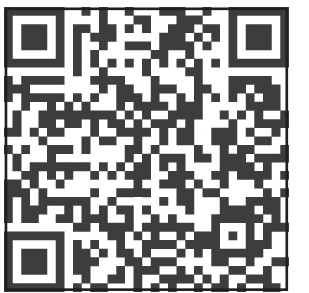




Page 15 **cricket**



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Talal Al-Fassam
KUNA photo

Clarify peaceful nature of nuclear program

Kuwait calls on Iran to cooperate with IAEA

VIENNA, Sept 12, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), provide it with the information it requires, and implement all the provisions of their joint statement. This came in a statement delivered by Kuwait's Ambassador to Austria and Permanent Delegate to UN Organizations in Vienna Talal Al-Fassam at the regular session of the IAEA Board of Governors on Wednesday. The Kuwaiti envoy commended the important IAEA roles, especially in implementing the comprehensive safeguards system under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Ambassador Al-Fassam highlighted IAEA Director General's

statement in his report to the Agency about Iran where he stressed that Iran must resolve the outstanding issues to help the IAEA assure the peaceful nature of its nuclear program. The Kuwaiti Ambassador delivered another statement before the IAEA Board of Governors regarding the issue of verification and monitoring nuclear activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of the UN Security Council Resolution 2231. In his statement, he said that the report issued by the IAEA Director General on August 29, 2024 indicated that the Agency

Continued on Page 5

90 persons to lose Kuwait nationality

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12, (KUNA): The Supreme Committee to Investigate the Kuwaiti Citizenship held a meeting on Thursday under chairmanship of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, also the head of the commission. The Ministry of Interior said in a statement that the committee decided to strip 90 individuals of the Kuwaiti citizenship, pending submission to the Cabinet.

Continued on Page 5

EU motivated for Oct 16 summit with GCC

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12, (KUNA): President of the European Council Charles Michel affirmed that the 27 leaders of the European Union are motivated to hold the upcoming GCC-EU Summit in October. Speaking to KUNA in an interview, the EU official reiterated the importance of the summit to be held on October 16th in Belgium to help enhance strategic partnership between the GCC and EU.

"We feel that the political dialogue and cooperation is needed if we want to provide more stability, more security and more prosperity and for that we need to work together. We will express together, I hope, our strong ambitions for the future," said Michel. "We are working to prepare for the first summit in history that will take place between the leaders of the GCC countries on one hand and the leaders of the

EU on the other hand, as we face extraordinary difficult challenges internationally, we see that it is important for the European members to engage more with the leaders of the GCC region. We are here to prepare for those meetings in the summit," he noted. Michel said topics to be discussed in the GCC-EU Summit would be the political ambition and to "have more strategic partnership," as well as the economic ambition and the vast potential in investments, trade, and economic sectors, "digitalization of our economy as it offers more opportunities in the future and more creativity, and diversifying economic models in the region and on the European level," he said.

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Kuwait non-oil exports hit KD 19.1 mln in Aug

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced on Thursday the total local non-oil exports of Kuwaiti origin to the world in August amounted to KD 19.1 million (USD 62.5 million) compared to KD 24 million (USD 78 million) in July.

Undersecretary of the Ministry for International Organizations and Foreign Trade Sector, Saleh Al-Azmi, stated to KUNA that the total certificates of Kuwaiti origin exports issued by the ministry to the GCC in August reached 1,577 certificates valued at KD 11.4 million (about USD 37.3 million), compared to 1,597 certificates valued at KD 15.7 million (about USD 51.4 million) in July.

Al-Azmi added that the number of certificates issued to Arab countries in August amounted to 502 certificates exported to 10 countries with a value of KD 7.3 million (about USD 23.9 million), compared to 366 certificates to 10 countries valued at KD 7.1 million (USD 23.2 million).

He also added that certificates issued to Europe in August reached six certificates to four countries valued at KD 70,491 (USD 230 thousand) compared to 22 certificates for nine countries worth KD one million (USD 3.2 million) in July.

The number of certificates issued to African countries reached seven to four countries valued at KD 186,840 (USD 611,000), compared to eight certificates to four countries worth KD 224,626 (USD 735,000) in July, he added.

Al-Azmi also said the number of certificates issued to the countries of the Americas in August reached four to two countries valued at KD 108,592 (USD 355,000), compared to 12 certificates for seven countries valued at KD 227,443 (USD 745,000) in July.

Certificates issued to Asian countries in August reached nine certificates valued at KD 18,653 (USD 61,000), compared to one certificate issued to one country worth KD 27,881 (USD 91,000) last July.

The numbers include Kuwaiti origin exports by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as some importing entities do not require a certificate of origin for products.

Health ministry suspends Afia insurance scheme for retirees

Private sector must chip in, say shocked citizens



Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya and his accompanying delegation attend the meeting. KUNA photo

Kuwait FM lauds joint panel gathering

Egypt and Kuwait sign host of MoUs

CAIRO, Sept 12, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait and Egypt on Thursday signed ten memoranda of understanding and executive programs in the sectors of planning, environment, youth, sports, media, tourism, diplomatic training and housing.

This came during the 13th session of the joint commission, headed by the Kuwaiti and Egyptian ministers of foreign affairs, respectively Abdullah Al-Yahya and Dr. Badr Abdelati.

Minister Al-Yahya and the Minister of Planning Dr. Ranya Al-Mashat signed the executive program for scientific and technical cooperation in the sector of planning. He also inked another one with the Sports Minister Dr. Ashraf Subhi in addition to a MoU with the Minister of Environment Yassmin Fuad as well as a memo with the Minister of Investment Hassan Khatib.

Moreover, the two foreign ministers signed executive programs for cooperation in the fields of housing, construction, boosting competition, tourism, media and diplomatic training.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya stressed on Thursday the importance of holding regular meetings with Egypt, saying that the 13th Egyptian-Kuwaiti high joint committee in Cairo was important to expand cooperation in different fields.

This statement came during the meeting that he chaired with his Egyptian counterpart Badr

Abdulatty. Al-Yahya continued saying that the meeting was held according to guidelines set by the leadership of both countries. The challenges facing the region and the world requiring close coordination especially amongst Arab countries, he affirmed, noting that unifying the Arab world's vision and boosting coordination were key to overcome any obstacles.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister touched on the situation the Gaza Strip and Palestine, saying that it was a major challenge that needed to be addressed and finding solutions for them would save lives and prevent further destruction. Minister Al-Yahya indicated that the current meeting would witness the signing of several accords that would reflect both countries' desire to boost cooperation. Any obstacles in face of the success of cooperation must be addressed, he affirmed, stressing that Kuwait was in full support on the public and private sector level to bolster ties.

He revealed that the investment and commerce sector cooperation saw a rapid increase in recent years, noting that Kuwaiti investments in Egypt reached around USD 4.5 billion, making it to the fifth country in investment volume in Egypt.

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KFA officials suspended after Kuwait-Iraq match

By Khaled Al-Enezi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The Board of Directors of Kuwait Football Association (KFA) has suspended Secretary General of the association Salah Al-Qanaei and Public Relations and Media Director Dr. Muhammad Bou Abbas, and referred them to the Investigation Committee due to the unfortunate turn of events during the Kuwait-Iraq match in the Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup held at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium last Tuesday.

During its emergency meeting, the Board of Directors formed a committee tasked to investigate the procedures followed before the match that led to the unfortunate turn of events. It also announced its continuous session status until the committee completes its task and submit its report to the Board within 48 hours from the date of its formation.

In a recent press statement, the association expressed deep regret for the turn of events at the match, in addition to its deep appreciation and gratitude to all the Kuwaiti fans who proved their loyalty to the national team as they thronged to the stadium to support the team. "We apologize to them for the obstacles and impediments they were exposed to during the match," it added.

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Hot weather to persist: expert

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: Director of the Kuwait Meteorological Department Abdulaziz Al-Qarawi announced on Thursday that Kuwait will experience extremely hot weather during the day and warm to hot temperatures at night throughout the weekend. The seasonal Indian depression is expected to bring light to moderate northwesterly winds, which may occasionally become active and create dusty conditions, particularly in desert areas.

He explained that the maximum temperature is expected to range between 47 and 49 degrees Celsius. The sea conditions will vary from light to moderate with wave heights reaching two to six feet.

Tonight, the weather will remain hot to warm, with light to moderate northwesterly winds blowing at speeds of 10-35 kilometers per hour. The minimum temperature is forecasted to be between 31 and 33 degrees Celsius.

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait on Thursday voiced sympathy and solidarity with Morocco over the flooding that hit its southern parts and left scores of people dead or missing, and devastated many houses and properties. In a press release, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry offered sincere condolence and solace to Morocco and the victims' families over the tragedy and wished a swift recovery of those injured in the disaster. (KUNA)

DOHA: Qatar's Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad and Saudi Arabia's Minister of Interior Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud reviewed on Thursday the historical brotherly relations and ways to enhance and develop them.

The Qatari Amiri Diwan released a statement saying that this came during the Qatari Amir's reception of the Minister along with his accompanying delegation in the Qatari capital, Doha. (KUNA)

RIYADH: GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi Thursday condemned and denounced Israeli occupation forces' bombing of a school of United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in the Al Nuseirat camp, which killed dozens of innocents, including six UNRWA employees, and injured many others.

According to a GCC statement, the Secretary General said that the international community must take a strong position against the Israeli occupation forces to stop the ongoing systematic violations against the Palestinian people, which have claimed the lives of tens of thousands of innocent civilians. (KUNA)

Kuwait voices support

Call for independent Palestine

CAIRO, Sept 12, (KUNA): Kuwait expressed hope for South American and the Caribbean countries' continued backing to international efforts in support of Palestine's right to full UN membership. Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the Arab League Ambassador Talal Al-Mutairi made the statement to KUNA on Wednesday after partaking in the League's representative-level meeting with ambassadors of South American and Caribbean countries to Egypt.

Such a right would contribute to the Arab region's stability that has been witnessing instability for decades due to Israeli occupation



Al-Mutairi

policies despite Arab initiatives made for achieving peace for all, Al-Mutairi said. He said Kuwait appreciates South America and the Caribbean states' positions in backing humanitarian right of Palestinian people who have been facing a crime of genocide for years.

"We are very worried as Israeli occupation does not respect international law and international humanitarian law," he said. Kuwait also commended Libya's proposal on holding this meeting as the conferees have common values and principles, he noted. At the end of the meeting, a joint statement was issued to stress the need of supporting inalienable rights of Palestinian people, including self-determination, the return and the establishment of a full sovereign Palestinian state on June 4 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with international law, the relevant UN General Assembly and the Security Council resolutions.

Officer injured in Salmiya shootout

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: A criminal investigation officer sustained a gunshot during a security chase involving detectives and a wanted suspect in Salmiya. The suspect was eventually arrested and referred to the relevant authorities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a security source, detectives identified a wanted citizen in Salmiya, and attempted to stop him, but he fled between buildings. The chase continued until they cornered him but he pulled out a gun and fired at the detectives, injuring one officer. The injured officer was taken to the hospital and is reported to be in stable condition.

The source said the suspect was subdued and arrested, and the gun used in the shooting was seized. Necessary legal actions are being taken against him.



Justice Ministry Undersecretary Tareq Al-Asfour leads his team at the meeting. KUNA photo

'Need to up GCC judicial ties'

Boosting cooperation amongst GCC judicial officials and entities is important to move legal affairs in the region forward, said a Kuwaiti justice official on Thursday.

Speaking to KUNA and Kuwait television on the sideline of the 26th meeting of the GCC Justice Undersecretaries in Doha, Qatar, Justice Ministry Undersecretary Tareq Al-Asfour said that recommendations on unified legal mat-

ters and agreements were discussed during the session.

One of the matters discussed was the draft project to facilitate the exchange of suspects and those sentenced within the region to different courts in the GCC countries for trial, he indicated, pointing out that recommendations would be sent to

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Prayer Timings	
Fajr	04:11
Sunrise ..	05:31
Zohr	11:44
Asr	15:15
Maghrib ..	17:58
Isha	19:15

Local

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

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: How with moderate to fresh strong at times northwesterly wind, with speeds of 20-60 km/h causing rising dust.

By Night: Hot to rather hot with light to moderate northwesterly

Weather

wind, with speeds of 12-38 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec		
Kuwait City	47	33	Jahra	48
Kuwait Airport	48	37	Salmiyah	44
Abdaly	48	32	Ahmadi	44
Bubyan	46	28	Jal Aliyah	48
			Nuwaisib	47
			Wafra	48
				35

'No Financial Restrictions Certificate' goes online: MoJ

'Sahel' app faces technical failure just days after MoH incident

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The Ministry of Health's services remain affected, while the possibility of adapting to the situation is uncertain.

Ministries of Finance and Commerce were previously targeted by hacking attempts, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The unified government application for electronic services, "Sahel," encountered a technical failure yesterday, just four days after a similar issue affected the Ministry of Health. This has led to significant concerns, as users have faced difficulties accessing the application and utilizing its services.

