal region that still hasn't fully recovered from a series of devastating hurricanes since 2020.

Louisiana Gov Jeff Landry warned at midday Tuesday - when Francine was still a tropical storm - that residents around south Louisiana and in the heavily populated state capital of Baton Rouge and nearby New Orleans - should "batten down all the hatches" and finish last preparations before a 24-hour window to do so closed

Once Francine makes landfall, Landry said, residents should stay in place rather than venture out into waterlogged roads and risk blocking first responders or utility crews working to repair power lines.(AP)

Ex-CIA officer faces prison time: A former CIA officer and contract linguist for the FBI who received cash, golf clubs and other expensive gifts in exchange for spying for China faces a decade in prison if a US judge approves his plea agreement Wednesday.

Alexander Yuk Ching Ma, 71, made a deal in May with federal prosecutors, who agreed to recommend the 10-year term in exchange for his guilty plea to a count of conspiracy to gather or deliver national defense information to a foreign government. The deal also requires him to submit to polygraph tests, whenever requested by the US government, for the rest of his life.

"I hope America will forgive me for what I have done," Ma, who has been in custody since his 2020 arrest, wrote in a letter to Chief US District Judge Derrick Watson in Honolulu ahead of his sentencing. (AP)

3-year-old girl dies in hot car: A 3-year-old girl died after being found unconscious inside a hot car with her mother in Southern California during a heat wave

Politics

Rivals trade accusations

Harris, Trump detail visions in debate

PHILADELPHIA, Sept 11, (AP): Kamala Harris pressed a forceful case against Donald Trump on Tuesday in their first and perhaps only debate before the presidential election, repeatedly goading him in an event that showcased their starkly different visions for the country on abortion, immigration and American democracy.

The Democratic vice president provoked Trump with reminders about the 2020 election loss that he still denies, delivered derisive asides at his false claims and sought to underscore the Republican former president's role in the Supreme Court's overturning of a national right to abortion two years ago. Trump tore into Harris as too liberal and a continuation of Biden's unpopular administration, as he launched into the sort of freewheeling personal attacks and digressions from which his advisers and supporters have tried to steer him away.

Less than two months from Election Day and hours before the first early ballots will begin to be mailed Wednesday in Alabama, the debate offered the clearest look yet at a presidential race that has been repeatedly upended.

Harris' performance by nearly every measure seemed to be the opposite of President Joe Biden's in June, with sharp, focused answers designed to showcase the contrast between her and Trump, whereas Biden at times was muddled, halting and incoherent. Harris used her body language and facial expressions to confront Trump and express that she found his answers ridiculous, amusing or both - a pronounced change from Biden's slack-jawed expression when Trump attacked him.

Harris appeared intent on casting herself as a relief for voters seeking a break from Trump's acerbic politics - a contrast highlighted as Trump appeared to be set on his back foot by her needling.

In one moment, Harris turned to Trump and said that as vice president, she had spoken to foreign leaders who "are laughing at Donald Trump," and said she had spoken to military leaders, "and they say you're a disgrace."

As Trump, 78, again questioned her racial identity, the 59-year-old Har-

marked by triple-digit temperatures, police

The toddler was found Friday and was

pronounced dead with the preliminary

cause of death of suspected complications

said Monday.

US remembers 9/11 attacks with victims in focus, politics in view

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): The US remembered the lives taken and those reshaped by 9/11, marking an anniversary laced with presidential campaign politics as President Joe Biden, former president Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris stood together Wednesday at ground zero. Sept 11 - the date when hijacked

plane attacks killed nearly 3,000 people in 2001 - falls in the thick of the presidential election season every four years, and it comes at an especially pointed moment this The anniversary ceremony at the World Trade Center brought Harris and Trump, the Democratic and Republican nominees, face-toface just hours after their first-ever debate Tuesday night.

Trump and running mate Sen. JD

ris, the first woman, Black person and person of South Asian descent to serve as vice president, pointedly gestured to Trump and responded, "I think the American people want better than that,

want better than this.' Trump in turn tried to link Harris to the still-unpopular Biden, questioning why she hadn't acted on her proposed ideas while serving as vice president. Trump also focused his attacks on Harris over her assignment by Biden to deal with the root causes of illegal migration.

"Why hasn't she done it? She's been there for three and a half years," he said.

Harris promised tax cuts aimed at the middle class and said she would push to restore a federally guaranteed right to abortion overturned by the Supreme Court two years ago. Trump said his proposed tariffs would help the US stop being cheated by allies on trade and said he would work to swiftly end the Russia-Ukraine war - though he twice refused to say he believed it was in America's interest for Ukraine,

from heat stroke, pending an official autop-

sy report, Anaheim police said. Her mother

was arrested by police, who reported find-

ing several empty bottles of alcohol in the

vehicle. She was later found to have had a

cilitate a handshake between Harris and Trump. Then the presidential rivals stood only a few feet apart, with Biden and Bloomberg between

Vance arrived at the trade center

site around 8 am and posed for pho-

tographs with some in the audience.

Harris arrived with Biden about a

half-hour later, to cheers of "Kama-

Biden and Trump shook hands, and former New York Mayor Mi-

chael Bloomberg appeared to fa-

la!" from some audience members.

them, as the observance began with the tolling of a bell and a moment of silence. The political backdrop wasn't top-

of-mind for victims' relatives such as Cathy Naughton, who came to in the attack.

honor her cousin Michael Roberts, one of hundreds of firefighters killed

which bipartisan majorities in Congress have backed, to win the war.

Trump again denied that he lost to Biden four years ago, when a mob of his supporters stormed the US Capitol to try to stop the certification of his loss based on false or unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud. He tried to reverse the question of threats to American democracy and suggested criticism of him could be linked to the assassination attempt he survived in July.

"I probably took a bullet to the head because of the things that they say about me," he said. "They talk about democracy, I'm a threat to democracy. They're the threat to democracy.'

Trump has in recent days ramped up his threats of retribution if he returns to the White House, saying he would prosecute lawyers, donors, and other officials whom he deems to "cheat" in the election.

"Donald Trump was fired by 81 million people," Harris said, "So let's be clear about that. And clearly he is having a very difficult time processing that."

blood alcohol content of nearly four times

Cazares, 42, with felony involuntary manslaughter and felony child abuse causing great bodily injury. She faces a maximum sentence of 12 years for both charges.

the state legal limit for driving, prosecutors

Prosecutors charged Sandra Hernandez-

The Orange County Public Defender's Office could not be reached for comment. (AP)

Personal assistant gets 40 yrs: A personal assistant convicted of killing and dismembering his former tech entrepreneur boss after stealing about \$400,000 from

him was sentenced Tuesday to 40 years to life in prison, Manhattan's district attorney Tyrese Haspil, 25, was found guilty in

June of murder, grand larceny and other charges in the 2020 death of his former boss, Fahim Saleh.

Prosecutors said Haspil had been hired as an assistant for Saleh, whose ventures included a ride-hailing motorcycle startup in Nigeria, but quickly began to siphon money from Saleh's businesses. Haspil resigned a year later but continued to steal money, even after Saleh discovered the theft and let Haspil repay him over two years to avoid criminal prosecution.

Haspil decided to kill Saleh over concerns that his former boss would discover he was continuing to steal from his companies, prosecutors said. (AP)



California, the United States, on Sept 10. Each September, the university stages the Waves of Flags display to honor the victims of the 9/11 attacks. (Xinhua)

Lat/Am

'Boost protections for Venezuelans, Haitians': A global human rights watchdog on Wednesday called on Latin American governments to improve protection schemes, grant legal status and reverse "onerous visa requirements" for millions of Haitians and Venezuelans who have struggled to find work, access to health care and education in South American host countries, forcing them to increasingly seek asylum in the United States under the government of **Joe Biden.**

Human Rights Watch, in a report describing the situation of Haitian and Venezuelan migrants, said that "limited" integration and regularization policies in South America are forcing vulnerable people to head to the United States every month. To reach the US border, many asylum seekers make a long, dangerous journey that includes crossing the Darien Gap, a roadless swath of jungle between Colombia and Panama.

The group urged governments in Latin America to implement a "region-wide protection regime that would grant all Venezuelans and Haitians legal status



Ridon

protection regime that would grant all Venezuelans and Haitians legal status for a fixed but renewable term of adequate duration," even if they may not qualify for refugee status under domestic law.

The report also calls for governments to eliminate barriers that hinder the integration of migrants and refugees, including legislation that prevents people from getting work permits, while they seek asylum in other countries.

"While some Latin American governments have made commendable efforts to receive migrants and asylum

seekers, efforts to regularize migration in the region have often fallen short due to restrictive timelines, complex procedures, onerous document requirements, and administrative delays," said the report, which reviewed asylum policies in countries including Panama, Colombia, Brazil, Peru and Chile. (AP)

Mexico's Senate OKs judicial overhaul: Mexico's Senate voted early Wednesday to overhaul the country's judiciary, clearing the biggest hurdle for a controversial constitutional revision that will make all judges stand for election, a change that critics fear will politicize the judicial branch and threaten Mexico's democracy.

The approval came in two votes after hundreds of protesters

pushed their way into the Senate on Tuesday, interrupting the session after it appeared that Morena, the governing party of outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, had lined up the necessary votes to pass the proposal.

The legislation sailed through the lower chamber, where

Morena and its allies hold a supermajority, last week. Approval by the Senate posed the biggest obstacle and required defections from opposition parties.

The Senate voted twice on the bill, both times 86-41, with the second result coming around 4 am. (AP)

Brazilia raid targets criminal group: Brazil's Federal Police on Tuesday conducted multiple raids targeting a criminal group it alleged has laundered at least 3.1 metric tons of gold mined in the Amazon rainforest to conceal its illegal origins.

The group operated within the Kayapo people's territory in Para state and is believed to be connected to an organization that extracted gold illegally from Yanomami territory in Roraima state, the police statement said. It didn't name the suspects but said some are public officials and Indigenous individuals.

Authorities conducted 33 search warrants and 13 preventive arrest warrants across the states of Para, Amazonas, Roraima and Mato Grosso. A federal judge ordered the freezing of 2.9 billion reais (\$512 million) in assets, the statement said.

In another operation Tuesday, Federal Police conducted searches targeting a Sao Paulo-based group the force claims laundered money linked to illegal mining in Para and Mato Grosso states. (AP)

'Prisoners released, expelled from Nicaragua': Nicaragua said Tuesday it was revoking the citizenship and seizing the property of 135 people who were expelled from the country last week after serving prison sentences in a government crackdown on dissent.

The decision was announced in a press release from the Supreme Court of Justice, which said those released were "convicted of criminal acts" that went "against sovereignty, independence and self-determination" of the country, in addition to promoting "violence, hatred, terrorism and economic destabilization".

The government also said it would confiscate all their assets. The prisoners were released and expelled from Nicaragua under a deal with the United States and Guatemala. They will reportedly stay temporarily in Guatemala before relocating to

While details of the deal have not been disclosed, American authorities claimed no concessions were made to secure the prisoners' release. (AP)

Jamaica to deploy soldiers, police in Haiti: Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness announced Tuesday that his country would send two dozen soldiers and police officers to Haiti this week to boost a U.N.-backed mission led by Kenya to fight violent gangs.

The 20 soldiers and four police officers are scheduled to arrive Thursday and will join nearly 400 Kenyan police who arrived earlier this year and are working alongside Haitian police and military, said Vice Admiral Antonette Wemyss-Gorman, chief of defense staff for Jamaica's military.

The Jamaicans will be responsible for providing command, planning and logistics support, Holness said at a news confer-

The initial number of police and soldiers announced by Holness surprised many and comes at a time when the US government has warned that the Kenyan-led mission lacks money and personnel as it considers a UN peacekeeping mission as one way to secure more resources. (AP)

12 massacred in Colombia: At least 12 people were massacred over the weekend as they were gathered outside in the small rural community of La Sagrada Familia, in Lopez de Micay, a town in western Colombia's Valle del Cauca department, Governor Dilian Francisca Toro confirmed Tuesday.

The governor told Colombian news network Caracol Radio that the victims, seven men and five women, were killed by suspected members of the National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrilla group and the Jaime Martinez Front, which comprise dissidents of the disbanded Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

"This is the result of a clash between them over the routes of the illicit economies," she said, referring to drug trafficking and other illegal activities. "They basically executed them, it

The Sept. 8 attack is one of nearly 50 similar violent clashes in the country so far this year, according to the Institute for Development and Peace Studies (Indepaz). (Xinhua)

Drought makes Sao Paulo river emerald green: A major river in the Brazilian metropolis of Sao Paulo is suddenly emerald green and clear skies this week turned from blue to grey. In the late afternoon, the sun's rays filtering through the smoky have a whilit the color of door arrange.

haze exhibit the color of deep orange.

This isn't a fantasy world: Environmental threats in recent

days have transformed the colors of the city's landscape.

The state's environmental authority attributes the Pinheiros River's new green hue to an algae bloom, the result of severe drought that has significantly lowered water levels. The phenomenon was visible starting Monday and continued Tuesday. Those same days, the city suffered smoke-filled air, which the agency attributed to a hot, dry mass complicating the dispersal of pollutants originating in forested areas with ongoing wildfires. (AP)



In this photo released by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Sept. 11, 2024, a warship of the Russian Northern Fleet forces fires missiles while searching for submarines of a simulated enemy and practice the use of anti-submarine weapons in the Barents Sea during a large scale naval exercise as the Ocean-2024 drills. Inset: In this image taken from video provided by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service and released on Sept 10, Russian officers are on duty aboard of Russian Navy corvette Aldar Tsydenzhapov. (AP)

Russia begins massive naval drills together with China

The Russian military on Tuesday launched massive naval and air drills spanning across both hemispheres and including China in joint maneuvers.

The "Ocean-24" exercise spans the Pacific and Arctic Oceans, the Mediterranean, Caspian and Baltic Seas and involves over 400 warships, submarines and support vessels, more than 120 planes and helicopters and over 90,000 troops, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement. The ma-

neuvers will continue through Sept. 16, the ministry said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in comments to military officials that the war games are the largest of their kind in three decades, and that China's warships and planes were taking part. China confirmed that on Monday, saying the two countries' navies would cruise together in Pacific, but gave no details.

A total of 15 countries have been invited to ob-

serve the drills, Putin said, without naming them.

"We pay special attention to strengthening military cooperation with friendly states. Today, in the context of growing geopolitical tensions in the world, this is especially important," Putin said.

Russia and China, along with other US critics such as Iran, have aligned their foreign policies to challenge and potentially overturn the Western-led liberal democratic order. (AP)



People walk through floodwaters following a dam collapse in Maiduguri, Nigeria on Sept 10. (AP)



Aouchiche



Tebb

Africa

2 file court appeal in Algeria: The two opposition candidates who ran in Algeria's presidential race legally challenged on Tuesday the provisional result while harshly rebuking election officials and disputing the vote count.

Islamist Abdellali Hassani Cherif and socialist **Youcef Aouchiche** filed appeals with Algeria's Constitutional Court, taking the first step required to challenge the results of the election, which incumbent President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** won with a 94.7% share of the vote.

Algerian law provides the court 10 days from the announcement of provisional election results to rule on the appeals. A verdict could require the election authority to recalculate each candidate's totals without calling into question Tebboune's victory, for which he has already begun receiving congratulatory messages from Algeria's foreign allies.

A day before lodging their appeals, both candidates took aim at Mohamed Charfi, the President of Algeria's National Independent Electoral Authority (ANIE) for how the results of Saturday's election were reported. (AP)

Dam collapse unleashes flooding: A dam collapsed Tuesday in northeastern Nigeria unleashing severe flooding that

Nigeria unleashing severe flooding that prompted evacuations and swept deadly reptiles from a zoo into communities in the area, local officials and a zoo manager said.

The collapse of the Alau dam in the state of Borno caused some of the state's worst

of Borno caused some of the state's worst flooding since the same dam collapsed 30 years ago, and prompted many residents to flee their homes. The dam was at full capacity due to unusually high rains, according to the state government.

About 15% of the Borno state capital

Maiduguri was under water, Nahum Daso, the state's police spokesperson told The Associated Press. No death toll from the flooding has been released yet. At the Borno State Museum Park, the flooding killed about 80% of the animals

At the Borno State Museum Park, the flooding killed about 80% of the animals while an unspecified number of reptiles escaped, zoo general manager Ali Abatcha Don Best said.

The local authorities issued a flooding alert and an immediate evacuation order for residents close to river banks, Usman Tar, Borno's commissioner for information and internal security said. (AP)

Asia

Anti-war protesters clash with police in Australia

Hong Kong hits out at US Congress

HONG KONG, Sept 11, (AP): Hong Kong's government on Wednesday said the US House of Representatives twisted facts in an attack on the city as it passed a bill that could close its representative offices in America, while Beijing threatened to take countermeasures if they are shuttered.

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office Certification Act was part of a series of China-related legislative proposals being scrutinized by the House this week. Many of the proposals scheduled for a vote appear to have both Republican and Democratic support, reflecting a strong consensus that congressional actions are needed to counter Beijing.

If approved, the measures would still need to clear the Senate and be signed by the USpresident before officially becoming law. They are expected to increase diplomatic tensions between the world's two largest economies, which see each other as rivals in many areas and have conflicting views over various issues, including on Hong Kong.

On Wednesday, Hong Kong's Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Algernon Yau strongly condemned the bill's passage, saying it was political slander against the laws that safeguard national security and smeared the city's human rights situation "without any reason at all."

He said the Ámerican Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong had surveyed its members and found that about 70% of respondents felt no negative impact from the Beijing-imposed security law. He said there are about 1,200 American companies in the city.

Benefit

"The passing of the bill ... actually is not creating any benefit to anybody at all," he said.

The Hong Kong government said in a statement that the attack on the semi-

Migrant boat capt surrenders: The

captain of a migrant boat that capsized off

Senegal over the weekend was arrested, lo-

cal authorities said Tuesday, as the death toll

autonomous Chinese city was "politically driven," violated international law and "grossly interferes" in Hong Kong's affairs.

The office of China's Foreign Ministry in Hong Kong also issued a strongly worded statement, saying if the U.S. pushed the bill forward and shut the offices, China would take resolute countermeasures.

Aussie protesters, police clash: Anti-war protesters clashed with police on Wednesday outside a military arms convention in the Australian city

of Melbourne.

Protesters hurled bottles, rocks and horse manure, a police statement said. They also sprayed officers with liquid irritants, some of which were identified as acid, police said.

Police retaliated with pepper spray, flash distraction devices and rubber bullets, which are designed to inflict pain without penetrating the skin.

At least 24 officers required medical

treatment. Police arrested 39 protesters for offenses such as assault, arson and blocking roadways. "Victoria Police is appalled at the

behavior of some of the protesters," the statement said, referring to the Victoria state force.

Around 1,800 police officers have been deployed to a Melbourne conven-

been deployed to a Melbourne convention center where the Land Forces International Land Defense Exposition is taking place through Friday. Some of the convention attendees

also were assaulted, police said.

Protesters also threw rocks, horse manure and tomatoes at police horses and officers with shields and wearing riot gear. A police officer on horseback struck a protester with a riding crop and a line of police were seen forcing protesters away from the convention center.

Flood sweeps away hamlet: A flash

Cheikh Sall, the owner and captain of the

boat, turned himself in Monday, Amadou

Diop, the district's prefect, told The Associ-

ated Press. The death toll of the capsizing

rose to 26, Senegal's navy said on the social

rose to 26.

flood swept away an entire hamlet in northern Vietnam, killing 22 people and leaving dozens missing as deaths from a typhoon and its aftermath climbed to 141 on Wednesday.

Vietnamese state broadcaster VTV said the torrent of water gushing down from a mountain in Lao Cai province Tuesday buried Lang Nu hamlet with 35 families in mud and debris.

Only about a dozen are known so far

to have survived. Rescuers have recovered 22 bodies and are continuing the search for about 70 others.

The death toll from Typhon Vari

The death toll from Typhoon Yagi and its aftermath has climbed to 141. Another 69 people are missing and hundreds were injured, VTV said. Floods and landslides have caused

most of the deaths, many of which have come in the northwestern Lao Cai province, bordering China, where Lang Nu is located. Lao Cai province is also home to the popular trekking destination of Sapa.

Taiwan fighter jet crashes: A Taiwanese fighter jet crashed during a nighttime training exercise on Tuesday but the pilot who ejected has been found safe, the defense ministry said.

The Mirage 2000 jet lost power at

around 8 p.m., the ministry said. Rescuers found the pilot about two hours later.

Hsieh Pei-hsun was conscious and taken to a military hospital for an

exam. He had been flying off the coast of Hsinchu, a city south of Taipei on the island's west side. Taiwan purchased Mirage 2000 jets from France during the 1990s and re-

lies on them as well as U.S.-made F-16Vs for its air force.

The self-ruled Taiwan faces frequent military exercises near its waters by China, which claims the island as

quent military exercises near its waters by China, which claims the island as its territory and threatens to use military force to bring it under its control.

ts territory and threatens to use miliary force to bring it under its control.

media platform X on Tuesday.

The artisanal fishing boat left the town of Mbour, nearly 80 kilometers (50 miles)

a few miles (kilometers) off the coast.

In recent years, the number of migrants leaving West Africa through Senegal has surged with many fleeing conflict, poverty and the lack of job opportunities. Most head to the Canary Islands, a Spanish archipelago off the coast of West Africa, which is used as a stepping stone to continental Europe.

south of the capital Dakar heading to Eu-

rope on Sunday afternoon before capsizing

Last month, the Senegalese army said it had arrested 453 migrants and "members of smuggling networks" as part of a 12-day operation patrolling the coastline. (AP)

Farmers accused of killing women:

Three men in South Africa are accused of killing two women and feeding their bodies to animals on their farm in a case that has outraged the public.

The men appeared in court Tuesday in the northern province of Limpopo. The state wants them to remain behind bars until their trial is concluded.

Farm owner Zachariah Johannes Olivier, supervisor Andrian Rudolph de Wet and employee William Musora face two counts of premeditated murder, one count of attempted murder and possession of an unlicensed firearm. Musora, a Zimbabwean national, also faces charges of being in the country illegally. (AP)



Nicaraguan citizens wave from a bus after being released from a Nicaraguan jail and landing at the airport in Guatemala City on Sept 5. Nicaragua said on Sept 10 it was revoking the citizenship and seizing the property of 135 people who were expelled from the country last week after serving prison sentences in a government crackdown on dissent. (AP)

S&P affirms Gulf Insurance Group's rating at 'A'

Gulf Insurance Group announced that Standard & Poor's Global has affirmed its financial strength rating at "A" with a revised outlook from stable to positive, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a statement by the Kuwait Stock Exchange, this change in outlook reflects the agency's expectation that the rating could be upgraded within the next two years if the parent company, Fairfax, also receives

a rating increase. The agency anticipates that Gulf Insurance Group will maintain

its strong competitive position in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, preserve improved capital adequacy at a confidence level of at least "99.95%", and continue to enhance operational performance. These factors will help the group sustain its robust capital

over the next two years.

The affirmation of the group's

credit rating highlights its very strong financial position, solid operational performance, balanced business profile, and prudent risk management approach.

The "A" credit rating underscores the company's strong ability to meet its current insur-ance obligations. The positive outlook reflects the potential direction of the rating over the medium term, typically within a 6 to 24-month period.

gold prices remain relatively stable

Gold prices remained relatively stable today as traders awaited crucial US inflation data, which could impact expectations for an upcoming US interest rate cut, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Spot gold saw a slight dip of 0.1 percent, trading at \$2,501.66 per ounce. Meanwhile, US gold futures held steady at \$2,530.60

The focus is on the consumer

price index (CPI), which is projected to rise by 0.2 percent for August, consistent with the increase observed in July, according to a Reuters poll.

Lower interest rates generally decrease the opportunity cost of holding gold, which does not yield any interest.

Traders are anticipating a 73 percent probability that the Federal Reserve will reduce rates by 25 basis points at its June 17-18 meeting, with a 27 percent chance of a 50 basis point cut, according to CME Group's FedWatch tool.

In the broader precious metals market, spot silver edged up 0.1 percent to \$28.36 per ounce. Platinum increased by 0.6 percent to \$943.70 per ounce, and palladium saw a 1.1 percent rise, reaching \$957.22 per ounce.

Market Movements

EGYPT

Change Closing pts +381.28 30,485.63

SAUDI DUBAI - DFMGI **JAPAN** Nikkei 225 PHILIPPINES - PSEi PAKISTAN KSE 100

11-09-2024

Change Closing pts -220.20 11,766.40 -41.06 4.346.42 -539.39 35,619.77 -39.75 6,944.88 78.668.13

Business

Boursa Kuwait ends mixed, general index gains 0.18 pct

Main market falls 0.52% despite higher liquidity

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Yesterday, the Boursa Kuwait showed mixed performance during its third trading session of the week. reports Al-Jarida daily.

The General Market Index ended the day up by 0.18 percent, or 12.82 points, reaching 7194.34 points. This was accompanied by substantial liquidity close to 70 million dinars, although it fell short of the 86 million dinars observed earlier in the week.

The trading volume was significant, with over 403 million shares exchanged through 21,245 transactions. Out of 134 traded shares, 51 gained, 61 lost, and 22 remained un-

The first market, buoyed by strong performances from leading shares like KFH and Watani, closed up by 0.33 percent, or 25.43 points, at 7814.07 points. However, liquidity here was lower, amounting to 32 million dinars with 107 million shares traded across 7,170 transactions. Of the 34 stocks traded, 19 gained, 12

lost, and 3 remained stable.

The main market saw a drop of 0.52 percent, or 32.36 points, closing at 6167.14 points with liquidity of 37.7 million dinars. Despite the higher liquidity compared to the first market, it decreased from previous sessions. A total of 296.7 million shares were traded through 14,075 transactions. Out of 100 traded stocks, 32 gained, 49 lost, and 19 remained unchanged.

Market activity was notable from the start, with liquidity briefly spiking by more than two million dinars, a significant figure for the early session. Trading activity was intense for stocks like MENA, Eva, Arzan Block, Kuwait Real Estate, and Al-Sahel, though trading in Al-Safa eased significantly, and it did not ap-

pear among the top 20 in liquidity.
Unicap initially led with high liquidity but saw a sharp decline, ending the session down 33 percent to 230 fils with heavy trading of 3.5 million dinars. MENA also suffered a decline, closing at 153 fils, down 32.3 percent, with 8 million dinars traded, though this was less than the previous day's 14 million dinars.

Among the stocks experiencing

profit-taking, GFH fell to 180 fils with trades exceeding two million dinars while Energy House also dropped by 7.3 percent, trading over

one million dinars. Conversely, Giad's stock surged by 20 percent with liquidity close to one million dinars, trading 44 mil-

Positive movements were observed in stocks like Eva and Inovest, which rose by 9 percent, and Consumer by 1.5 percent. Arzan gained 2 percent, while Investments saw significant growth of 5 percent. Stocks of Aayan, Kuwait Real Estate, and the International Bank also performed well, with KFH and NBK trading on the rise.

Overall, six of the top 20 most liquid stocks declined, with Agility, Zain, and GFH leading in losses. Despite this, the Gulf region saw overall positive performance, with most indices rising.

The Saudi market, however, struggled due to declining oil prices, which fell below \$71 per barrel, putting pressure on its index. The Brent benchmark oil price of \$70 per barrel has not been seen for several months, influencing the market dynamics.

5 countries acquired 76% of projects and 73.8% of Capex

Chemicals sector attracts \$163 billion in Arab region over 22 years: Dhaman

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman) revealed that the chemicals sector attracted 461 projects implemented by 313 foreign and Arab companies with Capex of more than \$163 billion during the period between January 2003 and June 2024, i.e. nearly 22 years.

In its second sectoral report on petrochemicals and chemicals sector in Arab countries for 2024, issued by the corporation at its headquarters in the State of Kuwait today, Dhaman said five Arab countries, notably UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco and Qatar attracted 352 projects, making up 76% of the total, with Capex of more than \$120 billion, accounting for 73.8% of the total, creating 68.5 thousands jobs, representing 68.4%.

The report covers four main pillars of the sector: 1- the evolution and future of the petrochemical sector capacity until 2028, 2- foreign trade in chemicals for 2023, 3- foreign projects in the sector, 4- assessment of the sector's investment and business risks. It showed that the U.S. took the lead as the most important investor in the Arab region in the chemicals sector with 85 projects, making up 18% of the total, and Capex of \$56.2 billion, representing 34%.

The report noted that the top 10 companies accounted for roughly 15% of the number of new projects, 42.5% of the Capex, and 32.2% of the new jobs created. The American Dow Chemical came first in the number of projects and Capex with 11 projects and Capex exceeding \$23 billion, accounting for 14.1% of the total, while Chevron Philipps Chemical was ranked first in the number of new jobs by creating over 6,000 jobs, representing 6.2% of the total.

Regarding investment and business risks and incentives in the petrochemical sector in six Arab countries according to Fitch Rating for 2024, they were monitored through two main indicators: risks of (country) and (industry) and incentives of (country) and (industry). Based on the indicator's 2024 results, Saudi Arabia was at the front of the list as the best Arab country due to lower risks and higher incentives in the petrochemical sector, followed by UAE, Qatar and Egypt respectively, while Algeria was at the tail end.

The report predicted a slight rise in the Arab region's petrochemical production capacity to 167.4 million tons per annum in 2024, accounting for around 12.1% of the global total. Yet, it is forecast to keep hiking by 30.7% to 219 million tons annually by 2028.

The report expected the Arab region's ethylene production capacity to stand at 27.3 million tons per annum in 2024, making up roughly 12% of the global total, amid forecasts of a 57% rise to 42.8 million tons annually by 2028. The annual propylene production capacity of Arab countries is also anticipated to stand at 7.8 million tons in 2024, making up 10.5% of the global total, hiking by 54% to 12 million tons



Table of chemical projects

As for foreign trade in Arab countries' chemical sector, the report showed a 6% drop to \$257.7 billion in 2023,as a result of a 10% fall in Arab chemical exports and a 1.2% decline in imports in the same year.

It indicated that China was at the front as the region's top chemical exporter with \$14.4 billion or 12.1% of overall Arab chemical imports, and also led as the top importer with 14% of the region's overall chemical exports with \$19.8 bil-

It added that plastic products of all types topped the list of Arab chemical exports in 2023 with \$53.6 billion or more than 38.5% of the total. Medicinal and pharmaceutical products were at the forefront of Arab chemical imports in the same year with \$30.5 billion or more than 25.8% of the total.

Based in Kuwait, the Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (Dhaman) was established in 1974 as a multilateral institution that comprises all Arab countries and four joint Arab financial institutions. It provides specialized insurance services against credit and political risks with a view to facilitating the inflow of foreign direct investments into Arab countries and promoting Arab exports and

OPEC lowers 2024 global oil demand growth forecast

Kuwait crude oil drops to \$73.11 per barrel

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil dropped 44 cents during Tuesday's trading to reach USD 73.11 per barrel compared with USD 73.55 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Wednesday.

Brent futures plunged USD 2.65 to USD 69.19 pb and West Texas Intermediate lost USD 2.96 to USD

OPEC, yesterday, lowered global oil demand projections in 2024, saying it would increase by 2.03 million barrels per day, dropping from a projected 2.11 million bpd last month.

US energy information department said global oil demand was expected to average 103.1 million bpd in 2024, up by 200,000 bpd than previous projections.

Eurozone growth slows, ECB expected to lower rates again

Global monetary easing ramps up as US focus shifts to labor market

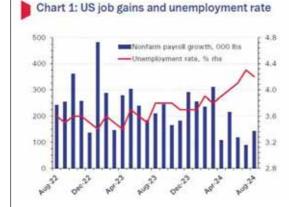
By National Bank of Kuwait

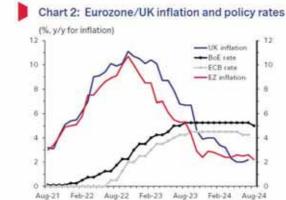
With inflation edging down closer towards targeted levels, key central banks have shifted their focus away from rising prices and towards protecting the economic growth outlook and warding off any recession threat. For now, the outlook for a soft landing in the US looks promising, with the labor market still quite solid and the Fed set to start cutting rates in September. In the Eurozone, the ECB is set to lower rates again in September against a backdrop of softer though still positive economic growth but still-elevated services inflation. In Japan, the BoJ faces a difficult balancing act as its pursuit of higher interest rates at a time of cuts overseas risks a further bout of financial market instability. Finally, economic indicators in China are weakening, but the authorities are yet to offer forceful policy support.

Fed to start cutting rates in September as likelihood of a soft landing is sustained

US GDP growth rebounded strongly to 3% (annualized) in Q2 from 1.4% in Q1, and leading indicators point to another decent ~2% rise in Q3. Private consumption was particularly strong in Q2 (2.9% from 1.5% in Q1) and July's solid retail sales (+1% m/m) suggests still-resilient consumer activity. In contrast, real estate activity is weak, manufacturing continues to shrink, and the ISM services index remains on a general downtrend and is only marginally above 50. Moreover, the labor market continued to gradually weaken as indicated by data on job growth, job vacancies, and the unemployment rate. For example, rolling three-month average job gains fell to 116K/month in August, the weakest since the onset of the pandemic, and the unemployment rate rose by an eye-catching 70 bps since July 2023 to stand at 4.2% in August 2024. On the other hand, consumer price pressures continue to abate, with July's PCE inflation down to 2.5% y/y and core to 2.6% (versus 4.2% one year ago), inching closer to the 2% target and pushing the Fed to switch focus to its other mandate, i.e. maximum employment.