The recent failure follows the Ministry of Health's sys-

tem malfunction, which forced a switch to manual processing due to the activation of protection protocols. The Health Ministry's services are still being affected, and the glitch is yet to be fully resolved. Similarly, last year in September, the Ministry of Finance reported a hacking attempt that targeted one of its systems. This triggered emergency protection measures, resulting in the disconnection of the system to prevent further damage. Shortly after, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry also faced a hacking attempt.

These recurring incidents have raised pressing questions about the underlying causes of these technical failures. Are

they purely technical malfunctions, or could they be connected to external threats? Moreover, concerns are growing about the state's preparedness to handle such emergencies and its commitment to safeguarding its systems from potential cyber-attacks.

According to "Sahel" spokesperson Yusef Kazem, technical teams are actively working to resolve the issue and restore normal operations. He advised users to update their digital civil card information via the "My Identity" app before attempting to access "Sahel" again using their civil ID number for authentication.

Meanwhile, Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and

Islamic Affairs, Dr. Mohammed Al-Wasmi, has announced the launch of a new service for issuing a 'No Financial Restrictions Certificate' exclusively through the unified government application, Sahel, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This service allows users to obtain a certificate for a fee to confirm that there are no outstanding financial restrictions with the General Department of Enforcement, following the payment of the applicable fee.

Dr. Al-Wasmi emphasized that this initiative is part of the Ministry of Justice's ongoing efforts to advance digital transformation and enhance service delivery through the Sahel application.

Only 4 pct of agencies eligible to recruit Filipino domestic workers

96% of agencies still awaiting approval: union

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The Kuwait Union of Owners of Domestic Labor Recruitment Agencies has confirmed that only recruitment agencies that have not previously recruited Filipino domestic workers are permitted to do so this time.

It revealed that these agencies represent no more than four percent of the total recruitment agencies that are eligible to recruit domestic workers.

In a statement the union issued in response to the recent reports about the arrival of Filipino domestic workers, it explained that 96 percent of the remaining recruitment agencies are in the process of completing their procedures with the Philippine Embassy to resume recruiting workers.

The union urged Kuwaiti citizens and families not to be swayed by sensational statements that do not reflect reality.

It described such statements as misleading and designed to stir up public opinion and create confusion.

The union affirmed that it is closely monitoring all developments related to the recruitment process, and coordinating with relevant authorities within Kuwait, as well as the Philippine Embassy and the Philippine Ministry of Labor, to ensure that all procedures for recruiting Filipino workers are completed properly.

Earlier, Bassam Al-Shammari, a specialist in domestic workers' affairs and owner of a recruitment company, announced that the first batch of new Filipino domestic workers will arrive in Kuwait the day after tomorrow. This follows a hiatus of over a year due to a ban on recruiting new workers from Manila, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Al-Shammari revealed that subsequent batches will include even more workers. The incoming workers will be aged between 30 and 45 years, which he considers favorable.

This development is expected to address the long-standing shortage of domestic workers from countries previously supplying Kuwait, particularly since Filipino workers were hard to replace.

Al-Shammari emphasized that adherence to contract terms is crucial for continued recruitment.

Senior hospital officials tenure extended - min

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi, has issued Ministerial Resolution No. 270 of 2024, extending the appointment of heads and rapporteurs of medical departments in hospitals, specialized medical centers, and dental clinics for an additional three months starting from August 21.

This extension follows the expiry of the previous term for these positions. The resolution ensures continuity in the management of medical departments until new appointments are made.



KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: Kuwait FM meets with his Egyptian counterpart on the sidelines of the 13th session of the Kuwaiti-Egyptian Joint Higher Committee. (KUNA photo)

FM meets his Egyptian counterpart

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met his Egyptian counterpart Dr. Bader Abdulati Thursday on the sidelines of the 13th session of the Egypt-Kuwait Joint Committee in Cairo.

During the meeting, the two officials reviewed the bilateral relations and cooperation as well as the latest regional and international developments. (KUNA)



Deputy FM Sheikh Jarrah with Bahraini Ambassador Al Maliki. (Al-Seyassah photo)

Deputy FM, Bahraini envoy discuss ties

Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Al-Jaber met with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Kuwait, Salah Al Maliki, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to a press statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the two officials discussed the strong bilateral relations between Kuwait and Bahrain and explored

ways to further strengthen cooperation across various sectors. In addition to enhancing ties, the meeting also touched on key developments in the regional and international arenas. The discussions underscored the importance of continued collaboration between the two brotherly nations in addressing shared challenges and advancing mutual interests.



Director General of the API Dr. Abdullah Al-Shami during the signing of the MoU with ALECSO. (KUNA photo)

Signing takes place in Tunis

Arab Planning Institute, ALECSO sign MoU to enhance cooperation

TUNIS, Sept 12, (KUNA): Director General of the Arab Planning Institute Dr. Abdullah Al-Shami announced on Thursday the signing of a MoU with Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) to enhance cooperation in development, educational reform, scientific research and innovation.

In a statement to KUNA, Al-Shami said that the MoU that was signed in the presence of the Director-General of ALECSO Dr. Mohammad Ould Amar aims to enhance cooperation between the institute and the organization as part of the Arab joint efforts that support economic and social development in Arab countries.

He added that the cooperation will include the areas of capability building, studies, research, and report preparation related to educational reform policies, noting that the MoU also includes organizing development forums that include conferences, workshops, seminars, and public lectures of common interest.

He stated that the signing ceremony took place at the organization's headquarters in the Tunisian Capital, Tunis, during the current session of the Arab Forum for Scientific Research and Sustainable Development, titled (The High-Level ALECSO Forum for Heads of Scientific Research Authorities, Institutions and Councils - Leadership and

'Akh' shakes up Kuwaiti cinema with fresh twist

By Shahad Kamal

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12, (KUNA): This week, Kuwaiti cinema is turning heads with the release of "Akh," (Brother), a fresh addition to the local film scene that kicked off in 1965 with the short film "Al-Asifa," (The Storm) and gained traction in 1972 with the feature film "Bas Ya Bahar," (The Cruel Sea).

"Akh" is not just a typical movie -- it is a unique blend of horror, drama and science fiction--produced and written by the imaginative mind of Dr. Ahmad Hamada and brought to life by director Hatem Hossam Al-Deen.

Innovation in the Arab Scientific and University Communities). Al-Shami stressed that the Arab Planning Institute will continue to provide its development services and strengthen the frameworks of joint Arab cooperation while supporting development efforts in various Arab countries.



Right: A member of the magazine team reads the stories to the students. (Left) School bags being given to young children. (KUNA photos)



Al-Safa charity visits children in Kyrgyz orphanage

Children in Kyrgyzstan enjoy reading 'KUNA Junior'

BISHKEK, Sept 12, (KUNA): Many Arabic-speaking students in Kyrgyzstan have enjoyed reading the 19th edition of "KUNA Junior" at their school in the capital, Bishkek.

Kyrgyz students became acquainted with this cultural magazine, which aims to promote reading in Arabic by covering a variety of stories, topics, interviews and activities for children aged 8-13.

Meanwhile, Al-Safa Charity and Humanitarian Society visited the Yusef and Noura orphanage in Kyrgyzstan as part of 16th campaign in the Asian country.

The orphanage, one of charity's projects executed back in 2021, is home to some 150 children who were given schoolbags and financial aid. In the meantime, orphans in Kyrgyzstan appeared cheerful today during their high school

graduation in an event sponsored by Al-Safa charity, attended by a delegation of "Al-Khair trip."

Mohammad Al-Shaya, the charity board head, said during the ceremony that the activity was held to honor the graduates for their serious efforts. He guided them to move ahead on the path of "investing their mental capabilities." He also thanked the teachers for their hard work.



Dr Tariq Al-Bakri (center) with the participants in the training program. (KUNA photo)

Dr Tariq Al-Bakri leads workshop

KUNA hosted training program boosts media experts Arabic language, communication skills

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12, (KUNA): A training program titled "Linguistic Skills for Media Professionals" was organized by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Center for Media Development from Sunday, Aug 8 to Thursday, Aug 12. Employees of KUNA, the Emirates News Agency (WAM), and participants from both government and private institutions in Kuwait had attended the training program, which was led by Dr. Tariq Al-Bakri.

Dr. Al-Bakri affirmed the importance of media professionals mastering the Arabic language to convey media messages with clarity and precision. He highlighted that enhancing linguistic skills is essential for media professionals to excel in all areas of communication.

Dr. Al-Bakri explained that the training program combined both theoretical lessons and practical exercises. It covered various aspects of language and news writing techniques, with a particular focus on storytelling. It focused on the basic grammar rules, editorial guidelines, and the avoidance of common linguistic mistakes, all of which are important for maintaining professionalism in media content.

Topics covered in the program

'Info pays allowances to existing staff'

By Mohammed Al-Musleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: According to informed sources, the Ministry of Information has been paying allowances to its current employees without interruption.

They explained that the acceptance of new requests for various allowances, including shift, food, night, and location allowances has been suspended temporarily in order to update the records

included sentence structure, grammar fundamentals in editing, the interplay between language and journalistic writing, and strategies to avoid linguistic errors.

Participants were also trained on technical principles, the art of crafting compelling news stories, and the appropriate use of language across different types of news coverage.

Besides these core topics, the program highlighted the way to structure media materials both linguistically and editorially, the relationship between the Arabic language and

of claimants in the Civil Service Commission's integrated system and finalize the budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

Suspending the acceptance of new requests is a routine annual procedure conducted by the Administrative Affairs Department for inventorying and listing names to submit them for budget allocation in the upcoming fiscal year.

New requests for allowances will be accepted from the beginning of November.

various forms of media content, and common linguistic errors in media writing and ways to correct them.

The KUNA Center for Media Development, which was established in December 1995, is regarded as one of the leading media training centers in the region. Over the years, it has offered hundreds of training programs in various media disciplines with the aim of enhancing the skills and potential of media professionals and promoting excellence in the media industry.

'Avoid wealth's trap ... give alms, resist the urge to hoard and indulge'

"THE money you have is a gift from God, so spend it wisely and give charity to please Him." These words remind us of the tales often told about the rich, which mirror stories of misers -- two sides of the same narrative," columnist **Dr. Mohammed Al-Muqati** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"A friend of mine, from a noble Syrian family whose grandfather was a former Mufti, shared a memorable experience. One day, he found his grandfather muttering, 'There is no power nor strength save in God', while repeating a verse from the Qur'an: 'Whatever you have will perish, but what is with God is everlasting'."

"Curious, my friend gathered the courage to ask, 'Grandfather, what made you repeat these words so often today?' His grandfather, with both seriousness and compassion, responded: 'Listen, my son. You come from a wealthy family, but never forget to give charity each day. It brings blessings to you, your family, and to those before and after us. The abundance of wealth can easily consume you, making you focus only on collecting, counting, and spending on your desires. Do not fall into this trap'."



Dr Al-Muqati

"He then shared his experiences of living among many wealthy people -- relatives and friends -- whose wealth became a prison. It restricted their lives, alienated them from others, and even brought misery to some. 'They exhaust themselves in hoarding wealth, yet are stingy even with themselves, failing to invest in their Afterlife. They miss out on much good, except for those whom God has mercy upon', he said. 'Avoid the company of those who do not spend, and be the first to give, racing to the doors of goodness. This way, your deeds will shine in both this world and the Hereafter'."

"When asked if the rich truly avoid giving charity, the grandfather's final answer was, 'Many do, and failing to spend is a sign of stinginess towards oneself and unwillingness to purify the soul. So, do not be stingy towards yourself. Be among those who the angels of the Most Merciful pray for, saying, 'O God, replace what this person spends in charity'."

"I thanked my friend and remarked that in Kuwait, people from all walks of life -- rich, poor, and middle-income -- are known for their generosity."

"Their charity is one of the reasons voluntary charitable work thrives in the Arab and Islamic world. It is a defining trait of the Kuwaiti people, who have gained worldwide recognition for their generosity. Praise be to God."

Also:

"The concept of establishing provincial councils has been implemented in various developed countries through laws and legislation," columnist **Dr. Ghadir Mohammed Asiri**, wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"For example, in 1888, England introduced county councils under local law, which managed administrative functions, educational services, and social matters."

"Their responsibilities included youth services, highway maintenance, environmental protection, firefighting, rescue operations, and the establishment of libraries and logistics services."

"This system aimed to transition communities from rural to urban settings, facilitating the transfer of science, culture, and development."

"In 1929, the powers of county councils in England were expanded to include the establishment of highways in rural areas."

"Taiwan also adopted a similar approach, where county councils function as the legislative bodies for each county. Council members are elected every four years, and their duties encompass tax regulation, budget approval, and other local governance tasks."

"In Kuwait, recent decrees in local policies include Decree No. 151 of 2024, which amends Article 9 of 2014 concerning the governorate system."

"This decree activates the six governorate councils, which assist governors in their duties. Each council includes a deputy governor, representatives from specified government agencies, and three nominated citizens."

"The governor may also invite experts to attend meetings. New regulations will organize the councils' meetings, work, and decisions."

"This move aims to enhance local governance, streamline decision-making, and adapt to contemporary needs."

"The establishment of these governorate councils is expected to advance Kuwait's development by improving the efficiency of decision-making and implementing state policies."

"It will also foster greater independence and collective consultation among citizens, addressing delays in administrative processes and aligning with successful models from other countries."