The Fed is near certain to start an easing cycle in mid-September, delivering a 25 bps interest rate cut although an outsized 50 bps cut is not completely off the table. The futures market is currently indicating a cumulative 100-125 bps in cuts by year-end, although this carries a high degree of uncertainty. The overriding question continues to be whether a hard landing for the US economy can be avoided or not, and contrary to historical precedent at a time of sharp monetary tightening, a hard landing still looks, for now, avoidable. Meanwhile, the presidential race is looking to be a very tight one, keeping financial markets on edge until election day. A Harris win will likely result in minor variations to Democrats' current policy and plans, while a Trump win will inject a more pro-business edge (through lower taxes and regulations), but also extra unpredictability to US policy in terms of trade, immigration and global





geopolitics, with far-reaching implications on the

ECB to cut rates again in September; UK growth strong in H1 but will soften in the second

By contrast, the eurozone economy managed only moderate GDP growth of 0.2% q/q in Q2, slightly below the 0.3% recorded in Q1. The service sector continues to lead the recovery with the services PMI rising in August to 52.9, a threemonth high, helped by the Paris Olympics, while the manufacturing PMI remained, now for two years, in contraction territory. Trade conditions remain vulnerable given tensions with China, posing risks especially to export-heavy Germany. On a more positive note, consumer price inflation fell to 2.2% y/y in August from a 2.4-2.6% range in the previous six months, the softest rise in around three years. However, core inflation remained relatively sticky at 2.8% y/y in August, with services inflation rising to a 10-month high of 4.2%. The recent data and outlook on inflation and growth have strengthened the market's expectation of another 25 bps interest rate cut by the ECB, which now seems likely, at its upcoming September 12 meeting, following a first 25 bps cut in June.

In the UK, the economic recovery picked up steam, with GDP growth at a robust 0.6% q/q in Q2, following a solid 0.7% rise in Q1. Moreover, the Bank of England (BoE) recently upgraded the 2024 growth forecast to 1.2% from 0.5% earlier. Recent PMI activity indicators were strong, with the services index rising to a four month high of 53.7 in August while manufacturing hit a two-year high of 52.5. Still, sustaining this growth momentum over coming quarters will be challenging given still-elevated interest rates, fiscal tightening and a looser labor market. Meanwhile, core inflation decelerated to a 34-month low of 3.3% y/y in August and headline inflation has been in a 2.0%-2.2% range since May. The BoE cut its policy rate in July by 25 bps to 5%, but struck a cautious stance about future rate cuts due to still-elevated services inflation (5.2% in July) and high but softening wage growth (5.1% y/y in the three months to July). Following a landslide victory by the Labour Party in the July election, new PM Kier Starmer has pledged to boost growth. But the new administration faces a stretched fiscal position and is looking to plug a disguised fiscal hole (£22 billion, or 0.8% of GDP) allegedly inherited from the previous government. It will spell out details of "painful" required fiscal measures in its late October

BoJ committed to its gradual policy normalization, market volatility permitting

The Bank of Japan (BoJ) hiked, in late July, its key interest rate to "around 0.25%" from a range of 0% to 0.1% and pledged to halve its monthly bond purchases by Q1 2026, in a move towards normalizing its ultraloose monetary policy. The hawkish BoJ decisions, coupled with US recession fears after a poor July jobs report, triggered extreme volatility in Japanese and global financial markets, including a near 20% crash in Japanese stocks across just two days, as so-called 'carry trade' investments were unwound amid a surging yen. This prompted BoJ officials to announce that they will not be raising interest rates if "financial markets are in an unstable state", which has helped restore relative calm in financial markets for now. Recent growth data was relatively robust, with GDP increasing 0.7% q/q in Q2, the fastest since Q1 2023, more than reversing Q1's 0.6% contraction with private consumption rising following April's wage increases. Leading indicators suggest that the strength could somehow continue in Q3, with the composite PMI climbing in August to the highest since May 2023. Inflation stood at 2.8% y/y in July, steady for the third straight month but above target, while core inflation ticked up to 2.7%. Overall, the current economic trajectory is allowing the BoJ to remain committed to gradual policy normalization, potentially delivering another interest rate hike either this October or in January

China's recent indicators and outlook are weakening, but forceful policy support does not

seem forthcoming The Chinese economy grew a softer-than-expected 4.7% y/y in Q2, below market estimates and the 5.3% recorded in Q1. Early Q3 indicators remain lackluster, suggesting slowing economic momentum. Specifically, July showed softening y/y growth in industrial production, fixed asset investment and credit. Moreover, growing international trade disputes have exerted renewed pressure on the export outlook, with Europe and Canada joining the US in imposing additional tariffs on some China-made products. While retail sales showed some improvement in July, growth is still significantly below the pre-Covid trend. In addition, consumer price inflation was a modest 0.6% y/y in August while wholesale prices have been in deflation for nearly two years. Finally, the unemployment rate ticked up to 5.2% in July with youth unemployment spiking while the general PMI for August (50.1) is the lowest since December 2022. On the policy front, the central bank cut interest rates on several policy instruments by 10-20 bps in July, but kept them steady in August. The soft economic outlook, including ongoing property sector woes and an uncertain global backdrop, require more forceful and broad-based stimulus measures that have been unforthcoming so far. Hence, the government's "around 5%" growth target for 2024 is looking optimistic.

India's strong growth trajectory largely intact despite the latest pullback

India's economic growth slowed to 6.7% y/y in Q1 FY2024-25 from a solid 7.8% the previous quarter on a sharp slowdown in government expenditure owing to elections during the quarter. However, underlying activity remained strong, with private consumption growth rising to a seven-quarter high of 7.6% from 4.3% in the previous quarter. Moreover, with monsoon rains being above-normal so far this season, agricultural production, and consequently, rural consumption is likely to pick up further, boosting growth prospects for the remainder of the current fiscal year (expected at around 7%). Meanwhile, inflation fell to a nearly five year low of 3.5% y/y in July from 5.1% in June, mainly due to base effects, but will likely pick up as food price rises continue to be elevated on a monthly basis. As a result, the central bank has maintained its cautious stance, keeping the repo rate steady for the ninth consecutive time at 6.5% in August. On the political front, Narendra Modi took the PM office for the third straight time, albeit with a lower parliamentary majority than his previous two terms. The ruling party's fewer seats in parliament has already resulted in the government back-tracking on several items of its agenda, such as the proposed pension reforms, switching back to a defined-benefits mechanism, in addition to cancelling the overhauling of a capital gains tax mechanism.

Japanese yen hits yearly high against USD

Japanese yen on Wednesday afternoon surged to its highest level against the U.S. dollar this year in the Tokyo foreign exchange market, briefly reaching 140.72 yen to the dollar

This marked a significant appreciation of nearly 3 yen compared to the previous day's closing rate, setting a new high for the year by surpassing the previous peak of 141.68 yen to the dollar set on Aug. 5.

The yen's rapid rise was largely attributed to comments made by Junko Nakagawa, a board member of the Bank of Japan (BOJ), during an economic and financial forum ear-

lier in the day. Nakagawa suggested that the BOJ might adjust its monetary easing policy if the economy and inflation evolve as expected, a statement that was interpreted by the market as a sign of a potential rate hike later this year. The hawkish signal aligns with the tone set by BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda, who has maintained a more aggressive stance

his predecessors. The anticipation of a narrowing interest rate gap between Japan and the United States spurred investors to buy yen and sell dollars, pushing the yen higher.

on tightening policy compared to

S. Korea's employment rises 123,000 on year in August

South Korea's employment growth stayed above 100,000 for the second straight month due to a fast increase in elderly jobs, statistical office data showed Wednesday.

The number of employed people aged 15 or older increased 123,000 from a year earlier to 28,801,000 in August after growing 172,000 in the previous month, according to Statistics

The overall job expansion was driven by the elderly people. The number of jobs for those aged 60 or older advanced 231,000 in August on a yearly basis, while the figures for those in their 30s and 50s climbed 99,000 and 3,000 each.

Employment among those aged 15-29 dived 142,000 last month, and jobs for those in their 40s reduced by 68,000.

The number of jobs in the

health and social welfare service, the information and communications, and the transport and warehousing industries picked up 63,000, 101,000 and

94,000, respectively. Employment among manufacturers dwindled by 35,000 in August compared with the same month of last year, keeping a downward trend for the second consecutive month.

Both companies have now exhausted their appeals

Google, Apple lose court fights against EU, owe billions in fines and taxes

LONDON, Sept 11, (AP): Google lost its last bid to overturn a European Union antitrust penalty, after the bloc's top court ruled against it Tuesday in a case that came with a whopping fine and helped jumpstart an era of intensifying scrutiny for Big Tech companies.

The European Union's top court rejected Google's appeal against the 2.4 billion euro (\$2.7 billion) penalty from the European Commission, the 27-nation bloc's top antitrust enforcer, for violating antitrust rules with its comparison shopping service.

Also Tuesday, Apple lost its challenge against an order to repay 13 billion euros (\$14.34 billion) in back taxes to Ireland, after the European Court of Justice issued a separate decision siding with the commission in a case targeting unlawful state aid for global corpora-

Both companies have now exhausted their appeals in the cases that date to the previous decade. Together, the court decisions are a victory for European Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, who's expected to step down next month after 10 years as the commission's top official

overseeing competition. Experts said the rulings illustrate how watchdogs have been emboldened in the years since the cases were first

One of the takeaways from the Apple decision "is the sense that, again, the EU authorities and courts are prepared to flex their (collective) muscles to bring Big Tech to heel where necessary," Alex Haffner, a competition partner at law firm Fladgate, said by

The Google ruling "reflects the growing confidence with which competition regulators worldwide are tackling the perceived excesses of the Big Tech companies," said Gareth Mills, partner at law firm Charles Russell Speechlys. The court's willingness "to back the legal rationale and the level of fine will undoubtedly embolden the competition regulators further.

The shopping fine was one of three huge antitrust penalties for Google from the commission, which punished the Silicon Valley giant in 2017 for unfairly directing visitors to its own Google Shopping service over com-

"We are disappointed with the decision of the Court, which relates to a very specific set of facts," Google said in a brief statement.

The company said it made changes to comply with the commission's decision requiring it to treat competitors equally. It started holding auctions for shopping search listings that it would bid for alongside other comparison shopping services.

"Our approach has worked successfully for more than seven years, generating billions of clicks for more than 800 comparison shopping services," Google said.

European consumer group BEUC hailed the court's decision, saying it shows how the bloc's competition law 'remains highly relevant" in digital markets.

"It is a good outcome for all European consumers at the end of the day," Director General Agustín Reyna said in an interview. "It means that many smaller companies or rivals will be able to go to different comparison shopping sites. They don't need to depend on Google to reach out to customers."

Google is still appealing its two other EU antitrust cases: a 2018 fine of 4.125 billion euros (\$4.55 billion) involving its Android operating system and a 2019 penalty of 1.49 billion euros (\$1.64 billion) over its AdSense advertising platform.

Despite the amounts of money involved, the adverse rulings will leave a small financial dent in tow of the world's richest and most profitable companies. The combined bill of 15.4 billion euro (\$17 billion) facing Apple and Alphabet, Google's parent company, represents 0.3% of their combined market value of 4.73 trillion euro (\$5.2 trillion)

Apple's stock price dipped slightly in Tuesday's late afternoon trading while Alphabet shares rose 1%, signaling investors were unfazed by the developments in Eu-

Those three cases foreshadowed expanded efforts by regulators worldwide to crack down on the tech industry. The EU has since opened more investigations into Big Tech companies and drew up a new law to prevent them from cornering online markets, known as the Digital Markets Act.

European Commissioner and Executive Vice President Margrethe Vestager said that the shopping case was one of the first attempts to regulate a digital company and inspired similar efforts worldwide.

"The case was symbolic because it demonstrated even the most powerful tech companies could be held accountable. No one is above the law," Vestager told a press briefing in Brussels.

Vestager said the commission will continue to open competition cases even as it enforces the Digital Markets Act. The DMA is a sweeping rulebook that forces Google and other tech giants to give consumers more choice by following a set of dos and don'ts.

Google is also now facing pressure over its lucrative digital advertising business from the EU and Britain, which are carrying out separate investigations, and the United States, where the Department of Justice is taking the company to federal court over its alleged dominance

Apple failed in its last bid to avoid repaying its Irish taxes Tuesday after the Court of Justice upheld a lower court ruling against the company, in the dispute that dates back to 2016.

Vestager, who said she had been braced for defeat, hailed it as a landmark victory for "tax justice."

It was a surprise win for the commission, which has previously targeted Amazon, Starbucks and Fiat with tax rulings that were later overturned on appeal. They were part of the EU's efforts to stamp out sweetheart deals that let companies pay little to no taxes in a fight that highlighted the debate over whether multinational corporations are paying their fair share around the

The case drew outrage from Apple, with CEO Tim Cook calling it "total political crap." Then-U.S. President Donald Trump slammed Vestager, who spearheaded the campaign to root out special tax deals and crack down on big U.S. tech companies, as the "tax lady" who "really hates the U.S."

Beijing urged to open up economy

European business confidence in China at all-time low – report

flights would depart as scheduled.

The Kenya Airports Authority

said in a statement that it was "en-

gaging relevant parties to normal-

ize operations" and urged passen-

gers to contact respective airlines

The Central Organization of

Trade Unions' secretary-general,

Francis Atwoli, told journalists at

the airport that the strike would

have been averted had the govern-

where the assurance to workers

in writing that our members will

not lose jobs and their jobs will

remain protected by the govern-

ment and as is required by law and

that assurance alone, we wouldn't

Last week, airport workers had

threatened to go on strike, but the

plans were called off pending dis-

The spotting of unknown peo-

ple moving around with airport

officials taking notes and photo-

graphs raised concerns that the In-

dian firm officials were readying

for the deal, local media outlets

The High Court on Monday

temporarily halted the implemen-

tation of the deal until a case filed

by the Law Society and the Kenya

Human Rights Commission is

reported last week.

cussions with the government.

have been here," he said.

"This was a very simple matter

ment listened to the workers.

to confirm flight status.

HONG KONG, Sept 11, (AP): China must reprioritize economic growth and reforms and boost investor confidence by leveling the playing field for all companies in the country, a European business group said

With "business confidence now at an all-time low" over lagging domestic demand and overcapacity in certain industries, the annual European Business in China Position Paper called on China to open its economy

NAIROBI, Kenya, Sept 11, (AP):

Hundreds of workers at Kenya's

main international airport dem-

onstrated on Wednesday against

a planned deal between the gov-

ernment and a foreign investor.

Planes have remained grounded,

with hundreds of passengers

The government has said that the

build-and-operate agreement with

India's Adani Group would see the

Jomo Kenyatta International Air-

port modernized, and an additional

runway and terminal constructed,

in exchange for the group running

Kenya Airport Workers Union,

in announcing the strike, said that

the deal would lead to job losses

and "inferior terms and conditions

of service" for those who will re-

Kenya Airways on Wednesday

announced there would be flight

delays and possible cancellations

because of the ongoing strike at

the airport, which serves Nairobi.

flights coming from the port city

of Mombasa and the lake city of

Kisumu, where delays have been

At the main airport, police offic-

ers had taken up security check-in

roles with long lines seen outside

the departure terminals and worried

passengers unable to confirm if their

reported by local media.

The strike has affected local

stranded at the airport.

the airport for 30 years.

Flights stopped in Kenya

over Adani deal protests

and allow a more free market to determine resource allocation. It also recommended introducing policies to boost domestic demand.

Profit margins in China are at or below the global average for two-thirds of the companies surveyed earlier in the year, according to the paper published Wednesday by the European Chamber of Commerce in China.

In August, China filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization over European Union tariffs

> on electric vehicles made in China. It also launched antidumping and subsidies investigations of European dairy products, brandy and pork exports. The tit-for-tat actions have raised fears that a trade war may break out.

Many European businesses are deciding that the returns on investments in the world's second-largest economy are not worth the risks, due to issues including China's economic slowdown and a politicized business environment.

"For some European headquarters and shareholders, the risks of investing in China are beginning to outright the returns, a trend that will only intensify if key business concerns are left unaddressed," Jens Eskelund, president of China's European Union Chamber of Commerce, said in a message at the beginning of the paper.

The European Chamber's paper proposes over 1,000 recommendations for China to resolve challenges and problems faced by European businesses operating in the country and boost investor confidence. Among them are calls for China to refrain from punishing companies for the actions of their home governments. Others include ensuring that policy packages for attracting foreign investment are followed by implementation, and refraining from "erratic policy shifts.'

The report also recommended that the EU proactively engage with China and keep its responses "measured and proportionate" when disagreements arise.

US inflation possibly hits three-year low in August



Shoppers pause in the produce section at a Walmart Superstore in Secaucus, New Jersey, July 11, 2024. (AP)

Fed prepares to cut rates next week

WASHINGTON, Sept 11, (AP): Inflation in the United States may have hit a threeyear low in August, underscoring that the rate of price increases is falling back to pre-pandemic levels and clearing the way for the Federal Reserve to start cutting its key interest rate next week.

Year-over-year inflation is thought to have slowed to 2.6% last month, according to a survey of economists by the data provider FactSet. That would be the lowest such rate since March 2021. And excluding volatile food and energy prices, core inflation is believed to have remained unchanged at 3.2%.

Inflation peaked at 9.1% in June 2022 - a four-decade high - as the economy rebounded from the pandemic recession with unexpected speed and strength. The Fed responded with 11 rate hikes in 2022 and

2023, raising its key rate to a 23-year high and making loans much more expensive across the economy.