"We respectfully address this appeal to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, as we are aware of your deep commitment to the welfare of all Kuwaiti citizens and your dedication to imple-

menting the directives of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (May God protect and preserve him) when he told all officials to rely on Kuwaiti employees, and learn from expatriates until they return to their country," columnist **Amer Al-Ajmi** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"Your Highness, it has come to our attention that many distinguished Kuwaiti doctors, possessing extensive experience in various medical specialties, have been moving from the Ministry of Health to the private sector or seeking opportunities in neighboring Gulf countries. This includes professionals such as plastic surgeons, dermatologists, general surgeons, sleeve gastrectomy surgeons, orthopedists, and others."

"Many medical professionals have chosen to leave their beloved Kuwait for opportunities in neighboring Gulf countries due to the decisions issued by the Ministry of Health and its legal arm, as well as the ill-considered decisions of the Health Licensing Administration."

"The Medical Liability Authority has also floundered, and the 'Afiya' program, which we had hoped would bring a positive change, has instead become unchecked and unaccountable. For example, on July 30, 2024, Afiya issued an illegal decision restricting most doctors from providing spinal treatment services, leaving many experienced practitioners with limited intervention options."

"These arbitrary decisions have driven many to flee, ignoring the concerns raised by medical associations and unions. Facilities have been closed abruptly without a gradual approach or proper penalties."

"Unfortunately, the recent decision has impacted many doctors, leading to the closure of their practices or making it extremely difficult for private medical facilities to operate. This has created a hostile working environment, which for example led a distinguished neurosurgeon to resign from the government sector."

"The Union of Private Medical Professions, which is a public benefit association established in 1981, along with its legal team of affiliated doctors, has made several efforts over the past two years to communicate with officials by writing countless letters and articles, and offering advice, but their concerns have gone unheard."

"We respectfully request Your Highness's intervention to prevent the migration of our country's most talented doctors, in whose education the state has invested a lot for the benefit of our beloved nation."

"We extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your attention to this matter."



"The failure of thousands of engineers and teachers of Arab nationality in the proficiency test in Kuwait raises serious concerns. It suggests that their certificates may be forged or that they might have passed through illegal means, rendering their qualifications questionable. We need to know what actions the government will take in response. Will they safely repatriate these individuals, or will they choose to offer them job opportunities in Kuwait despite the irregularities in their credentials, as these individuals 'break the heart' of the government, and do not mind working under any name, otherwise they would not have multiplied in such a terrifying way?" columnist **Talal Al-Saeed** wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"This situation does not surprise us. We have seen instances where a security guard becomes an advisor to a minister, a fisherman turns into an expert, and a farm worker is appointed as a teacher. As for the delegates, let us talk about them without being embarrassed. They have reportedly obtained driver's licenses through clear fraud, yet the government remains silent. There are many examples in this regard. What seems to matter most to them is ensuring at least one of them remains in Kuwait, after which it becomes relatively easy to find work and change professions."

"They are unlikely to leave Kuwait, as it has become their alternative homeland. They also consider themselves partners in development. However, this notion seems to be more of a falsehood, with those promoting it being either deceived or trying to deceive others. There are claims about an air bridge from one of the Arab countries that brought these individuals to Kuwait. We now hope for another air bridge to return them to their home countries, especially after it has been proven that they failed the proficiency tests."

"The issue of fake certificates is akin to a rapidly spreading contagious disease. Every holder of a fake certificate has turned Kuwait into their destination, and the problem has even extended to Kuwaitis seeking the elusive 'Dal' (a term for a desired position or status), leading them to follow the same path!"

"By God, enough is enough. The situation has reached its breaking point, and Kuwait is on the brink of collapse. The numbers have exceeded what the country can bear. It is now the duty of the relevant authorities to quickly amend the demographic imbalance and free the nation from the soft occupation that has become a heavy burden on our shoulders."

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyieh**



Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah during his tour of the citizen service centers in Abdullah Al-Salem and Rawda areas.

'Committed to reducing transaction waiting times'

Capital governor visits citizen service centers

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The Capital Governor Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali affirmed the importance of implementing quality standards in all aspects of work, facilitating procedures to ease the burden on transaction owners, and reducing waiting times to complete transactions quickly and efficiently, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

The governor said this during his inspection tour of the citizen service centers in Abdullah Al-Salem and Rawda areas in the presence of many security commanders and members

of the Board of Directors of the Abdullah Al-Salem Cooperative Society Mishal Al-Kulaib and Mohammad Al-Abdullah.

The tour reflected the governor's commitment to reviewing the quality of services provided to citizens and monitoring the progress of work.

Governor Sheikh Abdullah reviewed the workflow and procedures for handling transactions for the elderly via a dedicated counter that facilitates these transactions efficiently and comfortably from their vehicles.

He spoke with several citizens

about their transactions, and gathered their feedback and impressions about the service quality.

He also engaged with the staff to hear their suggestions for improving service levels and addressing citizens' needs.

Governor Sheikh Abdullah commended the efforts of all workers and officials at the citizen service centers, and affirmed the importance of continuously improving performance and incorporating citizens' feedback to enhance service quality in accordance with regulations and laws.

Court delays 120mn dinars laundry case to 31st next month

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The Criminal Court yesterday adjourned to October 31 a money laundering case involving KD 120 million. The case was adjourned for review and photocopying purposes. The court also decided to release ten defendants on bail of KD 1,000 each.

The Public Prosecution had referred to the Criminal Court the case against a group of citizens and residents accused of laundering a total of KD 120 million by illegally transferring and investing the money into local banking systems to conceal and disguise its origin.

The Ministry of Interior reported that its State Security Service successfully apprehended a gang of 27 individuals, including six citizens, for laundering over KD 120 million. These individuals had been referred to the Public Prosecution for necessary legal action.



Aunt burns girl's hand: A citizen has lodged a report at Dhahr Police Station, stating that his five-year-old daughter's aunt deliberately burned the arm of the child when the latter was at the house of her grandmother, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

Court upholds ruling on disability classification of cancer patient

Ruling on KCCI Law, Competition Protection appeals Nov 6

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The Constitutional Court has set the session of November 6 for ruling on three appeals challenging the constitutionality of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Law. These appeals were submitted by Muhammad Al-Saqer, Dabous Al-Dabous, Hamad Al-Omar, and others, who contested the constitutionality of Law No. 122/2023 concerning the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI).

The court has also set the session of November 6 to review two appeals submitted by the Mohamed Nasser Al-Sayer and Sons Company against the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Competition Protection Authority in his official capacity.

In its first appeal, the company challenged the constitutionality of article 1, section 320, paragraph 3, clause 1.2 of law No. 72/2020 concerning the protection of competition, and articles 1.46, 500, and 120 of resolution No. 21/14, which

pertains to the executive regulations of the law.

In the second appeal, the company contested the constitutionality of article 34, paragraph 1 and article 35 of law No. 72/2020 on competition protection, as well as articles 87 to 99, which are part of chapter eight of resolution No. 14 concerning its executive regulations. In addition, the appeal filed by the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies and others against the Fatwa and Legislation Department was postponed to the same session for review.

The appellants explained that their appeals challenge the constitutionality of the judiciary's ruling on the Competition Protection law No. 72/2020 and its executive regulations.



Disability classification: The Court of Cassation has dismissed the appeal filed by the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) against the ruling of the Appeals Court, which upheld the verdict of the First Instance Court on the disability classification of a female citizen suffering from breast and tendon cancer, particularly the moderate and permanent physical disability category, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The plaintiff filed the case after PADA issued a decision that her condition is not classified as a disability.

Lawyer for the citizen, Attorney Haya Al-Shalhi, pointed out that PADA previously classified her client's condition as a moderate and permanent physical disability based on the disability certificate it issued in 2015. She argued this means her client acquired

a legal handicapped status in terms of the type and degree of disability that should not change, unless the medical condition improves. She said PADA did not provide any evidence that her client's condition has improved up to the level of changing her disability status. She stressed it has not been proven as well that the disability certificate of her client was issued in a fraudulent manner.



'Arrest' helps solve 10 cases: The Criminal Security Sector, represented by Taima Investigations Unit in Jahra Governorate, closed 10 cases -- seven felonies and three misdemeanors -- through the arrest of a citizen who has a criminal record, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

The weapon that the accused used in robbing expatriates over the past two months was also confiscated. It has been reported that most of the victims are delivery workers.

A security source revealed that multiple reports about armed robbery cases necessitated the formation of a team whose investigations resulted in the arrest of the accused. During interrogation, the accused confessed and informed police about the location of the weapon he used in committing the crime.



130 licenses for shops issued: The Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality revealed that the Engineering Licensing Department of the Capital Municipality issued 130 licenses for shops and buildings in the month of August, re-

E-documentation in legal field approved

Al-Seyassah Report

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The Cabinet's approval of electronic documentation through modern means of communication without the need for personal attendance is in response to the demand of Kuwait Bar Association; as stated in many of its correspondences and initiatives to digitize services, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily quoting Secretary of the association Attorney **Khaled Al-Suwaifan**.

In a press statement Wednesday, Al-Suwaifan explained this step "will help lawyers and litigants save time and effort, especially in light of the development that the State has been witnessing towards digitization of services in various fields."

He pointed out it is important that the Cabinet has allowed the court or the investigation authority to send summons through any means of modern communication, considering the results of the traditional way -- obstruction of procedures and delayed settlement of disputes.

He also emphasized the need to activate the Civil Notary Law, as it is an important step in the issuance of decisions in the interest of citizens; affirming the Cabinet's decisions are steps in the right direction, particularly in digitizing services and achieving sustainable development goals.



The vehicle going up in flames.

Fire engulfs new vehicle

A new four-wheel-drive vehicle worth more than KD 11,000 went up in flames in a parking lot in Khaitan, reports **Al-Anba** daily. Firefighters rushed to the location after the Operations Unit at Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) received a report about a vehicle burning in a parking lot in Khaitan. They controlled the fire in record time.

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Al-Seyassah photo
Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah with András Szabo, Hungarian Ambassador to Kuwait.

Sheikh Athbi lauds co-ops efforts

Hungarian Ambassador commends Farwaniya Governorate's 'progress'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah hosted Hungarian Ambassador to Kuwait, András Szabo, at the governorate's office, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He expressed gratitude for the ongoing support provided to the Hungarian diplomatic mission by Kuwait, and extended his best wishes for continued security, safety, and prosperity of Kuwait.

Additionally, Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Nasser Al-Athbi Al-Sabah held a meeting with the heads of cooperative societies boards at the governorate's office.

During the meeting, the Governor commended their efforts in meeting citizens' needs and ensuring the quality of goods.

He emphasized the importance of collaboration and teamwork to enhance the services provided and appreciated the ongoing and future projects undertaken by the cooperatives.

The Governor emphasized Kuwait's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations for mutual benefit.

Ambassador Szabo thanked Sheikh Athbi for the hospitality and praised the developments observed in the Farwaniya Governorate.

Power outages continue as ministry implements cuts

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: An investigation committee has been established to examine the outage at Doha Al-Sharqiya Station, and the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy has introduced a program to repair affected units, reports Al-Rai daily.

For the second consecutive day, the Ministry has implemented scheduled power cuts in both non-residential zones and sections of five residential areas. This action is a direct result of rising electricity demand surpassing the available supply in the electrical network.

Although electrical consumption over the past two days has been lower than the peak demand recorded on August 27 (17,640 megawatts), frequent outages of electricity generation units have constrained production, according to ministry sources.

The sources explained that operating the power plants at full

capacity throughout the summer has significantly strained them, making older units particularly prone to breakdowns. The prolonged high temperatures, coupled with the start of the school year, have only added to the stress on the network. These conditions have forced the Ministry to implement scheduled power cuts to protect the stability of the grid.

The Ministry is waiting for cooler temperatures before commencing maintenance on units that have reached their maximum operational limits. A maintenance schedule has already been devised for the Doha East Station, with plans to have it fully operational before next summer to boost production capacity. The investigation committee tasked with determining the cause of the Doha East Station's shutdown began its work last week and is expected to submit a report to the Ministry's Undersecretary once its inquiry is completed.

MoCI revamps oversight to boost anti-money laundering measures

New tools in place

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: As part of a broader initiative to improve the business environment in line with international standards, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recommended to implement several precautionary measures aimed at preventing suspicious financial transactions, reports Al-Rai daily.

Key steps include coordination with the Public Authority for Civil Information to introduce an electronic real estate broker's book, enhancing oversight and automating transactions, thus strengthening the fight against money laundering.

Additionally, a shake-up is planned for the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Department, focusing on increasing staff, improving procedural capabilities, and enhancing legal tools to better track funds and combat financial crime.

This is in addition to, coordination between the Ministry of Commerce and the Public Authority for Combating Corruption to improve transparency, while a new mechanism will regulate social media advertisements to prevent fraud, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information.

These efforts are complemented by increased coordination with the Kuwait Supply Company and cooperative societies to address supply discrepancies, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of Kuwait's supply system.



Al-Seyassah photo
Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah during inspection tour across various schools to assess their readiness for the new academic year.

Minister urges 'fast action' on PADA glitches

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, the Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs, recently visited the Public Authority for Disability Affairs to review its automated systems, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During her visit, she inspected the Information Systems Center and assessed the current operations and needs of the reviewers.