The latest inflation figures could inject themselves into the presidential race in its final weeks. Former President Donald Trump has heaped blame on Vice President Kamala Harris for the jump in inflation, which erupted in early 2021 as global supply chains seized up, causing severe shortages of parts and labor. Harris has proposed subsidies for home buyers and builders in an effort to ease housing costs and supports a federal ban on price-gouging for groceries. Trump has said he would boost energy production to try to reduce overall infla-

Fed officials have signaled that they're increasingly confident that inflation is steadily falling back to their 2% target and are now shifting their focus to supporting the job market, which is rapidly cooling. The Fed's mandate is to seek stable prices and maximum employment.

Reductions in the Fed's benchmark

rate should, over time, reduce the cost of consumer and business borrowing, including for mortgages, auto loans and credit cards

"Overall, I see significant and ongoing progress toward the (Fed's) inflation goal that I expect will continue over the remainder of this year," Christopher Waller, a key policymaker on the Fed's Board of Governors, said last

Waller noted that for more than half the goods and services that the government tracks, annual inflation has fallen below 2.5%, a sign that price increases are broadly slowing.

A big reason why inflation likely fell last month is that gas prices tumbled by about 10 cents a gallon in August, according to the Energy Inflation Administration, to a national average of about \$3.29.

Economists also expect the government's measures of grocery prices and rents to rise more slowly. Though food prices are roughly 20% more expensive than before the pandemic, they are up just 1.1% from a year ago.

Britain's winter fuel allowance cut raises alarms over pensioners' lifelines

LONDON, Sept 11, (Xinhua): Britain's newly installed Labour government pressed ahead with its plan to cancel the winter fuel allowance, potentially causing hardship for millions of pensioners this winter.

On Tuesday, a Labour-dominated parliament voted down a motion against the cut, with 348 MPs voting against and 228 in favor.

Following the revision, only around 1.5 million people will remain eligible for the fuel allowance, down from 11.4 million when it was available to everyone over the age of 66. This change affects nearly 10 million elderly individuals in Britain.

Ahead of the vote, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer defended the

Unpopular choice

decision, stating he made "no apologies" for initiating difficult changes and acknowledging that the government has to take unpopular measures, including cutting winter fuel

payments. During the debate, British Work and Pensions Secretary Liz Kendall explained that introducing a meanstested winter fuel allowance was part of broader efforts to stabilize the economy and rebuild Britain.

However, the total savings from this cut would amount to just 1.5 billion British pounds (1.96 billion U.S. dollars), far less than the 22-billionpound (28.76 billion dollars) deficit Labour Chancellor Rachel Reeves

warned about. Even with pension credits boosting annual income to 11,300 pounds (14,770 dollars) for a single person and 17,300 pounds (22,612 dollars) for a couple, many pensioners are not applying for the credits, worsening

the situation. A poll commissioned by the Liberal Democrats revealed that 55 percent of British pensioners plan to heat their homes less frequently this winter due to the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Payment. Twothirds of respondents indicated they would need to take additional costcutting measures as a result of the changes.

"This is a vicious and vindictive act against some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the UK,' Martin Powell, professor of Health

and Social Policy at the University of Birmingham, told Xinhua.

Powell argued that there were many alternatives to cutting the fuel allowance for 10 million pensioners. 'It would be possible to save a similar amount of money elsewhere in the government budget," he added.

Cold truth

Opposition MPs cited Labour Party research from 2017, which warned that scrapping the Winter Fuel Allowance could increase excess winter deaths among the elderly by almost

"Rachel Reeves' 'crocodile tears' statement about a cold pensioner she met, along with MPs and ministers claiming heating bills on their second homes, should weigh heavily on the

conscience of any 'Labour in Name Only' MP," Powell said.

'There will be severe consequences, but it is somewhat ironic that trade unions are criticizing this move, given that the government has effectively admitted it needs to save money for above-inflation increases to union members. Workers can strike,

but pensioners can't," he added. Steve Nolan, an economics lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University, told Xinhua: "The problem for Chancellor Rachel Reeves and the government is that they have tied their hands by pledging not to raise the three main revenue-generating income, national insurance, and valueadded taxes.

"It does seem rushed, a policy

designed to fill the supposed 'black hole' in this year's finances. There is a race to get those eligible for pension credit signed up. Overall, it highlights the pitfalls of creating fiscal policy in haste," said Nolan. Eleanor, a pensioner from Liver-

pool in her early 70s, described the removal of the winter fuel allowance as "brutal."

"Labour has always portrayed itself as the party of the working class. I can't believe they would do this to the most vulnerable group in this country. Millions of pensioners put their trust in Labour, and we feel as though we've been kicked in the teeth. Like many older people, I dread the winter months," she told



As part of its continuous support of 'Let's Be Aware' campaign

KIB launches financial literacy booth at 'The Warehouse Mall'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the setup of a special booth at The Warehouse Mall with the aim of raising banking awareness and financial literacy among community members. This effort aligns with KIB's ongoing and dedicated initiatives to support the directives and recommendations of the "Let's Be Aware" (Diraya) financial awareness campaign, launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) in cooperation with local banks. It also comes as part of KIB's commitment to its leading role in guiding customers, helping them make sound financial decisions, and protecting the security of their banking data.

In this regard, Mariam Al-Nasser, Area Manager of Retail Banking at KIB,said: "One of KIB's top priorities is fostering effective communication with customers across different segments and actively promoting financial literacy within society. We see the cultivation of financial awareness and the strengthening of customer relationships as essential to success in the banking industry. These efforts are crucial in guiding society toward a greater understanding of digital banking advancements, and in helping to prevent the increasing threats of fraud, phishing, and other harmful attempts to steal data and money.

Al-Nasser highlighted that: "The Bank's representative stook an active role in interacting with The Warehouse Mall visitors, showcasing our products and services while offering key information on banking rights, responsibilities, and the protection of personal data as outlined by CBK's guidelines.



KIB's Mariam Al-Nasser.

They emphasized the need for secure banking practices in today's rapidly changing financial environment and addressed the growing concerns around fraud." She added that: "KIB will continue to strengthen itsfinancial awareness efforts by positioning its special booths in busy locations to enhance financial literacy across society and directly engage with a wide range of people to better grasp their banking

It is worth noting that KIB is committed to its leading and effective role in raising community awareness, which is considered an essential part of its comprehensive social responsibility strategy. The Bank constantly strives to launch initiatives that broadly enhance financial literacy and to participate in events that support the goals of the "Let's Be Aware" campaign, embodying its main slogan, "Bank for Life". About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the



KIB's Warehouse Booth Sept 2024.

Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new

strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

Through a network of branches spread across the State of Kuwait,KIB offers a broad range of banking products and services, as well as innovative digital banking solutions in line with international best standards. As part of its duty towards the community, the Bank also encompasses a leading social responsibility program that aims at positively impacting all members of the community through a wide range of impactful initiatives and activities.

Today, KIB has taken concrete steps in implementing its new strategic objectives. The Bank has cemented its role as a key player in the local banking industry and has continued to maintain its strong financial performance; enabling it to be globally recognized for its strong credit rating and financial position.

Seraida M. Baiddin sworn in as UAP-KC president

With KFH Visa.. The train awaits you



KFH Visa cardholders win luxurious Belmond train trips.

Titled 'With KFH Visa ... Your Train is Waiting'

KFH announces 6 winners of its first campaign draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has announced the winners in the first draw of its campaign titled "With KFH Visa ... Your Train is Waiting", targeting holders of VISA debit, credit, and prepaid cards. The campaign which started at the beginning of August and will continue until the end of September, offers an opportunity to win a luxurious 7-star trip aboard the Belmond Train. Winners will have the opportunity to choose between an Asia Trip encompassing Singapore and Malaysia, or a Europe trip exploring France and Italy.

Winners of the first campaign draw are: Ahmed Salem Al-Jafar, Omar Taha Al-Hasawi, Masoud Abdullah Al-Qahtani, Abdullah Fahad Al-Hamlan, Ahmad Omran Al-Sabri, and Abdulaziz Khashman Al-Dhufairy.

Two consecutive draws will be held throughout the campaign period, allowing 12 winners to enjoy several privileges as part of a package that includes: one companion for each winner, roundtrip business-class tickets, a suite stay on the Belmond Train, accommodation in a 5-star hotel during the trip, and KD 2,000 pocket money deposited into the winning card's balance.

Each customer will have one chance to enter the draw for each one (1) Kuwaiti Dinar spent of the total local purchasing transactions (including the purchasing made through online websites in Kuwaiti Dinar). The customer will have 10 chances to enter the draw for each one (1) Kuwaiti Dinar of the total purchasing transactions spent overseas (including purchasing made online in foreign currencies). Withdrawal transactions, whether conducted within or outside Kuwait, as well as cards issued after the campaign's launch, will not be eligible for the draw.

The campaign underscores KFH's commitment to providing customers with the best benefits and demonstrates the Bank's ongoing dedication to rewarding card usage while prioritizing customer security and convenience. It also coincides with the summer holiday and travel season, leading to a high demand for round-the-clock credit card use. The campaign involves using KFH Visa cards within Kuwait to encourage online transactions, which stimulates sales while enhancing customer satisfaction through security and conveni-ence in their banking experience.

It is worth noting that KFH has implemented comprehensive measures to optimize the card usage experience for customers by developing automated banking card systems and software, enhancing service devices, and improving card quality. These initiatives prioritize the needs of both cardholders and merchants, with the ultimate goal of delivering an exceptional banking experience to customers, positively impacting customers' satisfaction, usage rates, as well as expanding market share and strengthening KFH leadership in the banking cards market.

UAP-Kuwait celebrates 9th anniversary with induction & membership meeting

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The United Architects of the Philippines - Kuwait Chapter (UAP-KC) recently celebrated its 9th Founding Anniversary last August 30, 2024, at the Grand Majestic Hotel.Simultaneously, two other activities were conducted during the anniversary celebrations. First was the Induction of the new set of officers for the fiscal year 2024-2025 and theother was the 1st General Membership Meeting under the leadership of the newly elected President Seraida M. Baiddin. It was transmitted live online to Manila together with the UAP National president, who gave the address during the celebrations, along with the other National officers who subsequently presented, charged and inducted the new set of UAP-KC officers.

The Philippines Ambassador to Kuwait, H.E. Jose A. Cabrera III, was invited as the Guest Speaker, which he graciously accepted and attended. He gave an uplifting speech and reminded the members and guests that the embassy is just one call away for matters concerning the OFWs in Kuwait.

It was one joyous celebration with the architects and guests wearing the traditional Filipino attire of barong and sava as their motif during the gala. The theme of the celebration was "UAP-KC, a Decade of Excellence and Resil-

ience, Forward Together As One." The theme was in support of the UAP's national motto of "One Strong UAP!"

Following the handover of the gavel from the past chapter president Wilher John Bassig, the incumbent president Baiddin gave her inaugural address to the attendees punctuated by a reminder that the UAP-KC is here to stay and that "One Strong UAP!" is not just a motto but an achievable goal.

Although, officially, the UAP-KC was celebrating its 9th anniversary, it has been in existence for 10 years. hence, the theme "A Decade of Excellence and Resilience. Forward Together As One." As narrated by Ar. Dioscoro Quiblat during the ceremony, a group of 18 architects ushered the creation of an interim Architect's group in 2014 through the initiative of the Philippine Professionals Organization in Kuwait. From there, the interim group was officially chartered by the UAP National Headquarters as the 139th chapter of the UAP on August 22, 2015 with the official ceremony held later on October 2, 2015 in Dubai under the leadership by the founding Chapter President Wilmar Jesus Mago.

The celebration culminated with the ceremonial wine toasting amid the raucous chant of "One Strong UAP!"







Photos during the event.

KIBS launches Certificate in Credit Management with Moody's collaboration

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: KIBS launched the Certificate in Credit Management (CCM) program on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. This program is designed to equip participants with the advanced skills and knowledge required to kickstart or advance their careers in finance, banking and invest-

And for the first time in Kuwait the program is delivered in collaboration with Moody's Corporation, the American provider of financial analysis software and services as a part of the commitment of the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS) to empowering and equipping bankers and financial professionals with the essential skills and knowledge needed to advance their careers. Its approach is grounded in professional and scientific principles, which underpins its many achievements and enhance its esteemed role as a premier training organization in Kuwait and the

The program is uniquely designed due to the inclusion of e-learning segments, instructor-led lectures, skill application workshops, case studies and presentations that all help to convert the knowledge and skills gained by the participants into daily habits at

The three-month program aims to equip participants with a structured approach to credit assessment, understand the borrower's credit need and conduct a detailed business risk analysis and equip learners with fundamental skills in preparing and presenting a credit application to their Credit Committees with the aim of obtaining their

At the commencement of the program, Ms. Rana A. Al-Nibari, the Director General of the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS), extended a warm welcome to the participants and wished them success and prosperity in all their future endeavors. Eng. Suha Isaac, the Head of Training Department, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of the program for both the participants and their respective organizations. Moody's supervisors addressed the attendees and illustrated how the program will enhance the participants' skills and refine their experience through its various

components and topics, particularly

the practical applications. KIBS is committed to making diligent efforts to develop the skills of national competencies.Its offerings have evolved to encompass a wide range of programs and services such as professional certification, executive development, training and development in various fields, assessments and tests, English language training, e-learning and publications on business and finance research. KIBS positions itself as a solutions provider, aiding clients in staff development to drive business growth. Additionally, the Institute has established a network of distinguished international and

regional faculty members who possess both academic qualifications and practical experience. KIBS has also formed global partnerships with toptier professional institutions to foster long-term cooperation.



voter registration website. Swift has a dedicated following among young women, a key demographic in the November election, and her latest tour has generated more than \$1 billion in ticket sales. In a half hour, the post received more than 2.3 million likes.

She included a picture of herself holding her cat Benjamin Button, and she signed the message "Childless Cat Lady." The remark is a reference to three-year-old comments made by JD Vance, Donald Trump's running mate, about women without children not having an

equal stake in the country's future.

A Harris senior campaign official said the endorsement was not coordinated with the campaign. Tim Walz, Harris' running mate, appeared to learn about the endorsement in the middle of a live interview on MSNBC. As Rachel Maddow read the text, Walz broke into a smile and patted his chest.

"That was eloquent. And it was clear," Walz said. "And that's the kind of courage we need in America to stand up.'

Swift wrote that her endorsement was partially prompted by Trump's decision to post AI-generated pictures suggesting that she had endorsed him. One showed Swift dressed as Uncle Sam, and the text

said "Taylor wants YOU to VOTE for DONALD TRUMP."

Trump's posts "brought me to the conclusion that I need to be very transparent about my actual plans for this election as a voter," Swift wrote. She added that "I've done my research, and I've made my choice."

The Trump campaign dismissed Swift's endorsement. "This is further evidence that the Democrat Party has unfortunately become a party of the wealthy elites," said spokesperson Karoline

"There's many Swifties for Trump out there in America," she said, herself included.

Surprise

Swift's endorsement was not exactly a surprise. In 2020, she supported President Joe Biden, and she cheered for Harris in her debate against then-Vice President Mike Pence. She also was openly critical of Trump, saying he had stoked "the fires of white supremacy and rac-

Swift is a popular figure nationwide, but especially among Democrats. An October 2023 Fox News poll found that 55% of voters overall, including 68% of Democrats, said they had a favorable view of Swift. Republicans were divided, with 43% having a favorable opinion and 45% an unfavorable one.

AP VoteCast suggests that a partisan divide on Swift was apparent as early as 2018. That's the year Swift made her first political endorsement, supporting Tennessee Democrat Phil Bredesen for Senate over Republican Marsha Blackburn.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.: Patti Scialfa, Bruce Springsteen's wife and E Street bandmate, says she has been dealing with multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer.

In a documentary about the band that premiered Sunday, the 71-year-

old Scialfa said she was diagnosed in 2018 with the disease. The guitarist said the condition has led her to curtail touring with

"This affects my immune system, so I have to be careful what I choose to do and where I choose to go," she said in the film, titled "Road Diary: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band."

"Every once in a while, I come to a show or two and I can sing a

few songs on stage, and that's been a treat," she said. "That's the new normal for me right now, and I'm OK with that." A spokesman for Scialfa said Monday no additional information on

her condition would be released, including whether she is currently being treated for the disease.

She did not attend the film's premiere in Toronto.

Scialfa has been a member of the E Street Band since 1984, and married Springsteen in 1991. She was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2014. She has also performed as a solo artist.

Springsteen had to postpone some tour dates over the last two years due to peptic ulcer disease and vocal issues. He is scheduled to play a music festival in Asbury Park, the Jersey Shore town intimately associated with his music, on Sept. 15.

Variety



Carla Gugino arrives on the red carpet for the film 'The Friend' at the Roy Thomson Hall during the Toronto International Film Festival, in Toronto, on Tuesday, Sept. 10. (AP)

Pharrell as a Lego and Robbie Williams as a chimp?

Music biopics get creative twist

says Pharrell. "Morgan said yes. Lego said yes. Fo-

cus said yes. Universal said yes. When you get to

all those yeses, you realize how impossible this is."