Dr. Al-Huwailah directed the Authority's leaders to promptly address and rectify a defect affecting one of its systems. She emphasized the importance of urgently fixing the malfunction to ensure the smooth functioning of the Authority's services and systems.

Sheikh Hamoud praises preparation

Ahmadi Governor assesses school 'readiness' for new academic year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah conducted an inspection tour across various schools in the Ahmadi Governorate to assess their readiness for the new academic year, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The tour, held on Tuesday and Wednesday, included visits to schools in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City, Ali Sabah Al-Salem suburb, Ahmadi City, and areas such as Fahad Al-Ahmad, Fahaheel, and Al-Raqqa.

Sheikh Hamoud, accompanied by Nasser Al-Mutairi, Director of the Engineering

Affairs Department in the Ahmadi Educational District, and other officials, reviewed the preparations made by the schools.

He expressed satisfaction and praised the efforts exerted by the schools authorities to create a conducive environment for learning, ensuring that students have the necessary resources for academic success.

The governor also addressed key observations and discussed requests from school administrators, commending their dedication to fostering a positive educational atmosphere for students.

Council tackles sanitation issues

New water station proposal in Kabad submitted amid Sulaiibiya congestion

By Inaas Awadh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: Municipal Council member Walid Al-Dagher on Wednesday submitted a proposal to allocate a site for the establishment of a fresh water filling station in Kabad.

In the introduction part of his proposal, Al-Dagher explained that the severe congestion at Sulaiibiya station and the surrounding areas has prompted him to submit the proposal; as such a situation entails the need for additional stations in Kabad and Hajn.

On the other hand, Kuwait Municipality has responded to the query of council member Architect Sherifa Al-Shalfan regarding public sanitation.

Director General of the Municipality Saud Al-Dubous approved the response submitted to the Municipal Council; stating that cleanliness inspectors at the Public Sanitation Monitoring Unit in the Hawally Governorate Municipality branch conducts daily inspections and monitors the work of cleaning companies that signed contracts with the Municipality, especially the daily removal of waste in their respective areas. Once proven negligent, the erring company will be penalized as per the contract, the Municipality stressed.

In addition, commercial company containers



KUNA photo
Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain with Tunisian Ambassador Mohamed Al-Boudali.

Al-Muzain calls on Tunisian envoy

Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Al-Muzain, the Chief of General Staff of the Army, met with Mohamed Al-Boudali, the Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait, reports Al-Jarida daily.

During the meeting, both sides engaged in friendly discussions and addressed various topics of mutual interest, particularly focusing on military matters.

The meeting was also attended by Major General Pilot Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, along with other senior army officers.

in front of hotels, cooperatives, residential and commercial complexes, institutions, shops and others are inspected daily to guarantee the regular removal of waste. In case the company owner does not cooperate, a violation report is issued and the container is removed from the area as per Public Sanitation Regulation No. 190/2008.

The Municipality also confirmed that Al-Shalfan's question was included in the

minutes of the Public Sanitation Committee meeting held on Aug 27, 2024. After investigation and discussion, the committee stressed the need to obligate cleaning companies and the responsible authorities in complexes, centers and commercial companies to transport their waste to the places designated by the Municipality, without imposing additional financial burdens on the State if this service is included in the cleaning contracts.

Kuwaiti air bridge delivers crucial aid to Sudan amid war and floods

KHARTOUM, Sept 12. (KUNA): The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) successfully delivered tons of medical, food, and shelter supplies to Sudan via an air bridge, along with five ambulances, through 12 flights. This response addresses the growing humanitarian crisis caused by war and floods.

These efforts have been met with gratitude from both the Sudanese government and the people, who praised Kuwait's leading role in humanitarian work. The Transitional Sovereignty Council of Sudan expressed its deep appreciation to the Kuwaiti government and people for their assistance.

General Ibrahim Jaber, a member of the Sovereignty Council, highlighted that Kuwait's aid has significantly eased the hardships faced by citizens affected by the ongoing conflict and floods in several states. He noted that Kuwait was among the first countries to establish an air bridge shortly after the war began and continues to provide aid and support.

In a statement to KUNA, the Secretary General of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), Aida Al-Sayed Abdullah, praised



KUNA photo
Part of the distribution of aid by Red Crescent volunteers.

the Kuwaiti air bridge, describing it as the first to meet the needs of those affected. She emphasized that the aid arrived at a critical time, particularly after the depletion of the SRCS's humanitarian supplies due to the crisis.

The aid was distributed across ten states, including Arb'at village in the Sudanese Red Sea State, where over 100 families received tents after their homes were destroyed.

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8th Donor Conference celebrates decade of Kuwait's global charity role

Forum commemorates Ghada Al-Musallam's humanitarian legacy

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

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The activities of the Kuwait Forum, the Center for Humanitarian Action, and the 8th Donor Conference and Award for 2024 "The Late Ghada Al-Musallam (Umm Mubarak) Edition" were inaugurated at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Farwaniya.

The event, which was dedicated to the humanitarian activist late Ghada Al-Musallam, was held under the patronage of the President of the International Islamic Charitable Organization and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Dr. Abdullah Al-Mutawa, and in the presence of the Special International Envoy for Humanitarian Diplomacy Dr. Nabil Al-Aoun.

In his opening speech, Dr. Al-Mutawa highlighted that the event marks the tenth anniversary of Kuwait being designated as a global humanitarian center by the United Nations.

He also commemorated His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's recognition as a leader in humanitarian action on September 9, 2014, and honored the late Umm Mubarak for her significant contributions to humanitarian work.

Dr. Al-Mutawa indicated that Kuwait takes pride in its sustainable humanitarian directives, wise leadership, and pioneering role in charitable work. He lauded Kuwait's charitable institutions for their distinguished efforts in advancing the United Nations' development goals and supporting government initiatives aimed at aiding afflicted, impoverished, and marginalized communities.

Dr. Al-Mutawa explained that humanitarian values have long been an immortal legacy of Kuwaiti society. The unwavering support of the Kuwaiti people for those in Gaza, Yemen, Syria, Sudan, and other regions exemplifies a remarkable commitment to charitable work and extending a helping hand without discrimination. It is no surprise that the United Nations has recognized Kuwait as a center for humanitarian action.

The remarkable success seen today in humanitarian work and development efforts is due to the adoption of principles such as good governance, transparency, and work efficiency.

The charitable organization operates with a clear and disciplined strategy to ensure that donors' con-

tributions and aid reach those in need. This approach is rooted in the belief that effective governance in charitable work fosters donor trust, ensures sustainability, and achieves meaningful social impact.

Dr. Al-Mutawa highlighted that it is a matter of honor to witness the signing of the book dedicated to the late Ghada Al-Musallam, who left a lasting legacy of charity, generosity, and support for humanitarian initiatives, adding, "We ask Almighty Allah to have mercy on her soul and admit her into His spacious paradise".

Meanwhile, Dr. Nabil Al-Aoun, in his speech, expressed pride in participating in the forum to honor Kuwait, its leadership, people, and institutions for their significant contributions to humanitarian efforts.

He stressed that Kuwait's dedication to local, regional, and international charitable work has garnered global recognition and appreciation.

Dr. Al-Aoun praised the Regional Network for Social Responsibility for celebrating "Umm Mubarak," whose generosity and enduring legacy make her a proud symbol of Kuwait's glorious humanitarian history.

He announced that the Peace Association for Humanitarian and Charitable Works will name a new development, educational, and rehabilitation village for orphans and widows in Hadhramaut, Yemen, after Ghada Al-Musallam, adding that the village's facilities will be expanded to honor Umm Mubarak's memory and allow her loved ones to contribute to this meaningful project, ensuring it stands as a fitting tribute to her legacy.

Furthermore, Vice President of the Peace Association for Humanitarian Works Dhari Al-Baijan paid tribute to the humanitarian activist Ghada Al-Musallam, describing her as a dedicated educator and exemplary figure known as the "Mother of Orphans."

He highlighted her immense contributions, including her sacrifices and the challenges she faced through her travels, as well as her unwavering love, generosity, and courage in working with the Peace Association.

In addition, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Regional Network for Social Responsibility Professor Yousef Abdel Ghaffar announced the launch of the World Donors Council and the appointment of Dr. Nabil Al-Aoun as its Executive Office Chairman.

KFA officials

Continued from Page 1

The association also affirmed respect, appreciation and pride for all Kuwaiti football fans; stressing it is fully aware of the unacceptable events. The Board promised the Kuwaiti fans that it will take legal action against those who will be proven negligent and responsible for the chaos at the match.

The statement concluded: In confirmation of the absolute transparency adopted by the Board of Directors, the results of the investigations will be announced once the committee completes its task.

Last Tuesday, some fans lost consciousness because it was very hot inside the stadium and the ban on bringing water bottles to the stands.

Fans also rushed to enter the stadium before the match. The Interior Ministry officers exerted tremendous efforts to control the entry process to ensure nothing bad would happen, because some fans, who had tickets, could not enter the stadium as it was already full.

These mishaps prompted Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi to instruct the Public Authority for Sports to contact the association in order to determine the reasons behind the mishaps and poor organization of the match. He also emphasized the importance of taking legal measures as per the applicable regulations and systems.

Health ministry

Continued from Page 1

The ministry stated that it will pursue all necessary legal actions against the company, including filing a lawsuit and seeking compensation for damages resulting from the breach of contract, adding that it will also activate all penalty clauses stipulated in the contract.

The ministry reaffirmed its commitment to providing comprehensive health care services - primary, secondary, and specialized, including diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitative care - to citizens covered by Afia health insurance. It pledged to prioritize these citizens and all eligible groups while adhering to the laws currently in effect in the country.

In this context, a number of experts and retirees have called on Minister of Finance Noura Al-Fassam to address the concerns and challenges faced by their segment. The number of retirees has increased to approximately 151,448 citizens as of the middle of this year. They include 85,199 men and around 66,000 women. However, this number may double by the end of the year due to the increasing number of retirement requests, which have surged following the implementation of the third fingerprint requirement and the general trend to raise the retirement age.

They stressed the need to open additional branches of the Public Institution for Social Security to handle transactions efficiently and alleviate the severe congestion currently experienced.

They also called for the launch of evening shifts in all branches and the improvement of the Public Institution for Social Security's website, due to the constant disruptions.

They expressed frustration with the ongoing bureaucracy in the customer service halls in various branches of the Public Institution for Social Security.

The news about the suspension of Afia medical insurance for retirees came

as a shock. Questions were raised about why the state delayed the construction of private hospitals for retirees, especially since there are designated lands for this purpose.

In this regard, retiree and writer Nawaf Al-Mutairi highlighted the urgent need to solve the issue of overcrowding in the Public Institution for Social Security's branches.

He said visitors often have to wait for a long time to complete their transactions, which are sometimes delayed or disrupted due to system outages.

Al-Mutairi stressed the importance of extending operating hours to include evenings at all branches of the Public Institution for Social Security.

He indicated that many elderly retirees struggle with the institution's website and cannot complete transactions online, especially as the number of retirees exceeds 151,000, adding that this number is expected to double by the end of the year due to the implementation of the third fingerprint requirement and the general trend to raise the retirement age.

Al-Mutairi expressed his dissatisfaction with the sudden suspension of Afia medical insurance, stressing that it has exacerbated the difficulties faced by retirees.

He criticized the Public Institution for Social Security for not securing an alternative provider before terminating the contract with the previous company, and he wondered where retirees who are accustomed to Afia's services are supposed to turn for medical care.

Al-Mutairi insisted that expediting the construction of private hospitals for retirees is essential, such that there should be a hospital in each governorate.

He also questioned why the medical city, for which land was allocated by the municipality three years ago, has not yet been completed.

In a related context, a Professor in the Accounting Department of Kuwait University Dr. Sadiq Al-Bassam affirmed the need to solve the problems faced by retirees due to their increasing numbers.

He highlighted the urgency of resolving the congestion problem at the main center of the Public Institution for Social Security and its affiliated branches.

Dr. Al-Bassam proposed increasing the number of branches, starting evening shifts at all branches, and expanding the workforce, as well as addressing issues related to online transaction disruptions.

While Dr. Al-Bassam supported the suspension of Afia, he said the Ministry of Health must fulfill its commitment to providing treatment to retirees, as it had strongly pledged after Afia's suspension.

He suggested that the Ministry of Health establish private sector hospitals dedicated solely to retiree care, with oversight from the ministry.

Dr. Al-Bassam stressed that delegating this responsibility to the private sector would alleviate some of the burdens on the state.

He emphasized the importance of treating elderly retirees with compassion and ensuring that their needs are fully met.

Meanwhile, retiree Bu Abdulrahman said the growing challenges faced by retirees need to be addressed, especially since many are elderly and in poor health.

He pointed out the fact that the website for handling transactions frequently malfunctions due to high demand.

Bu Abdulrahman explained that it is particularly challenging for elderly retirees to wait for three hours or more to complete their transactions. Also, recent retirees often face the additional burden of having to visit the ministry where they previously worked and the Public Insti-

16 contracts approved to transform Kuwait's sewage and water systems

MPW leads infrastructure overhaul

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: Government reports have confirmed the approval of 16 contracts over the last 10 years, majority of which are with the Ministry of Public Works.