Neville, the filmmaker of "20 Feet From Star-

dom," "Won't You Be My Neighbor" and the recent

Steve Martin doc, made "Piece by Piece" like a doc-

umentary. When he interviewed people for the film

- everyone from Missy Elliott to Kendrick Lamar -

he spoke to them by Zoom and told them they'd be

Pharrell as a Lego is surprisingly winning. It's a

"I felt like everything we were doing in the film

way to represent Pharrell as, at heart, a playful build-

er of beats, a man hellbent on fame who assembled

was totally reflective of the subject of the film," Nev-

ille says. "We're not doing Lego because it's a gim-

mick. We're doing it because it's the only way to tell

"Piece by Piece" will be the unusual film to po-

tentially vie in both the best documentary and best

animated film categories at the Academy Awards,

Concept

query by filmmaker Michael Gracey, who directed

the hit musical "The Greatest Showman." He ap-

proached Williams, the bad-boy balladeer, with a

"I said: 'What animal do you see yourself as?""

Gracey told the crowd, introducing "Better Man" at

the film's Monday premiere. "And with a big grin he

After a moment, Williams reflected and acknowl-

In the film, the actor playing Williams is Jonno

edged the truer answer - for an entertainer who start-

Davies - only we don't see him, either. Not unlike

the process on the "Planet of the Apes" films, Davies

performed in a motion-capture suit. Later, digital ef-

ed out in boy band Take That - was a monkey.

The high concept of "Better Man" began with a

animated. But he didn't share how.

along with the best song category.

his own destiny.

question.

said, 'Lion.'

Film

TORONTO, Sept 11, (AP): Many of the expected

conventions of music biopics are present in "Piece

by Piece," about the producer-turned-pop star Phar-rell Williams, and "Better Man," about the British

singer Robbie Williams. There's the young artist's

urge to break through, fallow creative periods and

But there are a few, little differences. In "Piece

If the music biopic can sometimes feel a little stale

in format, these two movies, both premiering this

week at the Toronto International Film Festival, at-

tempt novel remixes. In each film, each Williams re-

counts his life story as a narrator. But their on-screen

selves aren't movie stars who studied to get a part

just right, but computer-generated animations living

a musician, neither has had a very traditional career.

Their films became reflections of their individual-

ity, and, maybe, a way to distinguish themselves in

the crowded field of music biopics like "Bohemian

something that can be put in a box," Pharrell said

in an interview Tuesday alongside director Morgan

Also next to Pharrell: A two-foot-tall Lego sculp-

The experience watching the crowd-pleasing "Piece by Piece," which Focus Features will release

Oct. 11, can be pleasantly discombobulating. A wide

spectrum of things you never expected to see in Lego

form are animated. Virginia Beach (where Pharrell

grew up). An album of Stevie Wonder's "Songs in

"I'm just so grateful that everybody said yes,"

ture of himself, which was later in the day brought

to the film's premiere and given its own seat in the

"This is about being who you are, even if it's not

While neither Williams has much in common as

by Piece," Pharrell is a Lego. And in "Better Man,"

regrettable chapters of fame-addled excess.

Williams is played by a CGI monkey.

out real superstar fantasies.

Rhapsody" and "Rocketman."

the Key of Life." Jay-Z.

28-year-old "Game of Thrones"

and "X Men" actor and five years

MULLUMBIMBY, Australia:

The 55-year-old appeared in the Mullumbimby Local Court in New South Wales state for sentencing after pleading guilty the week before to a charge of driving with a blood-alcohol concentration

Baker acted alongside Meryl as a former professional psychic who became a California Bureau on multiple shows and movies of Kazuo Ishiguro's "Klara and the Sun" directed by Taika Waititi with an expected 2025 release.

Magistrate Kathy Crittenden accepted that Baker was remorseful and was unlikely to drive after drinking again. She released him on a nine-month good behavior bond with no conviction recorded. Australian judges have discretion to not record a conviction against first-time offenders under exceptional circumstances.

Tesla electric car driving erratically in the fashionable Byron **Bay** region where he lives at 2:11

a.m. July 20. That was hours after a faulty software update issued by cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike created worldwide technological havoc, disrupting airlines, hospitals, government offices and financial systems. Crittenden said the outage knocked police systems offline and an electronic breath test could not be completed on Baker.

She said police resorted to an

"old-fashioned sobriety test." Police reported Baker was unsteady on his feet and smelled of alcohol. He told police he had consumed four glasses of wine over dinner since 6 p.m., roughly eight hours prior. He was alone in

LOS ANGELES: A Florida judge

Australian actor and director Simon Baker, best known for his role as **Patrick Jane** in the CBS drama series "The Mentalist," avoided a conviction Wednesday after pleading guilty to a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol near his rural home.

exceeding the legal limit of 0.05%.

Streep and Anne Hathaway in the Oscar-nominated 2006 film "The Devil Wears Prada" before starring of Investigation consultant in the hit series "The Mentalist" for eight seasons until 2015. He has worked since, including a movie adaptation

Police reported seeing Baker's

has declared Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner divorced and single, signing off on a confidential agreethe car. (AP)

ment reached between the two. The Miami-Dade County judge approved the agreement on Friday, one year after the 35-year-old Jonas Brothers singer filed to divorce the

after the two were married. The split brought a quiet and relatively quick end to a divorce that briefly became acrimonious and looked headed for a long and ugly custody fight.

The documents said that moderated negotiations led to an agreement on splitting assets, spousal support and custody of their two

daughters, 4-year-old Willa and

2-year-old Delphine. Judge Gina Beovides declared that the marriage was "irretrievably broken," and that the couple's agreement, especially their parent-

After-hours emails seeking comment from representatives of

ing plan, was in the best interest of

both Turner and Jonas were not immediately returned.

fects teams placed the chimpanzee of the film on top

of him. One part is Williams himself: the eyes of the

monkey's face. Every other character, meanwhile, is

lease, "Better Man" is R-rated and doesn't skimp on

the rock 'n' roll debauchery. It's the most cocaine

It also makes for a peculiar viewing experience.

"For a narcissist, it's a wonderful treat," he

beamed at the screening. "I've seen it three times.

LOS ANGELES: Joey King stars in Netflix's adap-

tation of Scott Westerfeld's "Uglies," about a fu-

ture society in which everyone is required to have

beautifying cosmetic surgery at age 16. Streaming

on Friday, Sept. 13, McG directed the film, in which

King's character inadvertently finds herself in the

midst of an uprising against the status quo. "Outer

Banks" star **Chase Stokes** plays King's best friend.

woman (Famke Janssen) who killed his family in

"Boy Kills World," coming to Hulu on Friday, Sept.

13. Moritz Mohr directed the ultra-violent film, of

which Variety critic Owen Gleiberman wrote: "It's

a depraved vision, yet I got caught up in its kick-...

revenge-horror pizzazz, its disreputable commitment

Hayao Miyazaki's swan song. (He's said to be at

work again on another film.) But it did live up to

the considerable expectations built up for the long-

in-coming late opus from the Japanese anime master.

The film, streaming on Max, was the best animated

feature winner at the Oscars earlier this year and – in

a first for the 83-year-old Miyazaki.

'The Boy and the Heron" didn't turn out to be

Bill Skarsgård is out for revenge against the

Is Williams a more sympathetic figure as a wounded animal than he is as a human? Either way, Williams

you've ever seen a chimp ingest.

is delighted by the result.

It's not enough.

to what it was doing."

While "Piece by Piece" is a more all-ages re-

The couple met through Instagram messages and began dating in 2016. They married in a secretive ceremony at a Las Vegas wedding chapel in May of 2019 after the Billboard Music Awards. Country duo Dan + Shay performed at the wedding. (AP)

People & Places

Television

Collins' adventure

'Emily in Paris' goes to Rome, Barcelona

ROME, Sept 11, (AP): First Paris, now Rome and next Barcelona – **Lily Collins** is taking on two more European cities.

As the star and producer of "Emily in Paris," she's been playing the unlucky-in-love marketing executive, breaking hearts (including her own) in France for the past three seasons of the Netflix

That changes in part two of the fourth season when, in her usual dramatic fashion, Emily heads to Italy. The cast, including Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu, Lucas Bravo, Ashley Park and Camille Razat, were all in Rome this week to premiere the new episodes releasing Thursday. Getting away from Paris is something there might be more of in future

seasons, as writer and creator Darren Star says he's happy to take this show on the road. Although he rules out changing the title.

"No, it's 'Emily in Paris," says Star. "But Emily can have experiences in other cities and I think Rome is a part of the show now. It really is."

Barcelona comes into play this October when Collins makes her West End debut opposite Álvaro Morte of "Money Heist" in a stage

thriller named after the Spanish city. Luckily, filming "Emily in Paris" in public places has helped give the actor the boost to become a leading lady on the stage.

"It did give me a bit more confidence, an understanding of performing in front of a large crowd this year," Collins says. "It just ironically happened to be the year that I would then be doing theater

right after.' In a recent interview with The Associated Press in Rome, Collins explains why it's the right time for her London stage debut and how filming in Rome allowed her to channel Audrey Hepburn's on-screen Italian adventure in "Roman Holiday." It has been edited for brevity and clarity.

AP: Would you ever play Audrey Hepburn?
Collins: Yes. I mean, I love her. There is no ever replicating her, but she is someone that I've grown up admiring.

AP: There were two distinct nods to her (in part two) - "Roman Holiday" and "Charade" - did I miss anything?

Collins: No, I think those were (the) two. "Roman Holiday" – there's an essence of her the whole time. Because if you're here - how can you not, you know?

AP: What was it like filming those scenes around Rome with the Vespa... Collins: Stunning.

AP: I imagine you had to go round quite a few

Collins: We went around so many times, which was funny because then tourists, of course, are noticing that there's this massive machine and then a car with a Vespa attached to it. And then we are going on an actual Vespa. But then there's also the transport vehicle. So like, what are they filming? And then once they figured out it was our show, it

It was also surreal because you're going around the Colosseum and everything in Rome is beautiful and ancient. And I was pinching myself, but it was amazing to be able to explore another city. I'd been to Paris before the show, so playing (Emily) who was coming to it fresh, was a character. Whereas this time, I'd been to Rome but never fully explored or been here for a long period of time. So it was a whole new adventure, but genuinely for me as well. And it was more of a vacation mode for Emily, which I was happy for her. I was like, "You go, girl. You get a little vacay."

AP: Do you think this could continue?

Collins: I definitely hope so. We're just, you know, waiting (crosses her fingers). But it would be really nice to explore more of Italy. I think there's so much here. But I don't know.

AP: I want to ask you about moving from the TV show to theater.

Collins: I'm very excited. But of course, I'm also nervous. And it's a whole new world for me. I did theater as a kid, but this is something I've been dreaming of my whole life. And the West End is the West End. But it really feels just surreal and I love my team that we're working with. I think it's a beautiful, beautiful script. And the theater is one of a kind, I love the Duke of York (Theatre) and our director (Lynette Linton). It's a wonderful, wonder-

AP: So that's Lily in Barcelona.

Collins: Yes exactly (laughing). All the different cities around Europe.

AP: How does it fit in around your TV work and

Collins: It's all about timing as well because ... doing theater is something I've always wanted to do. But it is a time commitment that when you're doing something like "Emily in Paris," that is also the biggest time commitment. It's making sure that it fits in at the right time. But it also isn't just about that. It's the project. When I read "Barcelona," I went, "This is it." And, "How do I make this happen? What time do we have? How do we make it happen with the theater?" You know? So it was a bit of a Tetris-type of thing, but to me it's a different medium, it's a different skill set, it's a different

This season, because "Emily in Paris" is more known, when you're out and about in the streets, it does become a bit of live theater because you can't control people watching all the time. And so sometimes there are scenes, when you're near (Emily's) apartment building or you're in Rome or you're in the mountains skiing, where there's hundreds of people that just show up to watch. And so it is a bit like theater. You are performing for an audience that weirdly doesn't know the storyline, though, so it's a little bit the same and a little bit different. It's like, "But you won't see this for a few months, so please don't spoil it!" Whereas with theater, it's in



A model walks the runway during the Michael Kors Collection spring/summer 2025 fashion show as part of New York Fashion Week, Tuesday, Sept. 10, in New York. (AP)



Pharrell Williams arrives on the red carpet for the premiere of 'Piece by Piece' at the Princess of Wales Theatre during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024. (AP) - Details Page 11

Variety

LOS ANGELES: Dave Grohl says he recently fathered a daughter outside his 21year marriage to Jordyn Blum, with whom he has three older daughters

"I've recently become the father of a new baby daughter, born outside of my marriage. I plan to be a loving and supportive parent to her," the Foo Fighters front man and former Nirvana drummer said Tuesday in an Instagram post. "I love my wife and my children, and I am doing everything I can to regain their trust and earn their forgiveness. We're grateful for vour consideration toward all the children involved, as we move forward together.'

Grohl, 55, did not share any other details about the baby or her mother, and his representatives declined any comment beyond

Grohl married Blum, a former model turned film and television producer, in 2003. They have three daughters together, including 18-year-old singer **Violet Grohl**, along with a 15-year-old and 10-year-old.

DOHA: The eighth edition of the Katara International Hunting and Falcons Exhibition kicked off in Qatar's capital Doha on Tuesday, with more than 100 exhibitors participating in the five-day event.

The exhibition showcases rare falcons

and the latest hunting equipment and hosts a series of cultural and artistic activities to promote the tradition of hunting and falconry, said organizers of the expo. According to the organizers, the event

is highlighted by a falcon auction, where falconry enthusiasts from around the world will bid for premium falcons.

Falcons are birds of prey known for their speed and precision in hunting. Falconry, the practice of hunting with falcons, has a long and rich history, especially in the Middle East, where it remains a revered tradition. (Xinhua)

NEW YORK: This year's long list of

Fashion

A unique runway

Michael Kors brings bold looks amid boulders at NY

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): Fashion sometimes involves risk and designer Michael Kors would tell you some risks aren't worth taking. Last year, his September show was held outside and the weather did not cooperate, so he decided his spring/summer 2025 collection at New York Fashion Week would bring nature inside instead.

Kors and his team created a unique runway in a cavernous raw space in a midtown building, with stark metal benches lining the rectangular walls and gigantic faux black rocks scattered in the center and sides, similar to the rocky beaches of the Amalfi Coast. The drama of Italian cliffs in an urban setting was part of Kors' ab-

stract inspiration. Kors says he's "glued" to pop culture and was especially fascinated by the recent Netflix series "Ripley," based on Patricia Highsmith's classic novel, "The Talented Mr. Ripley." The dark story is set in coastal Italy where a man who covets a friend's wealthy life kills him and takes over his identity, killing anyone else who threatens his new persona.

Mysterious

"Seeing this romantic, moody, dark story shot all in black and white, I thought it brought something very different to the romance of it," Kors told The Associated Press backstage before the show. "There was this sort of dark side of romance that's not sweet, not insipid, and mysterious. And then also, this is my 35th anniversary of working with Italian artisans and I really wanted to play up all of the incredible tailors and craftspeople in Italy."

The result was a show that used stark lighting and a haunting instrumental score to set the mood for a lot of black and white and muted colors with looks that evoke Ripley's 1950's hybrid style of city and resortwear.

"There's lots of texture, black raffia, white embroideries. Everything is very tactile," Kors explained. "It's all the colors that you would find in the Mediterranean. So all of the natural colors have very soft browns and creams. And then of course, there's going to be blue."

Simplicity

The brand's craftsmanship was on display with intricate peekaboo lace dresses and skirts and several dresses, skirts and coats adorned with flower applique'. Accessories stood out in the collection with leather handbags, hats and shoes teeming with black raffia that looked like leather straw. Nearly every look had a belt - some styled loosely but extra-long and knotted to dangle, and others wide and tight at the waist. The ever-present trench coat appeared for men and women on the runway, mostly oversized and slouchy.

This season's shows brought guests and media to all corners of the city and surroundings, showing off its beauty and designers' creativity - from a horse ranch in the tony Hamptons for Ralph Lauren, to a giant ferry boat docked on the East River for Tommy Hilfiger, to an old Domino sugar factory in Brooklyn for Tory Burch.

The show's front row was packed with celebrities, including Kerry Washington, Mary J. Blige, Shailene Woodley, Mindy Kaling, and Lindsay Lohan.

Lisa Rinna said she was moved and excited that her daughter, Amelia Gray Hamlin, walked in the show but knows she can't come every time. "It's super important for me to not be at those shows. I want her to have the moment," the actor and reality star said. "So when I get to ... I have to be quite 'mindful and demure' because I cannot embarrass anyone!"

National Book Awards for young people's literature has a poetic touch.

Five of the 10 nominees announced





Tuesday by the National Book Foundation are novels written in verse, including **Olivia A. Coles**' "Ariel Crashing a Train" and Shifa Saltagi Safadi's "Kareem Between," a young Muslim's comingof-age story. The other novels in verse are Margarita Engle's "Wild Dreamers," Alicia D. Williams' "Mid-Air" and Angela Shanté's "The Unboxing of a Black Girl."

Judges also selected two debut novels, Josh Galarza's "The Great Cool Ranch Dorito in the Sky" and **Ali Terese**'s "Free Period," along with **Violet Duncan**'s "Buffalo Dreamer," **Randy Ribay**'s "Everything We Never Had" and Erin Entrada Kelly's "The First State of Being." (AP)

Music

Honor soon

Frampton finally enters RnR Hall

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): At the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony last year, Sheryl Crow was about to sing her hit "Everyday Is a Winding Road" when she invited a rock icon up on

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have to bring out one of my heroes -Peter Frampton," she said as he appeared to huge cheers, slid on a Gibson electric guitar and made musical sparks immediately curl from the instrument.