It is expected that these contracts will greatly contribute to the development of the sewage system -- one of the prerequisites for realizing the State's vision to become a financial and commercial center through the implementation of a cohesive infrastructure program and establishment of environmentally friendly residential areas.

The reports revealed that the projects will be announced through the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), as per the timetable for each contract.

According to the reports, one of the most important projects is the study and preliminary design for the deep tunnel system to protect the environment and prevent sewage flows into Kuwait Bay. They explained this will be done through an integrated system for connecting emergency lines to all stations and rain outlets on tunnels; as well as to eliminate environmental problems resulting from the flow of sewage water into the sea, reduce environmental pollution and its impact on marine life, and reduce flooding.

This is in addition to a study on closing current sewage connections with rainwater drainage networks, and to divert water during emergency situations from pumping and purification stations to a treatment



KUNA photo

The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research participates in the 9th Belt and Road Initiative Summit in Hong Kong.

KISR joins in 'Belt and Road Initiative' summit in Hong Kong

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research has taken part in the 9th summit of the 'Belt and Road Initiative' organized by the Hong Kong Government, for pondering plans to attain sustainable development at the global level.

KISR said in a statement today that some 6,000 prominent figures have taken part in the summit that kicked off on Wednesday. It will conclude tomorrow

Friday. The "initiative" aims at encouraging states to cooperate and create more opportunities for common trade and development, in addition to expanding cultural cooperation world wide. Dr. Sheikha Al-Sanad, KISR's senior scientist, addressed conferees with a lecture about means of enhancing flexibility and endurance of infrastructures. (KUNA)

plant that will be established for this purpose. If the contract is awarded, the implementation period will be 36 months and it is expected to be tendered in March 2025.

The reports also mentioned two

projects for the development, establishment, operation and maintenance of treated water systems in the northern and southern areas in order to increase agricultural crops, strengthen the food security

system, and support the strategic stock of treated water. The tender for these two projects will most likely be announced in December with an implementation period of 60 months.

ic channels, distributed as follows:

- 9,803 transactions via electronic portals
- 46,609 transactions via the Dhaker Insurance application
- 11,134 transactions via the Sahel application
- The branches also issued 215,836 certificates to the visitors in person, including 173,146 certificates to individuals and 42,690 for business owners.
- Electronic channels facilitated the issuance of 530,737 certificates, detailed as follows:
 - 55,703 certificates through electronic portals
 - 88,746 certificates through the Dhaker Insurance application
 - 373,347 certificates through the Sahel application
 - 12,941 certificates through self-service kiosks

mittee meeting in Kuwait, which would be held soon.

On his part, Egyptian Foreign Minister Abdulaty affirmed that the leadership of both countries shared a unified vision concerning matters of cooperation as well as issue pertaining to developments in the region and the world.

Meanwhile, the official affirmed that Egypt respected Kuwait's sovereignty on its land and sea borders especially when it came to UNSC resolution 833/1993 concerning demarcation of Iraq-Kuwait boundary, adding that his country also supported the Kuwaiti-Saudi exclusive right over the Durra field in the Gulf waters.

'Need to

Continued from Page 1

upcoming meetings for GCC Justice Ministers.

The 26th meeting of the GCC Justice Undersecretaries had discussed a variety of issues including a proposal by Oman to enhance legal and judiciary cooperation as well as reports from the heads of judicial training committee amongst other matters. (KUNA)

Hot weather

Continued from Page 1

The sea is expected to remain calm to moderately wavy, with wave heights ranging from two to four feet.

On Friday, the weather will be hot, with northwesterly winds that may become moderate to strong, reaching speeds of 25-60 km/h and potentially causing dust in some areas. The maximum temperature is expected to be between 43 and 45 degrees Celsius, and the sea will have moderate to high waves, reaching heights of three to seven feet.

Friday evening will continue to be hot, with light to moderate northwesterly winds blowing at 15-35 km/h and a chance of suspended dust in some locations. The minimum temperature is predicted to be between 29 and 31 degrees Celsius, with the sea experiencing light to moderate waves ranging from two to four feet.

The weather on Saturday will continue to be hot, with light to moderate northwesterly winds that may occasionally become active, reaching speeds of 15-40 km/h, and some dust in exposed areas. The maximum temperature is expected to range between 43 and 45 degrees Celsius, with the sea remaining light to moderately wavy, with waves occasionally reaching two to six feet.

On Saturday evening, the weather will remain hot, with winds shifting from northwesterly to variable and blowing at speeds of 8-30 km/h. The minimum temperature will be between 27 and 29 degrees Celsius, and the sea will have light waves ranging from one to two feet.

The series of scheduled power outages in residential areas due to high temperatures and the need for emergency maintenance on some units has continued for the third consecutive day. This has led to an increase in electricity consumption, with loads reaching 17,050 megawatts as of 2:30 pm on Thursday.

Informed sources from the ministry urged both citizens and residents to conserve electricity during peak hours from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm in order to avoid overloading the electrical network, adding that high consumption during these hours can strain the transmission and distribution stations, and potentially

cause damage or malfunction. Reducing energy consumption during the ongoing heat wave will help minimize outages and manage the load more effectively until temperatures decrease.

The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy announced yesterday that it may need to implement power cuts in various residential areas due to emergency maintenance on some electricity generation units. The affected areas include:

- Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential Area: Parts of Sector C
- West Abdullah Mubarak: Parts of Block 6
- Rumaithiya: Parts of Blocks 3, 4, and 5
- Salwa: Parts of Blocks 1 and 2
- Bida'a
- Farwaniya: Blocks 3, 4, 5, and 6
- Dhaher: Blocks 1, 2, 5, and 6

These measures are being taken to ensure the stability and reliability of the electrical system across the country.

EU motivated

Continued from Page 1

He mentioned that it is fundamental to discuss the security and stability in the Middle East, which is important for the region and for the world.

Furthermore, he explained that through dialogue it would help the EU to make the right choices on the international level, and that the EU is convinced of the need to promote and support international law.

"We feel that the political dialogue and cooperation is needed if we want to provide more stability, more security and more prosperity, and for that we need to work together. We will express together, I hope, our strong ambitions for the future," he noted.

He stressed that it is also important from a geopolitical point of view, to understand what the expectations towards the EU are. "We know this war in Gaza is tragic and is a humanitarian tragedy that is why we support ceasefire, we support release of war hostages, and we support the two-state solution, we are working with Kuwait and some other partners to provide more humanitarian assistance to the people in need," he added.

When asked about the purpose of his visit to Kuwait, the EU official said; "It is important for the EU to engage with Kuwait on the bilateral level, we have good relations, and we would like to strengthen those ties."

"This visit is very important for me to understand Kuwait's political point of view, trade and investment. We already have a good partnership, but we seek to building more concrete elements in the future and coordinate its plans, projects and infrastructure in line with EU's priorities," he stressed.

He noted that the meetings he held this morning with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah are "very significant to understand the expectations and priorities in terms of improving bilateral ties."

Kuwait, said Michel, "can count on the EU, we appreciate the ties we have built together for many decades, this year we celebrate 40 years of bilateral cooperation between the EU and Kuwait, we can surely look at the future with optimism we feel that we have good dialogue with mutual respect and we are absolutely convinced that we are able to work closely with each other in the future."

Egypt and

Continued from Page 1

The number of Kuwaiti companies working in Egypt had reached 1,650, said Al-Yahya, indicating that the volume of commercial exchange had reached USD three billion last year.

He affirmed that Kuwait was looking forward to the upcoming 14th high com-

World News Roundup

Europe

Sánchez meets González

US, UK pledge nearly \$1.5b to help Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept. 12. (AP) The United States and Britain pledged nearly \$1.5 billion in additional aid to Ukraine on Wednesday during a visit to Kyiv by their top diplomats as Ukrainian officials renewed their pleas to use Western-provided missiles against targets deeper inside Russia.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced more than \$700 million in humanitarian aid, while British Foreign Secretary David Lammy confirmed that his country would provide another \$782 million in assistance and loan guarantees. Much of the effort was aimed at bolstering the energy grid that Russia has repeatedly pounded ahead of an expected difficult winter.

Blinken and Lammy traveled together to the Ukrainian capital on a rare joint tour to underscore their commitment to the country in its war. Air-raid sirens sounded repeatedly during the visit, causing delays in their schedule and forcing them to cancel a wreath-laying ceremony.

Blinken said he would bring the discussion with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the missiles "back to Washington to brief the president." Blinken said U.S. President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer will "no doubt" talk about the issue when they meet Friday in Washington.



Zelenskyy

Blinken and Lammy traveled together to the Ukrainian capital on a rare joint tour to underscore their commitment to the country in its war. Air-raid sirens sounded repeatedly during the visit, causing delays in their schedule and forcing them to cancel a wreath-laying ceremony.

Changed

"Speaking for the United States, we have adjusted and adapted as needs have changed, as the battlefield has changed. And I have no doubt that we'll continue to do that as this evolves," Blinken told a news conference.

The diplomatic visit unfolded as Russia's bigger and better-equipped army bears down on Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region and conducts aerial attacks on cities across the country using missiles, glide bombs and drones that claim many civilian casualties.

Blinken is wrapping up a three-nation, Ukraine-focused European tour in Poland after hearing repeated appeals from Ukrainian officials to use Western-supplied weaponry for long-range strikes inside Russia.

Blinken traveled to Warsaw on Thursday after spending a day in Kyiv with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy during which they pledged to bring the Ukrainian requests to their leaders.

NATO member Poland, which shares a border with Ukraine, has been supportive of the Ukrainians and Blinken is likely to hear further requests for easing weapons-use restrictions from Polish President Andrzej Duda, Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski.



Ukraine city loses water supply: The key eastern Ukraine city of Pokrovsk is without a drinking water supply or natural gas for cooking and heating, authorities said Thursday, as the Russian army's attritional slog across the Donetsk region lays waste to public infrastructure and forces civilians to flee their homes.

A water filtration station in Pokrovsk was damaged in recent fighting, and more than 300 hastily drilled water wells are the city's last source of drinking water, Donetsk regional Gov. Vadym Filashkin said.

The previous day, Russians destroyed a natural gas distribution station near Pokrovsk, Filashkin said. Some 18,000 people remain in the city, including 522 children, he said. More than 20,000 people have left in the past six weeks as Russian forces creep closer to residential areas, Filashkin said. "Evacuation is the only ... choice for civilians," he added.

Pokrovsk is one of Ukraine's main defensive strongholds and a key logistics hub in the Donetsk region, which lies on part of the 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line. Its capture would compromise Ukraine's defensive abilities and supply routes and would bring Russia closer to its stated goal of capturing the entire Donetsk region, which it partially occupies.

Russian troops backed by artillery and powerful glide bombs have turned Donetsk cities and towns such as Bakhmut and Avdiivka into bombed-out shells, though the push has cost Russia heavily in troops and armor.



Spain PM meets Venezuela opp'n leader: Venezuela's opposition presidential candidate Edmundo González met with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on Thursday, four days after fleeing to the European country in a negotiated deal with Nicolás Maduro's government.

González's flight to exile - after weeks of seeking refuge in the embassies of the Netherlands and Spain in Caracas - had dealt a major blow to millions who placed their hopes in his opposition campaign.

His supporters in Venezuela and beyond, along with the United States government, consider him the legitimate winner of the July 28 presidential election.

Sánchez, who was on a trip to China when González arrived, posted a video of their meeting Thursday on the social media platform X. The two are seen strolling together in the Moncloa Palace gardens in Madrid.

Spain has welcomed González as a sign of its "humanitarian commitment and solidarity with Venezuelans," Sánchez said in his post.

On Wednesday, the Spanish Parliament approved a proposal from the conservative Popular Party urging Sánchez's left-wing coalition government to recognize the opposition leader as the elected president of Venezuela. The motion is non-binding. Spain's government supports the European Union position of demanding that Maduro make public the raw polling results before the bloc recognizes a winner.



Albania ex-PM charged: Former Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha on Wednesday said he was formally charged with corruption in connection with a property deal, describing the move as politically motivated.

In October, prosecutors publicly put him under investigation for allegedly abusing his post to help his son-in-law, Jamarber Malletzi, privatize public land to build 17 apartment buildings in the capital, Tirana.

Berisha, 79, who leads the opposition Democratic Party, has been under house arrest since December after he violated a previous requirement to check in with the authorities every two weeks. He was also barred from traveling abroad.

Berisha went on Wednesday to the special prosecutors' office, known as the Special Structure Against and Organized Crime, where he was told the charges against him for about half an hour. He said he was called as a defendant and was handed a file of evidence, some 500 pages long, that he called "lies."



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, (second left), meets with Ukraine's Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, second right, at the Cabinet of Ministers in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Sept. 11. (AP)



The wildfire, dubbed the Bridge Fire, rages in Mt. Baldy community area in Los Angeles County, California, the United States on Sept. 11. Firefighters battling three major wildfires in the mountains east of Los Angeles took advantage of cooler weather on Wednesday as they slowly gained the upper hand, but not before dozens of homes were destroyed and thousands of people were forced to evacuate. (Xinhua)



Reeves



Feyen

America

Hurricane Francine weakens: Hurricane Francine weakened Thursday after striking Louisiana as a Category 2 hurricane that knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses, sent storm surge rushing into coastal communities and raised flood fears in New Orleans and beyond as drenching rains spread over the northern Gulf Coast.

The tropical storm was forecast to be downgraded to a tropical depression as it churned northward over Mississippi, the National Hurricane Center said. Some 4 to 6 inches (10 to 15 centimeters) of rain were possible in portions of Mississippi and neighboring states, forecasters said, warning of the potential threat of scattered flash flooding as farflung as Jackson, Mississippi; Birmingham, Alabama; Memphis, Tennessee; and Atlanta.

There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries. TV news broadcasts from coastal communities showed waves from nearby lakes, rivers and Gulf waters thrashing sea walls. US President Joe Biden granted an emergency declaration to help Louisiana secure expedited federal money and assistance. Landry and Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves also declared states of emergency. (AP)



Man gets life for murder: A judge sentenced a man convicted of killing a Chicago police officer, wounding her partner and firing at a third officer to life in prison Wednesday.

A jury found Emonte Morgan, 24, of Chicago, guilty in March of first-degree murder, attempted murder of a peace officer and possession/use of a firearm as a felon. Prosecutors say he fatally shot 29-year-old Officer Ella French, wounded her partner, Officer Carlos Yanez Jr., and shot at Officer Joshua Blas during a traffic stop in August 2021.

Cook County Circuit Judge Ursula Walowski sentenced him to a mandatory life sentence and added 57 years after listening to French and Yanez family members describe their grief, the Chicago Tribune reported. "The memories, they sneak up on me sometimes and I am filled with grief and sadness," French's mother, Elizabeth French, told the judge. "I don't know that closure will ever be possible for me. ... Someday my daughter and I will meet again.

Politics

Walker's campaign baffles Wisconsin voters

Harris, Trump jockey for battleground states

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. (AP) US Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump are making a beeline for swing states that they hope to flip in their favor this year, both of them trying to expand their narrow paths to victory in a closely fought presidential campaign.

Harris has her sights set on North Carolina, where she's scheduled to hold rallies in Charlotte and Greensboro on Thursday, her first political event after she buoyed supporters with her commanding performance in Tuesday's debate.

Trump is heading west to Tucson, Arizona, as he looks to stabilize his campaign, which continues to struggle to recalibrate nearly two months after Harris replaced President Joe Biden at the top of the Democratic ticket. Although Harris' team said she's willing to do another debate, the Republican candidate has waffled.

"Are we going to do a rematch?" Trump said Wednesday. "I just don't know."

The candidates are barnstorming one day after they marked the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, a somber occasion that provided little respite from partisan politics in a high-speed campaign season.

At a fire station in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, close to where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed after passengers fought back against their hijackers, Trump posed for photos with children who wore campaign shirts. One of the shirts proclaimed former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Biden and Harris were "dumb and dumber and dumbest."

Biden and Harris visited the same fire station earlier in the day. Someone there offered Biden a red-white-and-blue baseball hat that said "Trump 2024," and suggested the president put it on to demonstrate his commitment to bipartisan unity. Biden briefly put it on and flashed a wide grin.

Only a handful of battleground states will decide the outcome of the election.

Democrats haven't won North Carolina's electoral votes since 2008, when President Barack Obama was elected for the first time. However, Trump's

Johnson postpones vote on bill to avoid partial govt shutdown

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. (AP) US Speaker Mike Johnson postponed a vote Wednesday on a temporary spending bill that would keep federal agencies and programs funded for six months as opposition from both parties thwarted his first attempt at avoiding a partial government shutdown in three weeks.

The legislation to continue government funding when the new budget year begins on Oct. 1 includes a requirement that people registering to vote must provide proof of citizenship. Johnson, R-La., signaled that he was not backing off linking the two main components of the bill.

"No vote today because we're in the consensus building business here in Congress. With small majorities, that's what you do," Johnson told reporters. "We're having thoughtful conversations, family conversations within the Republican conference and I believe we'll get there."

Congress needs to pass a stopgap spending bill before Oct. 1 to avoid a federal shutdown just weeks before the election. The measure had been

teed up for a vote on Wednesday afternoon, but Democrats are overwhelmingly opposed and enough Republicans had voiced opposition to raise serious doubts about whether the measure would pass.

The stopgap bill would generally continue existing funding through March 28. The GOP opponents of the bill argue that it continues spending at levels they consider excessive. And some Republicans simply won't vote for any continuing resolution, arguing that Congress must return to passing its 12 annual spending bills separately rather than through the one or two catchall bills that have become the norm in recent decades.

Despite the dim prospects for the bill, Johnson had said just the day before he would push ahead with the vote. He has embraced concerns that some of the migrants who have entered the country at the U.S.-Mexico border in recent years could swing the elections, though it's illegal for noncitizens to vote and research has shown that such voting is extremely rare.

2020 margin of victory of 1.3 percentage points was his narrowest win of any state that year, and Democrats hope that North Carolina's growing and diversifying population will give them an edge this time.

Also:

PLATTEVILLE, Wis: Scott Walker loves unions, thinks women should have the right to an abortion and wants to expand health care coverage.

If you're confused, get in line.

This Scott Walker isn't the former Wisconsin governor whose battles with teachers and other public unions made him one of the most polarizing political figures in the battleground state's recent history. That was Scott Kevin Walker. This is Scott Abbot Walker, a Democratic country doctor running for the state Legislature.

"Sometimes you get people who are openly hostile," Walker said of voter

reactions when he introduces himself. "Sometimes they're closing the door as I say my name because they're unhappy."

Walker is running against 14-year Republican incumbent Travis Tranel in the 49th Assembly District, which covers a swath of rolling farm country across Grant and Crawford counties in Wisconsin's far southwestern corner. The district's largest municipality is Platteville, a city of about 11,000 people whose biggest claim to fame is a small state university.

Walker goes into November as a distinct underdog in the decidedly red district. Former President Donald Trump won it in both 2016 and 2020 and Tranel has held the Assembly seat since 2011.

Grant County Democratic Party Chair Joyce Bos and Walker the candidate discussed how to approach the name thing when he got into the race.

Until then I will miss Ella every day." (AP)



2 hospitalized after explosion: Two people are hospitalized and several others

suffered minor injuries after a small explosion caused a fire at a Kansas State Fair concession trailer, police and fair officials said.

The explosion happened Tuesday evening at a small trailer selling various types of



US Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., walks to a meeting at the Capitol in Washington on Sept. 11. Johnson postponed a vote Wednesday on a temporary spending bill that would keep federal agencies and programs funded for six months as opposition from both parties thwarted his first attempt at avoiding a partial government shutdown in three weeks. (AP)

food at the fair in Hutchinson. Two people were taken to Hutchinson Regional Medical Center, a news release from the state fair said. Details of their injuries were not immediately released. Several other people suffered minor injuries but declined treatment, fair officials said.

The cause of the explosion was under investigation by the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office and the Hutchinson Fire Department.

The 10-day state fair draws about 350,000 people each year. It concludes Sunday. (AP)



Colorado man charged with arson: A Colorado man was charged with arson after an investigation into a wildfire this summer that destroyed 29 homes and caused more than \$30 million in property damage, authorities said Wednesday.

Jason Alexander Hobby, 49, was arrested Tuesday. Larimer County Sheriff John Feyen said. He appeared in court Wednesday on a first-degree arson charge in connection with the fire, which started on a guest ranch where he worked west of Loveland, about 60 miles (97 kilometers) north of Denver.

His bail was set at \$450,000. The fire escaped a fire ring on the guest ranch on July 29, Feyen said. It's unclear whether it was intentional or accidental, he said. The wildfire, which also damaged four other homes and destroyed 21 outbuildings, burned 15 square miles (39 square kilometers) of land before it was contained on Aug. 17. (AP)

Lat/Am

Repeal amnesty: Boric

Fujimori, ex-prez of Peru, dies at age 86

LIMA, Peru, Sept 12, (Agencies): **Alberto Fujimori**, whose decade-long presidency began with triumphs righting Peru's economy and defeating a brutal insurgency only to end in autocratic excess that later sent him to prison, has died. He was 86.

His death Wednesday in the capital, Lima, was announced by his daughter Keiko Fujimori in a post on X.



Fujimori

Fujimori, who governed with an increasingly authoritarian hand in 1990-2000, was pardoned in December from his convictions for corruption and responsibility for the murder of 25 people. His daughter said in July that he was planning to run for Peru's presidency for the fourth time in 2026.

The former university president and mathematics professor was the consummate political outsider when he emerged from obscurity to win Peru's 1990 election over writer Mario Vargas Llosa. Over a tumultuous political career, he repeatedly made risky, go-for-broke decisions that alternately earned him adoration and reproach.

He took over a country ravaged by runaway inflation and guerrilla violence, mending the economy with bold actions including mass privatizations of state industries. Defeating fanatical Shining Path rebels took a little longer but also won him broad-based support.

His presidency, however, collapsed just as dramatically.

Controversial

After briefly shutting down Congress and elbowing himself into a controversial third term, he fled the country in disgrace in 2000 when leaked videotapes showed his spy chief, Vladimiro Montesinos, bribing lawmakers. The president went to Japan, the land of his parents, and famously faxed in his resignation.

He stunned supporters and foes alike five years later when he landed in neighboring Chile, where he was arrested and then extradited to Peru. He had hoped to run for Peru's presidency in 2006, but instead wound up in court facing charges of abuse of power.

The high-stakes political gambler would lose miserably. He became the first former president in the world to be tried and convicted in his own country for human rights violations. He was not found to have personally ordered the 25 death-squad killings for which he was convicted, but he was deemed responsible because the crimes were committed in his government's name.

His 25-year sentence did not stop Fujimori from seeking political revindication, which he planned from a prison built in a police academy on the outskirts of Lima, the capital.

He is survived by his four children.

Boric to seek repeal of law: Chile's left-wing president Gabriel Boric has promised to push for the repeal of an iron-clad amnesty that has for decades ruled out most investigation of crimes against humanity committed by Gen. Augusto Pinochet's military dictatorship.

President Boric's vow - during a speech commemorating the 51st anniversary of Gen. Pinochet's bloody U.S.-backed putsch that ended Chilean democracy and ushered in a 17-year reign of terror - escalates efforts to achieve a legal reckoning for Pinochet's repression and bring those accused of human rights abuses to trial in local courts, as has happened in neighboring Argentina and elsewhere in the region.

"We renew our commitment to democracy and human rights, always, in our country and everywhere in the world," Boric said from La Moneda Presidential Palace in the capital of Santiago, the center of authoritarian power in Chile over three decades ago. "Today's date is a day that moves us, that invites us to remember and also to act."

Boric, a millennial former student protest leader, pledged to speed up the passage of a bill that would revoke the amnesty that has shielded most military officers from prosecution for the torture and killing of thousands of opponents and critics during the first five years of the dictatorship, 1973-1978, the period when some of its worst atrocities occurred.

But with Boric's unwieldy left-wing coalition lacking a majority in Congress, the future of the dictatorship's self-bestowed amnesty appears uncertain.

Legislators, fragmented between 22 parties, have sparred over failed attempts by both the hard-left and hard-right to rewrite the Pinochet-era constitution.

Bolivia road crash kills 6: At least six people died and seven others were injured when a cargo truck going the wrong way collided head-on with a public transit minibus in western Bolivia on Wednesday, according to local authorities.

The accident occurred along a highway connecting the departments of La Paz and Oruro, 35 km from the city of La Paz, the departmental chief of police in La Paz, Edgar Cortez, told local media.

"Unfortunately, this accident has left six people dead, including minors, and several injured who were taken to nearby medical centers," said Cortez.

The minibus, which was headed to the city of La Paz, was carrying 13 people when the head-on collision occurred. The front of the bus was smashed and the vehicle ran off the road.

According to initial investigation, the driver of the truck fled and authorities are trying to locate him.

The police chief said the accident once again puts the focus on road safety in Bolivia, where road infrastructure and reckless driving lead to a significant number of deaths each year.

1 prison worker killed in Peru: A prison worker was killed and another injured early Wednesday in an armed assault outside a prison in southern Peru's Ica region, according to the National Penitentiary Institute (Inpe).

"Our Institution expresses its condolences to the family of the deceased and will provide all necessary support to the workers affected by this incident," the agency said on X, formerly Twitter.

The victims of the assault outside the prison in the city of Chincha were identified as Fanny Flor Hernandez Correa, who died in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, and Manuel Ricardo Cervantes Cruz, who was injured and "is out of danger."

The assault took place around 7:30 a.m. local time (1230 GMT) when suspects riding a motorcycle ambushed the workers, as they were arriving by car at a security checkpoint several meters from the prison entrance, the state-run news agency Andina reported.

Hernandez Correa had previously received death threats inside the prison, said the report.