Framp. ton was still jamming away when he got a hug from and Crow Stethen vie Nicks. When he went into a blistering solo, there was a wide

screamed.



Frampton

smile on his face. "That's how you do it, Peter Frampton!" Crow Call that electric performance

a dress rehearsal. This year, Frampton finally will be inducted into the rock hall himself, an honor his fans believe is long overdue. The ceremony is Oct. 19 in Cleveland.

He thanks Crow for sharing her spotlight. "I don't think I would have been nominated had it not been for Sheryl pushing me out there," he tells The Associated Press from his home in Nashville. "I will always be indebted to her for a wonderful opportunity she gave me."

Albums

Frampton earned his way into the hall in large part on the strength of his 1976 live double album "Frampton Comes Alive!" buoyed by the hit songs "Show Me the Way" and □Baby, I Love Your Way" - that Rolling Stone magazine listed among the 50 greatest live albums of all time.

The guitarist-singer-songwriter has been eligible for the hall since 1998. "I thought it just wasn't going to happen and I got on with my life," he says. "I never expect awards. Whatever comes my way, I'm honored and thrilled about."

The opening of the door for Frampton coincided with a change in hall leadership in 2023 that led to key legacy acts getting invites, like Foreigner and Cher.

They'll join Mary J. Blige, A Tribe Called Quest, Kool & The Gang, Ozzy Osbourne, Dave Matthews Band, the late Jimmy Buffett, MC5, Dionne Warwick, Alexis Korner, John Mayall and Big Mama Thornton in the class of '24.
"I'm absolutely thrilled for Pe-

ter. He's given his whole life to this business and he deserves as much as anyone does," said bassist Rick Wills, who is going into the hall with Foreigner and who played with Frampton for years, including co-writing "Do You Feel

In her acceptance speech, Crow revealed that in 1976 when she was 14, she and six teen friends caught Frampton in concert in Memphis, Tennessee. "I got to sing along with tens of thousands of strangers to 'Do You Feel Like I Do?'" She called it a pivotal moment. Perhaps more than any musi-

cian, Frampton was associated with the talk box, a guitar effect that runs a tube from an amplifier to the mouth, creating a sound both psychedelic and robotic, a technique that has been used by everyone from Mötley Crüe to Pink Floyd.

Lifelong

"I've never been about the bravado of being a star. I've never thought of myself that way. I'm a lifelong musician and I just want to be able to play as long as I can," he says.

"I speak through my guitar I think more than I do with words. I think more emotion and soul comes from my notes that I play and than anything I could ever

say."

Major awards until recently who had have eluded Frampton, who had his music played in films like "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," "Dazed and Confused" and "The Banger Sisters." Redemption came in 2007 when Frampton's instrumental album "Fingerprints" won a Grammy Award, his first.

"There's two things, that I always had a dream about: One was the Grammy, which I got from my instrumental album, which I'm so proud of because I didn't sing a note. It was just about my guitar playing, so that was thrilling. And then, you know, obviously a dream was maybe one day I'll be in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. But I never felt like, 'Well, I deserve it more than anybody else.

Dr. Al-Ghanem urges men to have early checkups and lifestyle changes

Delayed treatment of prostatitis can lead to serious complications

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Head of the Urology Unit at Jaber Armed Forces Hospital Dr. Mohammed Al-Ghanem stressed that delaying treatment for conditions such as prostatitis, diabetes, and heart diseases can lead to more serious complications in the future, due to which early treatment is crucial for effective re-

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Ghanem highlighted the importance of prompt intervention, as these conditions significantly affect quality of life

He recommended that men start regular checkups from the age of 50, and adopt a balanced lifestyle to help prevent these health issues.

Dr. Al-Ghanem explained that early detection of diseases like prostatitis, diabetes, and heart disease plays a key role in preventing major com-



Dr. Al-Ghanem

plications and undesirable outcomes associated with these conditions.

Among the health problems facing men is prostate enlargement, which can lead to complications such as urinary infections, inflammation, and pain during urination. Symptoms may include weak or interrupted urine flow, frequent urination, and potential urinary retention. Risks include weakened bladder muscles, which can lead to permanent retention and the formation of bladder stones.

Treatment options for prostate issues include conservative, medicinal, or surgical approaches, depending on the severity of the condition and the treating physician's assessment. Diagnosis typically involves an ultrasound of the bladder and prostate to determine the size, followed by kidney and urine function tests to rule out urinary tract infections.

Dr. Al-Ghanem advised men to undergo periodic medical tests, follow a balanced diet, engage in regular exercise, quit smoking, and maintain a healthy weight to support overall health

Drug improves health markers in kids: study

Weight-loss drug Saxenda is proven effective for children as young as 6

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): A drug approved to treat obesity in adults and teens is safe and effective for use in kids as young as 6 when combined with diet and exercise, a small new study shows

Liraglutide lowered body mass, slowed weight gain and improved health markers in kids ages 6 through 11, according to research presented Tuesday at a medical conference and published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Based on the results of the trial, drugmaker Novo Nordisk has asked US regulators to expand use of the medication for kids in that age group, a company spokesperson said Tuesday. If approved, the drug would be the first authorized to treat the most common type of obesity that affects more than 20% of US kids ages 6 through 11, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"To date, children have had virtually no options for treating obesity," said Dr. Claudia Fox, a pediatric obesity expert at the University of Minnesota who led the study. "They have been told to 'try harder' with diet and exercise."

Side effects were common among those given the drug, particularly gastrointestinal effects such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. And experts said doctors and parents would need to carefully consider those risks and the lack of data about the long-term use of such drugs in young kids.

"Having a medication for that age group, if approved, would be a really nice tool to have, but we're also going to have to be careful about how widely we start using it," said Dr. Melissa Crocker, a pediatric obesity specialist at Boston Children's Hospital who wasn't involved in the study. "And I would answer that differently at 6 than I would at 11."

Liraglutide is in a class of socalled GLP-1 drugs that include blockbuster medications like Wegovy and Mounjaro. The medications mimic hormones that affect appetite, feelings of fullness and digestion. It's taken as a daily injection and is approved under the brand name Victoza to treat diabetes in adults and children ages 10 and older and as Saxenda to treat obesity in adults and children ages 12 to 17.

The new study, paid for by Novo Nordisk, included 82 children with a mean age of 10 and a baseline weight

Age-related muscle loss

FDA approves Immunis trial to combat obesity

IRVINE, Calif., Sept 11, (AP): Immunis, Inc., a clinical-stage biotech developing novel secretome therapeutics for age-related diseases and immune dysfunction, was recently granted permission by the FDA to proceed with its Phase II clinical trial testing its investigational secretome (IMMUNA) in reversing sarcopenic obesity. The news comes shortly after Immunis completed secretome-treatment of its third patient cohort in a Phase I/IIa clinical trial for age-related muscle atrophy (sarcopenia)

(sarcopenia).

In the US, obesity rates have skyrocketed within the past few decades, with a heavy impact on the elderly population. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the percentage of obese Americans aged 65+ has doubled from about 20% to 40% for both men and women. Age-related

tional health concerns including diabetes and muscle loss, which can have detrimental effects on quality of life. Recently, GLP-1 drugs have become popularized by celebrities and those

obesity is strongly linked with addi-

popularized by celebrities and those looking for a "quick fix" to managing weight problems, but questions remain regarding their long-term effects on health. Scientific publications reported that about 20-50% of the total weight lost from these drugs is attributed to a decrease in muscle mass, not fat. This means that individuals who take GLP-1s over an extended period may experience a decline in muscle size and function over time. This is an area of concern as muscle loss is associated with an increase in falls, fractures, and comorbidities, accounting for more than \$40 billion in annual health care costs in the US alone.

of about 155 pounds (70 kilograms). The average starting BMI was 31, above the threshold for childhood obesity. More than half the children had obesity-related health problems such as insulin resistance, asthma or early puberty. The results were presented at the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes in Madrid.

Medications

In the trial, 56 children received daily injections of up to 3 milligrams of liraglutide for nearly 13 months, while 26 got dummy medications. The kids were followed for six months afterward

All the children received individual counseling to help them follow a plan that called for a healthy diet and 60 minutes a day of moderate to high-intensity exercise.

Researchers found that kids who took the drug for more than a year reduced their body mass index -- a

measure of height and weight that can account for a child's natural growth - by 5.8%. Children who received the dummy medication saw their BMI increase by 1.6%.

At the same time, children who received the drug slowed weight gain to 1.6% of their body weight during that period, compared with a 10% gain for those who got sham drugs.

The study found that 46% of kids who got the drug lowered their BMI by at least 5%, an amount that has been linked to improvements in health problems tied to obesity. In kids who received placebo, 9% met that mark. Lower measures of blood pressure and blood sugar were detected in children who received the drug, researchers noted.

Side effects, mostly mild to moderate, were reported in nearly 90% of both groups of participants. Gastrointestinal side effects including nausea and vomiting were reported in 80% of kids who received the drug, compared with 54% who received sham medications.

Enhance accessibility for the blind

Zain Group joins Be My Eyes to aid the 'visually impaired'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Zain Group, a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications, operating in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, has entered a regional first-of-its-kind strategic partnership with 'Be My Eyes' to provide instant visual assistance for people who are blind or have low vision. Following a series of successful pilots across Zain markets, the newgroup-wide partnership with Be My Eyes will see Zain personnel regularly act as sighted volunteers on the Be My Eyes platform.

Be My Eyes develops and runs the largest and fastest-growing accessibility app for the blind and low vision community worldwide, with approximately 700,000 users globally of which close to 100,000 are Arabic-speaking blind users. The recipient of several innovation and accessibility awards, Be My Eyes also has over 7.7 million volunteers, spread across 150+countries providing support in 180+languages.

Collaboration

The collaboration will see Be My Eyes educate and facilitate 16 volunteering events, over a period of a year, for Zain employees, with each event lasting fourhours and up to 100 personnel. The volunteering events will allow Zainers to sign up and answer one-way video, twoway audio calls from people in need of some sort of assistance. In practice, once the volunteer gets the video call, they will answer user questions about anything the user's smartphone camera can see, such as reading a document, identifying where something is, in their home, school or workplace, describing a new environment, and many other potential

Commenting on the initiative, Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, said, "We are an operator from the region and for the region, passionate about community programs that add meaningful connectivity to all people we have the privilege of serving and beyond. We are proud of our record of introducing new solutions and initiatives to the region for the first time, and our collaboration with Be My Eyes reflects our commitment to inclusion by harnessing technology to better serve the global community."

"At Be My Eyes, we are thrilled to partner with Zain Group, a leader in the digital landscape across the Middle East and Africa. This collaboration represents a significant step forward in our mission to make the world more accessible for blind and low-vision individuals." said Mike Buckley, CEO







of Be My Eyes. "Together, we are not only enhancing accessibility but also fostering meaningful connections that provide information, with speed and elegance, about a world not designed for the blind."

A summary of 'Inclusive' initiatives implemented by Zain

Zain is one of the most active companies regionally with respect to providing access to people with disabilities having implemented a fully-fledged disability inclusive strategy, reflecting its commitment to fostering technology to support this community.

Initiatives

Zain has introduced an array of initiatives under its Disability's We Able program, most recently, in August 2024, having over 80 of its people with disabilities (PWDs), the company introduced 'The Masters', an Employee Resource Group made up of approximately 25 PWDS all with a collective purpose of enabling them to create, lead, and shape their experiences at Zain through a focus on four core impact areas: 1. Disability Inclusion Strategy; 2. Accessibility in Decision-Making; 3. Learn and Lead; 4. Voice and Visibility.

Over recent years, Zain also introduced in Jordan, a service to allow people with low vision, blind, hearing impaired, or deaf individuals to interact with contracts and understand their terms through an audio-visual video available through scanning a QR Code located in Zain showrooms across the Kingdom.

Moreover, the company's Grow program saw the training of 28 fresh graduates with disabilities teaching them valuable lessons and knowledge and skills related to mastering job interviews, business technology, teamwork and tools that resulted in the recruitment of 10 graduates to join Zain full-time.

Other initiatives include celebrat-

ing Braille Day by teaching employees Braille; celebrating World Hearing Day by conducting health checks and tests for employees; Sign language trainings for more than 350 employees; holding multiple sessions where employees are taught about disability and accessibility; a strategic partnership with Purplespace, the world's only professional development hub for disability network leaders; Physical accessibility audits of all Zain headquarters across all markets; and implementation of "Reasonable Accommodations and Accessibility Guidelines."

Zain's strategic partnership with Be My Eyes will result in having more volunteers from the company's eight country footprint on the app to act as volunteers for the Be My Eyes user community. The innovative and personal approach aligns with both Zain's Corporate Sustainability program; and the Disability program's 'We ABLE' initiative focusing on empowering its people to practice social responsibility, fostering a society where everyone has equal opportunities to dream and succeed.

No account for children under 16

Australia targets social media access for kids

MELBOURNE, Australia, Sept 11, (AP): The Australian government on Tuesday promised to legislate this year to enforce a minimum age for children to access social media, but it has yet to announce how ages will be verified.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the government would soon trial age verification technology with a view to banning children from opening social media accounts. The line would be drawn between the ages of 14 and 16.

Several countries and US states are attempting to legislate to spare children harm from social media, including bullying.

The Australian move comes as parents increasing call for their children to be protected online and with the opposition party promising a social media ban for children under 16 if it wins elections due by May next year.

"We've committed to introducing legislation before the end of this year for age verification to make sure that we get young people away from this social harm," Albanese told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"This is a scourge. We know that there is mental health consequences for what many of the young people have had to deal with. The bullying that can occur online, the access to material which causes social harm, and parents are wanting a response," Albanese added.







League's Board of Governors approved the move

NBA expands permissible scope of coach's challenge reviews



President Joe Biden, center, poses for a group photo with the University of South Carolina Women's basketball team during an event in the East Room of the White House in Washington to welcome the team and celebrate their 2023-2024 NCAA championship season. (AP)

Liberty cruises past Wings for historic 30th victory of season

Mabrey scores 26 and makes 6 3-pointers to help Sun beat Sparks

ARLINGTON, Texas, Sept 11, (AP): Breanna Stewart scored 27 points, Sabrina Ionescu had 14 points and 11 of New York's season-high 33 assists, and the Liberty cruised by the Dallas Wings 105-91 on Tuesday night.

New York (30-6) became the second team in WNBA history, joining the 2023 Las Vegas Aces, to reach 30 wins in its first 36 games of a season. The Liberty hold a three-game lead over second-place Minne-

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sota (27-9), which plays at New York on Sunday.

New York shot 55% from the field, including 16 of 29 from 3-point range. Ionescu made four 3-pointers and Stewart, Jonquel Jones and Leonie Fiebich each added three.

Stewart made all three of her 3-pointers in the first quarter to give her 15 points in the frame, while Dallas had just 18 points.

Fiebich sank New York's eighth 3-pointer - on just 13 attempts - with 8:17 left in the second quarter for a 36-22 lead. Dallas, meanwhile, was 8 of 20 overall.

The Liberty ended the half with a 58-43 lead behind 19 points from Stewart. Dallas cut its deficit to 72-64 with 5:14 left in the third but New York closed on a 15-5 run, with six points from Fiebich, to regain control at 87-69.



Los Angeles Sparks guard Kia Nurse (10) shoots over Indiana Fever forward Aliyah Boston (7) in the first half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis. (AP)

New York led by double figures the entire fourth quarter.

Jones scored 19 points and Fiebich added 16 off the bench for New York. Betnijah Laney-Hamilton had

Arike Ogunbowale scored 23 points and Natasha Howard added 21 for Dallas (9-27). Teaira McCowan had 11 points and Maddy Siegrist scored 10 for her first double-digit game since June 17.

Sun 86, Sparks 66

In Los Angeles, Marina Mabrey scored a season-high 26 points and matched a career-high with six 3-pointers, Brionna Jones had 19 points and eight rebounds, and the Connecticut Sun beat the Los Ange-

Connecticut (26-10) moved within one game of second-place Minnesota (27-9).

Connecticut scored 15 straight points spanning the first-quarter break and led 43-32 at halftime behind three players with double-digit scoring. Jones scored 13, followed by 10 points apiece from Mabrey and DiJonai Carrington.

The Sparks were within 53-43 before Connecticut closed the third on an 11-2 run to extend its lead to 64-45. Mabrey's sixth 3-pointer came with 4:51 left for an 82-54 lead.

Mabrey finished 9 of 13 from the floor to reach six made 3-pointers for the fifth time in her career.

Alyssa Thomas nearly secured her second straight game with a tripledouble for Connecticut despite not playing in the fourth quarter. Thomas finished with seven points, 11 rebounds and 12 assists. She also had one steal to become the franchise leader with 491 career steals.

Rickea Jackson scored 16 points, and Azura Stevens had 10 points and 17 rebounds for Los Angeles (7-29). Jackson passed Nneka Ogwumike on the franchise list for second-most

Connecticut forward DeWanna Bonner passed Sue Bird (2,479) for seventh in WNBA history for made field goals.

Lynx 76, Dream 64

In College Park, Kayla McBride scored 12 of her 15 points in the third quarter, Napheesa Collier had 14 points and eight rebounds, and the Minnesota Lynx beat the Atlanta Dream.