Cars drive along quiet roads at dawn in Seoul with Bukhan Mountain in the distance on May 17. Inset: A TV screen shows a file image of North Korea's missiles launch during a news program at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea on Sept 12. (AP)

Asia

Australia strips medals from military commanders

N.Korea launches multiple ballistic missiles

SEOUL, South Korea, Sept 12, (AP): North Korea fired multiple short-range ballistic missiles toward the sea on Thursday, its neighbors said, days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to put his nuclear force fully ready for battle with its rivals.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the missiles launched from North Korea's capital flying 360 kilometers (about 220 miles) before landing in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida instructed officials to ensure the safety of ships and aircraft, but there were no reports of damage.

The reported flight distances suggest the missiles were designed to attack targets in South Korea. In a trilateral phone talks, diplomats from South Korea, Japan and the US condemned the launches that they said threatens regional and international peace. The US Indo-Pacific Command separately reaffirmed that the U.S. security commitment to South Korea and Japan remains "ironclad."

The launches were North Korea's first public weapons firing activities in more than two months. On July 1, North Korea claimed to have tested a new tactical weapon capable of delivering a "super-large" 4.5 ton-class warhead.

In a Monday speech marking his government's 76th foundation anniversary, Kim said he would redouble efforts to make his nuclear force fully ready for combat with the United States and its allies. Kim made such a pledge saying North Korea faces "a grave threat" because of what he called "the reckless expansion" of a U.S.-led regional military bloc.

Kim has made similar vows numerous times, but his latest threat came as outside experts believe North Korea could carry out a nuclear test explosion or long-range missile test-launches ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November to boost its leverage in future dealings with the U.S.

Also:

MELBOURNE, Australia: Several serving and former Australian military commanders have been stripped of medals over allegations of war crimes committed during the Afghanistan war, Defense Minister **Richard Marles** said Thursday.

Holding commanders to account for alleged misconduct of Australian

special forces between 2005 and 2016 was recommended by Maj. Gen. **Paul Brereton** in his war crime investigation. Brereton found that around 25 Australian Special Air Service Regiment and Commando Regiment troops were involved in the unlawful killings of 39 Afghans.

"The allegations which are the subject of the Brereton Report are arguably the most serious allegations of Australian war crimes in our history," Marles told Parliament.

Marles wrote to commanders of those troops about medals they had received for their service during the periods war crimes allegedly occurred. He did not specify to Parliament how many he had written to or identify their ranks, citing privacy concerns.

The removal of medals was condemned by Australian Special Air Service Association chair **Martin Hamilton-Smith** as a betrayal of the courage and sacrifice of soldiers in Afghanistan.

"The government's decision overlooks the courageous leadership of these young officers on the battlefield based on unproven allegations that somewhere in a remote village unseen and unknown to these commanders, an unlawful act might have occurred on their watch," Hamilton-Smith said in

statement.

Kishida, who took office in 2021 and backed a rapid military buildup and doubling of defense spending, announced last month he is stepping down when his current three-year term as party leader and prime minister ends in September to allow a new leader to shake off damage from the corruption scandals.

The nine candidates include two women. None is expected to win a majority in the first round of voting because of the large number, and a runoff is likely.

Many of the candidates have stressed their ability to achieve reforms and tackle pressing issues such as Japan's declining birthrate, stagnating incomes, gender inequality and security threats.

HANOI, Vietnam: Vietnam death toll climbs to 199: Nearly 200 people have died in Vietnam in the aftermath of Typhoon Yagi and 128 are missing as flash floods and landslides take their toll, state media reported Thursday.

Vietnam's VNEExpress newspaper reported that 199 people have died while more than 800 have been injured.

In the capital, flood waters from the Red River receded slightly but many areas were still inundated with water neck-high in some places.

In Hanoi's **Tay Ho** district, people waded through muddy brown water above their knees to make their way along one street, some still wearing their bicycle and motorcycle helmets after abandoning their vehicles along the way.

A few paddled along the road in small boats as empty water bottles, a styrofoam cooler and other flotsam drifted by; one man pushed his motorbike toward drier ground in an aluminum sleep.

Bakery owner Mai Anh evacuated the area with her family to shelter with her parents, but returned Thursday to check on her shop and found more than two feet (half a meter) of water still inside.

"provisional average turnout" by 8 pm had spiked to 48%.

But the next day, it reported that only 5.6 million out of nearly 24 million voters had cast ballots - nowhere near 48%.

It said 94.7% voted to re-elect Tebboune. His two challengers - **Abdelali Hassani Cherif** of the Movement of Society for Peace and Youcef Aouchiche of the Socialist Forces Front - won a dismal 3.2% and 2.2% of the vote, respectively. (AP)

US pledges \$100m to S.Sudan: The US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced over USD 100 million in emergency food assistance to support food-insecure populations in South Sudan.

Through the US Department of Agriculture Commodity Credit Corporation allocation, this funding will help to purchase, ship, and distribute approximately 42,000 metric tons of food commodities from American farmers to approximately one million people experiencing acute food insecurity in South Sudan, the Agency said in a statement on Wednesday.

USAID, the lead federal coordinator for international disaster assistance, will help distribute these commodities to those in greatest need.

South Sudan under the government of **Salva Kiir** is experiencing compounding crises that have generated humanitarian needs across the country, according to the statement. (KUNA)



Judicial workers protest the government's judicial reform, which was approved in the Senate and would make judges stand for election, in Mexico City on Sept 11. Mexico's Senate voted on 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. (AP)



Cherif



Kiir

Africa

'Nigeria floods kill 30 people': Severe flooding in northeastern Nigeria has left 30 people dead and affected more than a million others, authorities said on Wednesday.

The collapse of a major dam in the state of Borno on Tuesday 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 state government said the dam was at capacity due to unusually high rains.

The current flooding comes nearly two years after Nigeria's worst flooding in a decade killed more than 600 people across the country.

About 15% of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, was under water, state police spokesperson Nahum Daso told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Ezekiel Manzo, spokesperson of National Emergency Management Agency, said Wednesday that the death toll is 30.

"One million people have been affected so far," said an aide for the governor of Borno, adding that as efforts to document displaced people begin, that number could rise to up to 2 million.

Residents of Maiduguri said that food has become expensive since the central market was destroyed during the flooding. There are also ongoing fears of wildlife after the flooding partially destroyed a local zoo and several of the animals escaped.

Mary Mamza, a Maiduguri resident, said people are afraid to leave their homes after an escaped crocodile was killed near her home earlier today.

These fears come as West Africa has experienced some of its worst flooding in decades. Over 2.3 million people have been affected by flooding so far this year which is a threefold increase from last year according to the UN. (AP)

Algeria poll results questioned: Algerians expected an uneventful election that would bestow President Abdelmadjid Tebboune a second term. Instead, they got the president himself calling into question the vote count and legal challenges from his opponents alleging fraud.

Such a surprising turn of events marks a departure for Algeria, where elections have historically been carefully choreographed by the ruling elite and military apparatus that backs it.

The country's constitutional court has until next week to rule on the appeals from Tebboune's two opponents. But it's any-

one's guess how questions about the election will be resolved, whether tallies will be re-tabulated and what it means for Tebboune's efforts to project an image of legitimacy and popular support.

Algeria's National Independent Elec-

tion Authority, or ANIE, published figures throughout election day showing a low turnout. By 5 pm on Saturday, the reported turnout in Algeria was 26.5% - far fewer than had voted by that time in the election five years ago. After unexplained delays, it said



Workers work at a construction site in Haikou, south China's Hainan Province on Sept 11. Hainan has witnessed its production gradually resumed after Super Typhoon Yagi, the 11th typhoon of the year, made landfall in Hainan on Friday and brought damage across the island. (Xinhua)

		Change	Closing pts
SAUDI	- TASI	+76.15	11,842.55
DUBAI	- DFMGI	+18.45	4,364.87
JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+1,213.50	36,833.27
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+79.79	7,024.67
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+12.20	30,497.83
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+375.01	79,043.13

Change Closing pts

Business

CEO highlights growth in energy sector

KUFPEC secures 2 major oil and gas blocks in Indonesia

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company, k.s.c.c. ("KUFPEC") is pleased to announce that its wholly-owned subsidiary KUFPEC Indonesia (Anambas) B.V. ("KUFPEC Indonesia") has achieved a milestone through securing two key blocks in Indonesia's 2024 Direct Offer Tender Bid Round 1.



Mohammad Salem Al-Haimer

KUFPEC, in partnership with PT Pertamina Hulu Energi and Sinopec, acquired the largest block in the tender, the Melati Block. Situated in the frontier region of Sulawesi, the Melati Block holds substantial estimated oil and gas reserves. This strategic success positions KUFPEC as a leader in hydrocarbon exploration in highly promising basins, with future exploration efforts expected to draw major industry attention.

In cooperation with PT Medco Energi Linggau and PT Sele Raya, KUFPEC has also acquired the Amanah Block in South Sumatra. This asset complements KUFPEC's existing portfolio in the region, reinforcing the company's presence in Indonesia's energy sector.

KUFPEC Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Salem Al-Haimer stated that "these acquisitions underscore

KUFPEC's commitment to expanding its exploration and production portfolio in Indonesia, in line with its strategic growth plans for Southeast Asia".

KUFPEC is an international upstream company engaged in exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas outside the State of Kuwait and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

US crude oil stocks rise by 833k barrels

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil lost 96 cents during Wednesday's trading to reach USD 72.15 per barrel (pb) compared with USD 73.11 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Thursday.

Benchmark Brent futures rose USD 1.42 to USD 70.61 pb and West Texas Intermediate gained USD 1.56 to USD 67.31 pb. US energy information department said yesterday crude oil stocks increased by 833,000 barrels to 419.1 million barrels last week.

The US environmental protection agency said 39 percent of crude oil production in the Gulf of Mexico stopped yesterday after companies operating there evacuated their employees due to the approaching Francine hurricane. It said 49 percent of natural gas production in the Gulf of Mexico stopped due to the hurricane.

AI-Terkait's 30-year expertise boosts KFH's strategic initiatives

KFH assigns Haitham Al-Terkait as Deputy Group CEO Transformation, Technology and Operations

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: In line with its commitment to enhancing the role of national expertise and competencies in leadership positions, Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has assigned Haitham Abdulaziz Al-Terkait as Deputy Group CEO Transformation, Technology and Operations. This assignment aligns with KFH's strategy to implement plans aimed at strengthening its position in the Islamic banking industry and keeping pace with the latest advancements, particularly in digital transformation and technological services.



Haitham Abdulaziz Al-Terkait

Al-Terkait's extensive experience in information technology, coupled with his professional qualifications, makes him a valuable asset to the Group. Since September 2023, he has held the position of Group Chief Technology, Digital Transformation, and PMO Officer.

With a professional career spanning nearly 30 years, Al-Terkait brings a wealth of experience in the banking sector, making him a significant addition to the Executive Management team thanks to his contributions to the growth and development of KFH's plans and expanding the scope of its future projects, leveraging the latest global technological advancements. This comes at a time when KFH Group places digital transformation and techno-

logical advancements at the forefront of its strategic priorities.

Al-Terkait oversees the implementation of plans, projects, and programs that support technological advancements and comprehensive digital transformation at KFH. These initiatives aim to

enhance the customer experience in a highly competitive and rapidly evolving banking landscape. KFH focuses on innovation and transitioning to fully integrated digital banking services, with an emphasis on data security, cybersecurity, advanced analytics, cloud computing, and process automation through artificial intelligence.

Al-Terkait obtained his BA in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Metropolitan State University in the US in 1989. He has also participated in several leadership training programs from institutions such as Harvard Business School.

He has held the position of Chief Information Officer at Kuwait Finance House since May 2021. In addition, he serves as an executive board member in Ahli United Bank - Bahrain, and a board member of International Turnkey Systems Group (ITS).

Throughout his professional career, he has held numerous prominent leadership positions including Infrastructure Services Department Manager at Kuwait Finance House from 2002 to 2012, board member of the Shared Electronic Banking Company (KNET) from 2014 to 2018, and Chief Technology Officer at Warba Bank from 2012 to 2021.

Kuwait construction financing declines 60 percent in July '24

Construction financing balance rises by 22% yoy

By Mahmoud Shinde
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: In a notable shift, local banks in Kuwait significantly reduced their financing for the construction sector in July 2024.

The total financing plummeted by 219.9 million dinars, marking a dramatic 60 percent decrease from the 368.6 million dinars allocated in June 2024. This decline follows a similar downward trend observed on an annual basis,

where July 2024's financing of 148.7 million dinars was 39 percent lower than the 187.6 million dinars provided in July 2023.

Despite this drop, there was a slight increase in the accumulated balance of construction financing. From June to July 2024, the balance grew by 1.3 percent, climbing from 2.910 billion dinars to 2.948 billion dinars. On a yearly basis, this balance saw a substantial rise of 22 percent, up from 2.415 billion dinars in July 2023 to 2.948 billion dinars.

Throughout 2023, the overall financing provided by local banks to the construction sector increased by 0.7 percent, rising from 1.740 billion dinars in 2022 to 1.754 billion dinars.

However, the sector experienced significant fluctuations in financing levels over the year. The figures varied from 112.8 million dinars in December 2022 to peaks of 222.6 million dinars in October 2023, with notable rises and falls throughout the months.

The Kuwaiti construction sector is grappling with several challenges. The past five years have seen a decline in the initiation and awarding of new projects, alongside delays in contractor payments.