It was tied at 50-all with four minutes left in the third quarter before Minnesota closed on a 13-4 run to take a 63-54 lead. McBride, who only had two points in the first half, scored seven during the run.

Minnesota extended it to 74-60 with 3:49 left in the fourth on a 3-pointer by Bridget Carleton, while Atlanta went four minutes without making a field goal.

Minnesota held Atlanta to just 30% shooting overall (21 of 70).

Carleton also finished with 14 points for Minnesota (27-9). Courtney Williams added 12 and Alanna Smith had nine.

Allisha Gray scored 17 points, going 8 of 8 at the free-throw line, and Rhyne Howard added 14 points for Atlanta (12-24). Tina Charles set a franchise record for most doubledoubles in a season with 18 after recording 13 points and 14 rebounds.

Carleton made all four of her shots in the first half, including three from 3-pont range, to total 11 points. Williams added 10 points as Minnesota led 41-38 at the break.

NEW YORK, Sept 11, (AP): The NBA has expanded the permissible scope of coach's challenge reviews on some out-of-bounds plays, saying Tuesday that if a foul should have been called on the play it now can be assessed shortly after the fact.

The league's Board of Governors approved the move on the second day of its two-day meeting in New York, after it was unanimously recommended by the league's competition committee last week. The change will take effect this season.

The review change could have come into play at least once in last season's playoffs, when Dallas' Kyrie Irving fouled Minnesota's Jaden McDaniels and the ball went out of bounds. No foul was called on the play, and even though the review clearly showed Irving hitting McDaniels' arm the ball was awarded to Dallas because it went out off of **McDaniels**

BASKETBALL

When such out-of-bounds plays have reviews triggered by coaches challenging now, on-court officials and the NBA Replay Center "will be able to review the video to determine whether a foul proximate to the violation should have been called," the league said, providing that certain

Those criteria: whether the players involved in the uncalled foul are the same or different players than the ones involved in the out-of-bounds violation under review, and how much time has elapsed between the uncalled foul and the violation.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver told The Associated Press last month that the league is ramping up talks with FIBA on how to best increase its competitive footprint in Europe either through an annual tournament or an NBA-operated league.

As part of those talks, FIBA secretary general Andreas Zagklis visited the board of governors meeting on

'There's agreement that where we are in terms of the level of interest in basketball in Europe is not commensurate with the commercial activities. ... I think the way all of us see it, it's not just about a business opportunity," Silver said. "We've been in this position before in our leagues, where if you can't demonstrate to the market that you can run a successful business, it's not sustainable. I think for basketball to continue to grow, we need (something) whether it's a series of tournaments or a league that is viable." There was not much in the way of expansion talks during this board meeting, Silver said, for one simple reason: "We're not quite ready," the commissioner said.

Silver had said many times that once the league got its next series of media rights deals done - something that was signed earlier this summer, though there is an ongoing legal challenge brought by Warner Bros. Discovery - that expansion would be the next big thing for the league to tackle.

"I know I've said this before, I think over time organizations should grow. It is appropriate," Silver said.
"But it gets a bit complicated in terms of selling equity in the league, what that means for the existing television relationships, etc. What we've told interested parties is, 'Thank you for your interest, we'll be back to you." The NBA is essentially in wait-andsee mode regarding the potential sales of two franchises, the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Boston Celtics.

The sale situation surrounding the Timberwolves has been in dispute for months. Marc Lore and Alex Rodriguez agreed more than three years ago to buy the Timberwolves for \$1.5 billion from Glen Taylor, who halted the sale on March 28 because he said they missed the deadline to make the final payment. Those parties are headed to arbitration, though it remains unclear what will come of that.

"That's a process that exists independent of the league that was set out in the sales agreement," Silver said.

Meanwhile, in July, the ownership group of the NBA champion Boston Celtics, led by Wyc Grousbeck, said it intends to sell the majority of its shares later this year or early next year, then close on a sale of the balance of remaining shares in 2028.

"I think that Wyc Grousbeck and his ownership group are in the process of working through what the steps will be," Silver said.

Brit's membership is conditional

IOC's 'move' on election rules creates legal hurdles for Coe running for top Olympic job

GENEVA, Sept 11, (AP): In a move by the IOC that apparently could block Sebastian Coe as an expected presidential candidate, the Olympic governing body has clarified its complex election rules before a deadline Sunday to enter the race.

A letter seen Wednesday by The Associated Press was sent by the International Olympic Committee's ethics commission to the 111 members, including Coe and several more likely candidates in the contest to succeed Thomas Bach next year.

Details in the two-page letter dated Monday specified reasons why the likes of Coe, the 67-year-old president of track governing body World Athletics, would seem unable to complete a full first IOC mandate of eight years.

The winning candidate must be a member of the IOC on election day, scheduled for March in Greece, "and during the entire duration of their term as IOC President," the letter stated.

Coe's IOC membership is conditional on being president of World Athletics, a role he must leave in 2027 on completing the maximum 12 years in office. Another expected candidate, IOC vice president Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr., who turns 65 in November, also could have legal issues with the standard age limit of 70 for members defined in the Olympic Charter rules book.

Members turning 70 can be extended only once for four more years, though such an approval for Coe by the IOC executive board also would still expire during a 2025-33 presidency.

The charter "makes no exceptions for the president, who is an IOC member under the same conditions as all the other members," stated ethics commission chairman Ban Ki Moon, the former United Nations secretary general, who signed the Sept. 9 letter.

Coe is widely considered a most qualified candidate to next lead the IOC. A two-time Olympic champion in the 1,500-meters, he was later an elected lawmaker in Britain, led the 2012 London Olympics organizing committee and has presided at World Athletics for nine years.

The legal hurdles are stacking up just days before the IOC-set deadline for candidates to send a letter of intent to Bach, who will leave as president next year after reaching his 12-year term limit.

Kirsty Coventry, an Olympic gold medalist swimmer who is sports minister of Zimbabwe, and David Lappartient, the French president of cycling's governing body, have seemed to have support from Bach in recent years.

Bach placed Lappartient to oversee a long-term project with Saudi Arabia, hosting the Esports Olympic Games, that was sealed in Paris.

could include Other candidates two of the four IOC vice presidents -Nicole Hoevertsz of Aruba and Spaniard Samaranch, whose father was IOC president for 21 years until leaving in 2001. Prince Faisal al Hussein of Jordan is a potential candidate who could be the first president in the IOC's 130year history from Asia or Africa.

The IOC top job ideally calls for deep knowledge of managing sports, understanding athletes' needs and nimble skills in global politics.

However, Coe's strong positions in sports politics - against Russia on state-backed doping and the invasion of Ukraine, plus awarding \$50,000 cash prizes for Paris Olympics gold medals from track's share of Olympic revenues - have clashed with the IOC and leaders of other sports bodies.

The letter signed by Ban also suggested a conflict of interest between holding two presidential roles, of the IOC and a sports governing body. This conflict could be resolved, the

letter said, by having a vote after the IOC presidential election "for a change of membership status." Britain, however, no longer has a

quota space for another IOC member elected as an individual. That's because Hugh Robertson, the government's Olympics minister at the time of the 2012 Summer Games, was elected in Paris in July.

The IOC needs a new president only because Bach said in Paris last month he would not seek to stay on by changing the statutory maximum of 12 years for the position. The IOC has had nine presidents in its 130-year history. All have been men and none were from Africa, Asia or Latin America.

The candidates must come from the IOC membership that comprises invited members including royalty from the Middle East and Europe, a current head of state - the Amir of Qatar - former diplomats and lawmakers, industrialists, and leaders of sports bodies and athletes.

Players return to clubs as Zain Premier League resumes trajectory, although facing Al-Qadis-

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: International players are set to return to their respective clubs today following the end of their national team duties. Most clubs have intensified their preparations for the resumption of the Zain Premier League.

The league will recommence tomorrow with a match between Khaitan and Yarmouk, kicking off the fourth round. On Saturday, Kuwait Club will face Al-Nasr, while

Al-Tadamon will take on Kazma. Sunday will feature Al-Fahaheel against Al-Arabi, and the round will conclude with the highly anticipated clash between Al-Qadisiya and Al-Salmiya.

Currently, Kuwait Club leads the standings with 9 points, ahead of Al-Arabi on goal difference. Al-Salmiya and Al-Fahaheel are tied for third place with 6 points each. Al-Qadisiya, Kazma, Al-Nasr, and Khaitan are all tied with 3 points each, while Al-Tadamon and Yarmouk have 1 point

Kuwait Club is particularly focused on its upcoming match against Al-Nasr, aiming for another victory. It is also preparing for AFC Champions League 2 opener against Nasaf of Uzbekistan next Wednesday.

Montenegrin coach Nebojsa Jovovic emphasizes the need for strong performances from all players, given the team's busy schedule and the intermittent absence of international players due to World Cup qualifiers. Meanwhile, Al-Arabi is looking to

maintain its positive form, while Al-

Salmiya aims to continue its upward

iya, which has recently revamped its technical staff and added new players, will be a tough challenge. Al-Nasr has ramped up training

following the cancellation of their external camp. Coach Dhaher Al-Adwani is determined to secure a second consecutive victory, though it will be a difficult task against the league leaders. Additionally, Al-Nasr is actively

seeking a replacement for Iraqi player Karrar Amer, who departed the team last week.

Change Name

I, JUMANA, Holder of Indian Passport No. V7775658 Ĥaving Permanent Address H No 24 25 Kadri Colony Kotawala Bagh, Ratlam, Pin: 457001, Madhya Pradesh, India Residing In Kuwait At Present, Hereby Declare Tha Henceforth My Name Will Be Read As Under: Given Name JUMANA ALI ASGHAR. And Surname **TAMBAWALA**

Dutch striker Depay arrives in Sao Paulo to join Corinthians co Madrid on a free transfer,

SAO PAULO, Sept 11, (AP): Dutch striker Memphis Depay arrived early Wednesday at Sao Paulo's Guarulhos international airport after signing a two-year deal with Brazilian soccer club Corin-

The 30-year-old Depay, who left Spanish team Atletiis expected to be introduced to fans later at the Neo Quimica Arena before Corinthians play in the second leg of its Brazilian Cup quarterfinal tie against Juventude. The Sao Paulo-based team, which has more than 35 million supporters, lost the first leg 2-1.

Depay is scheduled to give a press conference at the same stadium on Thursday morn-

Depay left Rotterdam on Tuesday afternoon in a Gulfstream G550 jet. The striker published a picture of the plane on his social media channels with the message: "Going home."

The former PSV Eindhoven star played for the Netherlands at the European Championship.

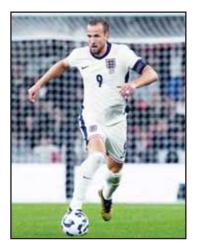
Other European players who had spells at Brazilian clubs include Clarence Seedorf at Botafogo; Serbian Dejan Petkovic, who played for multiple clubs and remains a hero for Flamengo fans; and Frenchman Dimitri Payet, currently at Vasco da

Depay, who undertook his medical tests in the Netherlands earlier this week, had spells at Manchester United. Lyon and Barcelona before joining Atletico Madrid. Corinthians is fighting to

avoid relegation in the Brazilian league, with 13 rounds remaining. It is in the quarterfinals of the Brazilian Cup and the Copa Sudamericana, South America's second most prestigious club tour-

Kane scores twice in 100th game for England

Netherlands and Germany draw



England's Harry Kane is in action during the Group F UEFA Nations League soccer match between England and Finland at Wembley Stadium in London. (AP)

Best of the Rest

Odegaard out for 3 weeks: Arsenal will be without influential playmaker and captain Martin Ode-gaard for at least three weeks after the Norwegian suffered an ankle

injury while on international duties. His absence was confirmed by Norway team doctor Ola Sand, who told media that injuries such as the one Odegaard suffered against Austria "often take at least three weeks (to recover from)," but warned they "can take longer," and anything less would be "a bonus.

The midfielder had an MRI scan in London on Tuesday, with Sand confirming that it revealed "there is probably no fracture in the ankle."

"Arsenal are almost certain there is no breach, but this may still take some time. In the event of a fracture, we are talking about being out of action for six weeks plus," the doctor advised. The injury comes at arguably the worst possible time for Arsenal, who will also be without Declan Rice for this weekend's north London derby against Tottenham after Rice was sent off against Brighton two weeks ago.

New signing Mikel Merino is also out for a couple of months with a fractured shoulder, as Arsenal prepare for an intense period of seven games between now and October 6. (Xinhua)

Ruibal signs new contract: La Liga outfit Real Betis on Wednesday confirmed that midfielder Aitor Ruibal has extended his contract

with them until the end of 2028. The new contract is a reward for the 28-year-old's contributions, which have seen him score nine goals in 135 appearances for the

Seville-based outfit. Ruibal joined Betis B-team in 2015 and has developed into a player who can cover at either right back, the right side of midfield or even as a striker, and he is the only player, apart from William Carvalho, who remains at the club since coach Manuel Pellegrini arrived four years ago. (Xinhua)

Carrillo joins Corinthians: Peru

international forward Andre Carrillo has joined Corinthians on a free transfer, the Brazilian Serie A club said on Tuesday.

Carrillo, 33, completed a medical in Sao Paulo after parting ways with Saudi Arabia's Al-Qadsiah.

"Andre Carrillo has joined the club of the people," Corinthians said in a statement on their official website. "The Peruvian striker has signed a contract that runs until July 31, 2025." Carrillo has represented Sporting Lisbon, Benfica and Watford, among other clubs, over a professional career spanning 15 years. He has been capped 100 times for Peru, scoring 11 goals. (Xinhua)

LONDON, Sept 11, (AP): Harry Kane marked his 100th game for England with two goals and celebrations with his family in a 2-0 win over Finland in the **UEFA Nations League.**

Presented with a golden cap before kickoff and playing in gold boots at Wembley Stadium, the England captain was swarmed by his teammates after scoring his first goal in true Kane style. He beat a Finnish defender before unleashing a powerful shot which was still rising as it clipped the underside of the crossbar.

The Bayern Munich star's second goal came with an assist from one of England's new faces as Noni Madueke played the pass for Kane to hit a shot that took a slight deflection - not that it mattered to the crowd which gave Kane a standing ovation when he was substituted off soon after.

"It was a big night for me, obviously really proud to reach 100 caps. I want to score goals, I want to help the team," Kane told broadcaster

It was the second straight 2-0 win for interim England manager Lee Carsley, who took over on a temporary basis after Gareth Southgate stepped down following England's loss to Spain in the Euro 2024 final.

Carsley could yet remain in the position for a while longer if the search for Southgate's permanent successor extends beyond the next international break in October.

England is playing in the second tier of the Nations League and is level on six points at the top of its group with Greece, which beat Ireland 2-0.

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City Manchester defender Nathan Ake went off with an apparent muscle injury shortly before halftime while playing for the Netherlands in a 2-2 draw with Germany. That could be a blow for City ahead of games against Brentford in the Premier League on Saturday and Inter Milan and Arsenal next week.

Denzel Dumfries' goal helped salvage a draw for the Netherlands, which had started well when Tijjani Reijnders' goal gave the Dutch the lead after just one-and-a-half minutes in Amsterdam after being left in plenty of space by the German defense.

However, Germany had a 2-1 lead at halftime thanks to goals from Deniz Undav and Joshua Kimmich,

before Dumfries leveled in the 50th. Germany and the Netherlands were familiar foes who have played seven times since 2018 and most

recently in March. For the Netherlands, it was the first game since coach Ronald Koeman ruled forward Steven Bergwijn out of his plans following the forward's move to the Saudi Arabian league. Koeman suggested Bergwijn, who was on the team at Euro 2024, lacked ambition because

of the move. Germany was without Niclas Füllkrug after the West Ham striker struggled with an Achilles tendon problem and was replaced in the

lineup by Stuttgart's Unday. In the same group, Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina drew 0-0 in the

other top-tier game. Pavel Sulc scored twice to lift the Czech Republic to a 3-2 win over Ukraine, and Georgia beat Albania

Mbappé and PSG could go to mediation over \$60m dispute

PARIS, Sept 11, (AP): The French soccer league's legal commission is urging Kylian Mbappé and his former club Paris Saint-Germain to agree to mediation in a dispute over wages and bonuses, PSG said Wednesday.

PSG officials and Mbappé's representatives met in Paris after the France superstar asked the commission to get involved. Mbappé, who joined Real Madrid this summer on a free transfer, says PSG owes him 55 million euros (around \$60 million).

PSG, which said it was pleased with the two-hour hearing at the commission on Wednesday, said in a statement it recalled that Mbappé had formerly made "clear, repeated public and private commitments that must be respected, having been afforded unprecedented benefits by the club over seven fantastic years in Paris.'

PSG has argued that it does not owe money to the World Cup winner under an agreement when Mbappé was sidelined ahead of the 2023-24 season - following his decision not to prolong his contract with the club - with the player allegedly stipulating that he would relinquish bonuses over his reintegration into the team.

PSG said that the league's legal commission recommended "mediation between the parties," which the club said it had been seeking for months.

The French league and the player's lawyer did not immediately respond to a request for comments from The As-

Mbappé's relationship with PSG ended amid deep tensions during his

final season at the club.
PSG felt let down by Mbappé after offering him the most lucrative contract in the club's history when he signed a new contract in 2022. But Mbappé was frustrated because he felt promises to sign key players were not kept.

When he signed the new deal, he was paraded in front of fans holding up a jersey with 2025 on it. Mbappé was reportedly annoyed about this because the contract was until 2024 with the option for an extra year.

Mbappé stunned PSG in June last year by informing the club he would not take the option for an extra year. With his contract effectively into its final year, it put PSG in the position of

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needing to sell Mbappé to avoid losing him for free when the contract expired. His PSG career could have ended

in the summer of 2023 amid a tense transfer standoff. After telling the club he would not extend his contract for an extra year, Mbappe was left off a preseason tour to Japan and South Korea and forced to train with fringe players. PSG said it would rather sell him than let the player leave for free in 2024, but he rejected a 300 million euro move to Saudi team Al-Hilal.

PSG left Mbappé out of the team's opening league game of that season as the standoff continued but eventually let him return to the lineup after "constructive and positive talks" between the two parties, PSG said at the time.



Participants pose for a group photo at the end of the program.

Bursali praises Kuwait

Regional Special Oly training course wraps up

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The regional training course for preparing trainers for the Special Olympics Motor Activity Training Program (MATP), organized by the Kuwaiti Special Olympics under the supervision of Special Olympics International and the Special Olympics for the Middle East and North Africa region, concluded recently with the participation of 50 trainers from GCC and Arab countries.

Rehab Bursali, National Director of the Kuwaiti Special Olympics, confirmed that the practical applications during the course yielded tangible, positive results that lay the foundation for future efforts to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities, particularly those with severe disabilities. Bursali explained that Kuwait's host-

ing of the course reflects the nation's commitment to staying up-to-date with the latest theories and practices related to motor activities for individuals with disabilities. She expressed her gratitude for all the efforts that contributed to the course's success, which aligned with Kuwait's dedication to supporting and caring for people with disabilities.

She further noted that the course

included both theoretical and practical components, with the latter taking place at the swimming pool of the Youth Sports Club in Ahmadi, under the auspices of the Care for the Disabled Association in Sabahiya. This association also hosted the first-ever medical examinations for those with severe and multiple disabilities, including eye and hearing tests, with the participation of students from Al-Risala School's Special Needs Department and the Care for the Disabled Association.

Kuwaiti Special Olympics President, Hana Al-Zawawi, expressed her gratitude to the lecturers from Special Olympics International and the Special Olympics Middle East and North Africa region, as well as the participating trainers from Arab and GCC countries and Kuwait, for their dedication to ensuring the course's success.

Al-Zawawi highlighted that this edition of the course marked the first time medical examinations were conducted for individuals with severe and multiple disabilities. She extended her thanks to the Ministry of Health, the Royal Initiative, the Care for the Disabled Association (Al-Ahmadi branch),

the Youth Sports Club, Nemo Academy, and Al-Risala School.

She also praised the contributions of Kuwaiti youth volunteers, both male and female, as well as the technical and administrative staff of the Ambition Sports Club for Mental Disabilities, and all the state ministries that played a role in organizing the event in a manner that reflects Kuwait's commitment to excellence.

In conclusion, Sherif El-Fouly, Head of the Games and Competitions Sector at Special Olympics International for the Middle East and North Africa, commended the course's organization and the breadth of topics covered. He particularly highlighted the importance of applying the motor activities program materials and conducting athlete evaluations.

SAfrica secures

dramatic victory

JUBA, Sept 11, (Xinhua): South

Africa secured a dramatic 3-2

victory against hosts South Su-

dan in the 2025 African Cup of

Nations (AFCON) qualifiers,

played at the Juba National Sta-

South Sudan took an early

lead in the 14th minute, but

South Africa quickly equal-

ized just two minutes later. The

match opened up in the second

half, with both teams pushing for

a winner, but it was South Africa

who clinched victory with a last-

South African national team

coach Hugo Broos expressed re-

lief during the post-match press

conference, noting that his team

could have settled the game

could win the game, honestly I

didn't believe in it anymore, I

know that this South Sudanese

"I am very happy that we still

much earlier in the first half.

gasp goal in the 95th minute.

dium.

Late defensive mix-up denied Americans win

Pochettino hiring 'announced' as US draws with New Zealand

CINCINNATI, Sept 11, (AP): Christian Pulisic stared in frustration after the final whistle and made clear how much work Mauricio Pochettino has

An 89th-minute defensive mix-up had dropped the United States into a 1-1 tie with New Zealand in a friendly on Tuesday night, a match that kicked off 30 minutes after the U.S. Soccer Federation announced it hired Pochettino to coach the Americans through the 2026 World Cup.

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Mikey Varas led the team for the second game as interim coach following the firing of Gregg Berhalter, let go after the Americans' first-round elimination in the Copa America. The U.S. was coming off Saturday's 2-1 defeat to Canada, the Americans' first to the Canadians on home soil since 1957.

Pulisic put the U.S. ahead in the 69th minute, 12 minutes after entering, and with 31 international goals moved past Brian McBride for fifth on the U.S. career list. But sloppiness by Caleb Wiley and Mark McKenzie led to Ben Waine's 89th-minute goal.

The U.S. is winless in four straight games overall and in four consecutive



New Zealand midfielder Matthew Garbett (7) heads the ball against United States defender Kristoffer Lund (23) during the first half of a friendly soccer match in Cincinnati. (AP)

home games for the first time since a seven-game stretch in 2010-11.

Pochettino arrives in the U.S. on Wednesday and takes over ahead of exhibitions on Oct. 12 against Panama at Austin, Texas, and at Mexico three days later.

Pulisic scored following an 11-pass buildup that included Chris Richards,

McKenzie, Aidan Morris, Marlon Fossev. Luca de la Torre, Ricardo Pepi and Folarin Balogun. After Pepi played the ball to him, Pulisic took touches with his left foot and his right, then slid an angled left-foot shot under defender Bill Tuiloma and past goalkeeper Max Crocombe.

New Zealand's goal followed Nando Pijnaker playing a long pass more than half the length of the field. The ball bounced off a foot of Logan Rogerson, and Wiley tried a headed clearance but instead centered the ball in front of Mc-Kenzie.

McKenzie swung his left leg in another attempt to clear, and the ball ricocheted off Waine and over goalkeeper Matt Turner, who was about 8 yards off his line.

Turner, playing his first match in 10 weeks, put hands on hips and slapped them on his side. Pulisic glared when the final whistle blew after almost 10 minutes of stoppage time.

Pepi, among six changes in the U.S lineup, appeared to put the U.S. ahead in the 19th minute off a toe-poke feed from Fossey, a right back who made his national team debut one day after his 26th birthduay. But Pepi shoved defender Liberato Cacace just before the shot and Honduran referee Selvin Brown disallowed the goal after consulting with an assistant.

team plays with a lot of heart and dedication, they have a lot of tall players and our defense was not aggressive enough,' Broos said. He added that defensive errors

led to his team conceding two goals, putting them in a difficult

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"The big trouble we have now for this moment is that there are players who did not play competitive games, 80 percent of the players played only preseason friendly games, and we saw that in the game, we were not sharp enough, this is not South Africa that we knew in other games," Broos disclosed.

South Sudan's head coach, Nicholas Dupuis, praised his team's efforts despite the narrow loss, stating that they had performed admirably against a strong opponent like South Africa. "I am very proud of my play-

ers today because they were playing against South Africa; it is a very good team. The first half tactically was not very good and we only improved in the second half," Dupuis said, adding that a draw would have been possible if the defense hadn't switched off in the final minutes.

South Sudan will travel to Uganda for their next Group K match on October 7, while South Africa will face the Republic of Congo in the other fixture.

After two games, Uganda and South Africa top Group K with 4



Matthijs De Ligt of the Netherlands, left, and Germany's Jamal Musiala fight for the ball during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between Netherlands and Germany in Amsterdam, Netherlands. (AP)



Players challenge for the ball during the qualifying match between Kuwait and Iraq. (KUNA photo)

Sports

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Medical expert decries decision to ban water at stadium

Al-Mutairi orders investigation into poor organization of Kuwait-Iraq WC qualifier



Fans getting help from the security personnel during the Kuwait-Iraq World Cup qualifying match at the Jaber Stadium in Kuwait.

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: The match between Kuwait's national football team and Iraq, held at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium in the second round of Group Two of the 2026 World Cup Asian qualifiers, has sparked significant governmental concern due to its poor organization and overcrowding issues. The match, marking the Blues' first World Cup qualifier since 2006, was marred by logistical failures that led to a frustrating experience for fans.

Despite the excitement of the match, which drew over 60,000 spectators - exceeding the stadium's capacity — poor organization was evident from the start. Many fans arrived at the gates five hours before kickoff, only to face overcrowding and delays. As gates closed, some spectators climbed fences to enter, and thousands ended up watching the game standing.

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Compounding the issue, water was prohibited despite the high temperatures and humidity, leading to multiple cases of exhaustion among fans. The lack of adequate stadium parking forced many attendees to park in nearby areas and walk long distances, further adding to their discomfort.

The poorly managed event and evident organizational lapses have raised concerns about Kuwait's ability to host future tournaments, particularly the upcoming Gulf 26 tournament scheduled from December 21 to January 3.

In response to the situation, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, the Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, has called for an investigation. The Public Authority for Sports has been instructed to work with the Kuwait Football Association to identify the reasons behind the disorganization and to take appropriate legal measures in accordance with regulations.

The Authority also announced that, in preparation for the Gulf 26, Minister Al-Mutairi will present a detailed organizational plan on October 7. This presentation will outline the procedural guidelines for the tournament, ensuring that future events meet international standards and are managed more effectively.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ahmed Abdulmalik, a family medicine consultant, has labeled the decision to prevent water from entering Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium during the Kuwait-Iraq match as not just a mistake but a "medical crime.

Dr. Abdulmalik explained that in hot and humid conditions, the body loses fluids rapidly through

Argentina, Brazil stumble in World Cup 'qualifying'



Al-Mutairi follows Minister events accompanied match.



Medical expert Dr. Ahmed Abdulmalik

sweating, often without the person realizing it. Given that the match was held in such extreme weather and lasted for an extended period, with many spectators arriving up to three hours early, the impact of dehydration is a serious concern.

He emphasized that dehydration is particularly dangerous for the health of individuals, including children, the elderly, and those with kidney issues. This situation highlights the need for better management and preventive measures to avoid severe health consequences or even fatalities.

Dr. Abdulmalik noted that the temperature around 9 p.m. during the match was between 40 and 45 degrees Celsius. He criticized the Football Association for what he termed a significant medical oversight and urged that such issues be addressed to prevent future occur-

Bolivia upset Chile

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia, Sept 11, (AP): Two South American soccer powerhouses lost in World Cup qualifying Tuesday in the absence of their biggest stars, with Lionel Messi missing Argentina's 2-1 loss to Colombia and Neymar still on the sidelines for Brazil's upset defeat in Paraguay.

James Rodríguez scored from the penalty spot and had an assist to help Colombia edge defending champion Argentina 2-1 in Barranquilla. Diego Gómez netted the winner for Paraguay in a 1-0 victory over Brazil at Asunción.

Both Argentina and Brazil struggled without their injured stars, with the replacements for Messi and Neymar unable to de-

liver away wins for their teams. Yerson Mosquera opened the scoring for Colombia with a close-range header in the 25th minute but Argentina equalized in the 48th after Nico Gonzalez intercepted a Rodríguez pass. Rodríguez made amends on the hour with his penalty, awarded after a video review, securing the

win at the Metropolitano Stadium. Gómez scored for Paraguay from the edge of the box, with the ball deflecting in off goalkeeper Alisson's right post. Brazil had few opportunities to equalize and gave coach Dorival Júnior his first defeat since taking over in Janu-

In other games Tuesday, Bolivia upset Chile 2-1 at Santiago, Ecuador beat Peru 1-0, and Venezuela drew 0-0 with Uruguay.

Argentina leads the round-robin competition with 18 points after eight matches, two points clear of Colombia. Uruguay is in third position with 15 points, followed by Ecuador with 14. Brazil is in fifth with 10.

All teams have two more qualifying matches next month. The top six teams in South American qualifying will get automatic spots at the 2026 World Cup.

The 2022 World Cup winners also lifted the Copa America trophy in July after a 1-0 overtime victory over Colombia. The Colombians seemed to have that match on their minds as they found a way to beat Argentina for the first time since 2019.

"It is a great win against an Argentina team that has won it all," Rodríguez said. "The weather was tough, it was so hot, but we had an excellent match. It is a fair win." Colombia once again had the 33-year-old Rodríguez to thank after he gave a perfect cross for Mosquera's opening header. That equalized Carlos Valderrama's record of 11 assists in South American World Cup qualifying.

When he fired past Dibu Martínez, a prolific penalty stopper, in the 60th minute, Rodríguez equalized Falcao García's mark of 13 goals in World Cup qualifying.

Argentina's strikers Lautaro Martínez and Julián Álvarez failed to offer as much danger as they do when veteran Messi is there to create opportunities for

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said the heat had an impact on the match.

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"The heat is the same for both, but it is evident that there were not good conditions for us to see a spectacle," the coach said.

Brazil's coach, usually reserved in front of the media, told a news conference on Monday that his team will be in the next World Cup final. The defeat at Paraguay suggested he was still miles away from delivering on that promise.

His idea of starting against a defensively sound Paraguay team with a trio of Real Madrid strikers Vinicius Júnior, Endrick, and Rodrygo - clearly failed. Midfielder Lucas Moura said "The game was over" as soon as the hosts opened the scoring in the 20th minute.

"They already came to defend, even more so after they scored," substitute Moura said.

Defender Marquinhos said Brazil's squad doesn't have "the usual confidence" in recent times.

"We are trying to find the best way to play," he said. "Many pieces are being changed." Paraguay collected a historic win that keeps the team in contention for a spot in the next World Cup. The squad assembled by new coach Gustavo Alfaro seemed doomed to miss out in 2026 until it held Uruguay to a draw last week and then upset Brazil.

Pizzi 'confident' in Kuwait's future despite draw with Iraq in qualifier

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 11: Juan Pizzi, the Argentine coach of the Kuwait, expressed that the team played with the intention to win against Iraq" and was close to achieving its goal. However, he noted that "the hot weather and a lack of luck with scoring opportunities" hindered its success.

Kuwait drew 0-0 with Iraq in the second round of Group Two in the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup. This result dropped Kuwait to fourth place in the group standings with two points, while Iraq moved to

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the top of the table with four points, tied with South Korea and Jordan.

Pizzi remarked in the post-match press conference, "The team's performance is showing positive progress in the qualifiers. I've been with the national team for just twenty days, and we are striving for better results in the future.'

He emphasized that "the journey is still long and requires continued hard work," expressing confidence in the players' abilities and their potential to improve further.

On the other hand, Iraqi coach Jesus Casas commented on the match, noting that his team faced technical limitations early on due to a "harsh" refereeing decision. The game saw



Kuwait head coach, Juan Pizzi.

a red card for Iraqi player Rebin Gharib just seven minutes into the first half.

Casas stated, "We felt we deserved a better outcome and had several opportunities to score. Despite the numerical disadvantage, we managed to secure a point, which is better than a loss.'

He praised the Kuwaiti team's performance, acknowledging its attempts but also pointed out that it did not pose a significant threat to Iraq's goal. Casas added, "If we had played with a full team, we might have secured a victory.'



Paraguay's Isidro Pitta, right, and Brazil's Marquinhos go for a header during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 at the Defensores del Chaco Stadium, in Asuncion, Paraguay. (AP)

United's losses rise despite a year of record revenues

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 11, (AP): Manchester United reported losses of 113.2 million pounds (\$148 million) in its latest accounts Wednesday for the year ending June 30, despite record revenues of 661.8 million pounds (\$866 million).

The Premier League club, which was subject to a partial buyout from British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe this year, said the figures were in part because of increased spending on players.

The league's profit and sustainability rules (PSR) allow clubs to



Colombia's Luis Diaz, right, and Argentina's Paulo Dybala battle for the ball during a qualifying soc-cer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 at the Metropolitano Roberto Melendez stadium in Barranquilla, Colombia. (AP)

lose a maximum of 105 million pounds (\$137 million) over a threeyear period or face sanctions. Last season Everton and Nottingham Forest were handed points deductions for breaking those rules.

Despite the losses. United said it remained in compliance with the financial rules of both the league and Europe's governing body UEFA.

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PSR is related to more than just net losses, with allowances given for spending in areas such as infrastructure.

United has undergone an extensive restructuring program following Ratcliffe's investment of \$1.3 billion for a 27.7% stake.

New chief executive Omar Berrada was hired from Manchester City and the storied club has implemented cost-saving initiatives that it said included staff redundancies of around 250 roles.

'We are working towards greater financial sustainability and making changes to our operations to make them more efficient, to ensure we are directing our resources to enhancing on-pitch performance," Berrarda said Wednesday.

United made losses of 28.7 million pounds (\$37.5 million) in 2022-23, 115.5 million pounds (\$151 million) in 2021-22 and 92.2 million pounds (\$120.5 million) in 2020-21.

The latest figures included costs of 47.8 million pounds (\$62.4 million) primarily related to Ratcliffe's investment.

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