Moreover, construction costs have surged due to labor shortages, which have driven wages to unprecedented levels. This issue is compounded by the exodus of experienced workers following the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving the sector struggling with both a shortage in quantity and quality of labor.

The real estate experts highlight that the labor shortage is not merely a matter of numbers but also involves a lack of skilled workers.

The rise in daily wages, driven by high demand and low supply, has further strained the sector, affecting the cost and progress of construction projects.

As the sector navigates these challenges, the fluctuations in financing and the ongoing issues with labor and project delays continue to impact the overall stability and growth of the construction industry in Kuwait.

Consumer loans

Data from the Central Bank of Kuwait has unveiled a notable increase in consumer loans and deposits during the first seven months of 2024.

The consumer loans granted saw a rise of 59 million dinars, or 3 percent, reaching a total of 2.03 billion dinars by the end of July, compared to 1.97 billion dinars at the end of December 2023.

Overall, Kuwaiti banks granted 1.82 billion dinars in loans during this period, marking a 3.4 percent increase. Consequently, the total credit extended in the country grew to 55.37 billion dinars by the end of July 2024, up from 53.55 billion dinars at the close of December 2023.

The rise in loan volumes aligns with broader credit growth across various economic sectors. Housing loans, which are long-term personal loans for purchasing, building, or renovating private residences, increased to 16.24 billion dinars by the end of July.

This represents a 230 million dinars rise, or 1.42 percent, from the 16.01 billion dinars recorded at the end of December 2023.

Personal facilities also grew, reaching 19.01 billion dinars by the end of July, up by 250 million dinars or 1.35 percent, from the 18.76 billion dinars at the end of last year.

Loans directed towards purchasing securities saw a 3.5 percent increase during the first seven months of 2024, rising to 3.62 billion dinars by July, compared to 3.5 billion dinars at the end of December 2023. This translates to an additional 120 million dinars.

In terms of deposits, the Central Bank reported an increase in bank deposits to 49.48 billion dinars by July 2024, up from 48.72 billion dinars at the end of 2023. This represents an increase of 755 million dinars, or 1.55 percent.

The data highlights a positive trend in both lending and savings, reflecting growth in Kuwait's financial sector amid broader economic activities.

Korean firms showcase cutting-edge water tech in Kuwait

2024 Korea-Kuwait Water Industry Business Partnership held in Kuwait

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes
Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: In what can be summed up as a momentous event Wednesday the 2024 Korea-Kuwait Water Industry Business Partnership unfolded in Kuwait.

This annual summit, organized jointly by the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and the Korea Water Partnership (KWP), offered a fertile ground for collaboration between Kuwaiti and Korean water technology firms.

Kuwait, a nation grappling with severe water scarcity, has emerged as a beacon of innovation in water management.

The country's strategic emphasis on infrastructure improvements, such as smart water management systems and advanced water reuse technologies, has made it an attractive partner for cutting-edge water solutions.

The Business Plaza, held at the Crowne Plaza hotel, was abuzz with excitement as nine leading Korean water technology companies showcased their state-of-the-art products and solutions.

The following companies brought unique expertise to the table, contributing to a broader dialogue on addressing global water challenges.

■ The Ofo Co., Ltd. introduced its advanced MRI Inclined Plate Settler and MRI Sludge Collector-Hoseless Cable-Vac (HCV), designed to enhance water treatment efficiency with minimal operational disruptions.

■ Leotech Co., Ltd. presented its Smart Metering System, which offers precise water usage tracking and management, critical for optimizing resource allocation in water-scarce regions.

■ Highfilm showcased its Cleanfil-S and Biopuri technologies, which are revolutionizing filtration and purification processes, ensuring high-quality water standards.

■ CJK Co., Ltd. impressed attendees with its comprehensive range of solutions, including Water Treatment Plant Systems, Water Vending Machines, and Carbonated Water dispensers, each addressing different facets of water

management.

■ SJM Co., Ltd. highlighted its Bellows and Expansion Joints, crucial for maintaining the integrity of water pipelines under varying conditions.

■ Amogreentech Co., Ltd. exhibited its Innovative Membrane System, tailored for both municipal and industrial water and wastewater treatment, promising increased efficiency and sustainability.

■ Weltech displayed its Carbon Steel Pipes, Fittings, and related services, including Coating and Rehabilitation, essential for durable and resilient water infrastructure.

■ Flowtech Co., Ltd. offered insights into its Water Hammer Protection System and Non-Slam Check Valve, along with Water Hammer Precision Safety Diagnosis, crucial for preventing damage in water distribution systems.

■ Neuros captivated the audience with its Air Foil Bearing Turbo Blower and Compressor technologies, designed for optimal performance in high-demand water treatment applications.

The event not only facilitated meaningful exchanges between Korean and Kuwaiti firms but also laid the groundwork for future collaborations.

Kuwaiti businesses expressed keen interest in integrating Korean technologies into their infrastructure projects, while Korean companies recognized the significant opportunities in the Kuwaiti market.

Throughout the day, bilateral discussions and networking sessions underscored the mutual benefits of such partnerships.

The synergy between Kuwait's pressing water needs and Korea's technological prowess promises a fruitful path forward for both nations.

As the Business Plaza drew to a close, the excitement was palpable. The 2024 Korea-Kuwait Water Industry Business Partnership had not only highlighted the potential for innovation but also solidified the strong ties between Kuwait and Korea in the pursuit of advanced water solutions.

The collaboration between these two nations is set to chart new waters in the realm of global water management, with Kuwait emerging as a pivotal hub for technological advancement in the sector.



Photos during the event.

Jiad Holding shares resume 'trading' on Bursa Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The Bursa Kuwait has announced the resumption of trading for Jiad Holding Company shares, following the company's issuance of a corrective announcement, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Jiad Holding Company disclosed that it will adhere to judicial rulings against entities involved in its 2017 subscription.

The company is set to enforce these rulings to recover financial amounts totaling 16.96 million Kuwaiti dinars from the violating parties. Jiad stated

that the financial impact of these actions is currently indeterminate but will be recognized and disclosed as soon as any recovery is realized.

However, Jiad Holding has reported that it will recognize revenues of 16.96 million dinars and earnings per share of 89.5 fils in line with the judicial decisions.

These rulings have come from first-degree, appeal, and cassation courts. The announcement follows a period during which trading of Jiad shares was suspended on the Kuwait Stock Exchange.

Bahrain's Sheikh Nasser highlights importance of foreign investment

MANAMA, Sept 12, (KUNA): The representative of Bahrain's King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad affirmed the importance on Wednesday of attracting direct foreign investment.

He continued by saying that additionally making strategic partnerships with top global partners in various fields contributes to raising

the national economy and widely improves development.

In a statement by Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad, Chairman of Bapco Energies, integrated energy group in Bahrain, announced that BlackRock, world's largest asset manager, will acquire a minority stake in the Saudi Bahrain Pipeline Company in Bapco's first asset liquidation.

workers at UK's steel plant get better severance deal

Britain's government unveiled on Wednesday details of a new support package for workers who face losing their jobs at the country's biggest steel plant ahead of its transition to a greener way of production. Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said workers at the Port Talbot Steelworks in south Wales, owned by India's Tata Steel, will be offered improved severance terms and a reskilling package if they choose. He also said that the new Labour government, elected in July, will honor a pledge by the previous Conservative government to give Tata 500 million pounds (\$650 million) to help ease the transition to

the new electric furnace. Earlier this year, Tata Steel said its plan to close its remaining two blast furnaces at Port Talbot ahead of the switch to a new 1.25 billion-pound electric furnace, which will emit less carbon and require fewer workers, will lead to the loss of around 2,800 jobs. One of the furnaces has already closed, while the other is due to cease production later this month. Tata has said the electric furnace, which produces steel from scrap metal, will be ready by 2027. The changes will reduce the U.K.'s industrial carbon emissions by 8%, and Port Talbot's by 90%.

Reynolds admitted that the new deal was "not ideal" as he sought to blame the previous government for failing to negotiate a better outcome with Tata much earlier in the transition process. He also confirmed that the government will invest a further 2.5 billion pounds (nearly \$3.256 billion) in the industry in the years ahead, some of which may be used to subsidize energy costs. "Steel is essential to delivering on our net zero goals and building the next generation of green infrastructure," he said. "I believe that this is both a better deal than was on the table for Port Talbot and the maximum improvement that we could make in two

months." Reynolds added that the government will publish a steel strategy next spring and has secured a commitment from Tata to evaluate future investment. "With the U.K. government's critical support, this complex and ambitious transformation of Port Talbot has the potential to make the plant one of Europe's premier centers for green steelmaking," said T. V. Narendran, Tata Steel's chief executive. Unions representing the steelmakers have been pressing the newly elected government to bolster the support and help safeguard as many jobs as possible. (AP)

Geopolitical tensions and slow growth cited

US companies see record-low profits in China, report says

HONG KONG, Sept 12, (AP): American companies in China are seeing record-low profits, with business confidence at an all-time low amid U.S.-China tensions and a slowing Chinese economy, according to a report published Thursday by a U.S. business group.

Out of 306 companies polled, a record-low 66% were profitable in 2023, according to the China business report published by the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai.

The report also found that only 47% of respondents were optimistic about their business outlook in China over the next five years, the lowest in the survey's history of more than two decades.

Beijing and Washington have been at odds in recent years over issues like trade and manufacturing, as well as China's claims over the South China Sea.

China is also grappling with a slowing domestic economy, with lackluster consumer demand and deflationary pressures persisting even post-COVID.

The geopolitical tensions between both countries was the top challenge to businesses' operations in China, the report found.

"It's a balance between risk and reward," said Eric Zheng, president of AmCham Shanghai, during a news conference ahead of the report's publication.

"The perceived risks of doing business in China have gone up in the past few years, but at the same time the market is slowing down, with soft demand and overcapacity," he said.

Many businesses are now redirecting investments to other regions such as Vietnam, Malaysia and South Asia, Zheng said.

A record high of 25% of companies polled cut investment in China in 2023, AmCham's report found, largely driven by concerns over China's slowing growth.

While just over half of U.S. companies expect their revenue to increase over last year, only 37% are expecting growth in China to outpace global growth in the coming three to five years.

The AmCham report came a day after the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China published a report with similar sentiments on the increasing risks of doing business in China.

Investor snaps up UK's The Spectator

LONDON, Sept 12, (AP): A hedge fund investor has bought The Spectator, one of the world's oldest political magazines, for 100 million pounds (\$131 million) after a months-long search for a new owner for the publication, those involved in the sale said Tuesday.

Millionaire Paul Marshall is already the co-owner of U.K. channel GB News, which launched three years ago as a right-leaning, Fox News-style alternative to the mainstream news channels.

His takeover of The Spectator came after Britain's government blocked a United Arab Emirates-backed consortium from buying the Telegraph Media Group, which owns the Daily Telegraph and Sunday Telegraph newspapers and The Spectator. The publications are closely allied to Britain's Conservative Party.

The media group, previously owned by the Barclay family, was put up for sale to help pay off the family's debts. A deal was struck to sell the business to RedBird IMI, a consortium backed by U.S. financial firm RedBird Capital Partners and Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a member of Abu Dhabi's royal family and the UAE's vice president. The group is run by former CNN chief Jeff Zucker.

But the consortium pulled out in March following strong opposition from Britain's government, citing concerns about the impact on freedom of expression and accurate presentation of news. Government officials launched legislation to block foreign state ownership of British newspapers and magazines.

European Central Bank cuts benchmark rate by a quarter point as inflation drops

2.0% target within reach

FRANKFURT, Germany, Sept 12, (AP): With inflation subsiding, the European Central Bank cut its benchmark interest rate Thursday to prop up tepid growth with lower borrowing costs for companies and home buyers.

The bank's rate-setting council lowered the deposit rate from 3.75% to 3.5% at a meeting at its skyscraper headquarters in Frankfurt.

It was the second rate cut as the bank starts to withdraw some of the swift rate increases it imposed to snuff out a burst of double-digit inflation that broke out after Russia cut off most natural gas supplies over its invasion of Ukraine.

Inflation is now down to 2.2%, close to the bank's target of 2%, thanks in part to lower global prices, allowing the ECB to shift its focus to concerns about growth that has been held back by high rates.

The U.S. Federal Reserve is also expected to cut rates from a 23-year high at its meeting on Sept. 17-18.

But experts don't expect a rapid series of rate cuts from either central bank to anywhere near the rock-bottom levels from before the 2020 outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. They say the ECB will tiptoe, rather than slash, and might cut rates only one more time this year. Inflation's down with the help of lower oil prices.

The ECB said Thursday it would take future cuts meeting by meeting depending on incoming information about the economy and "is not pre-committing to a particular rate path."

Policy makers must keep an eye on simmering inflation among services companies and rising wages as workers push to make up for purchasing power lost to the outburst of inflation that followed the end of the pandemic.



The President of European Central Bank, Christine Lagarde, speaks during a press conference in Frankfurt, Germany, Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024. (AP)



A light installation is projected onto the building of the European Central Bank during a rehearsal in Frankfurt, Germany, Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021. (AP)

The Conversation

Official US poverty rate declined last year, but more people faced economic hardship

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

By Mark Robert Rank

Arts & Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis

The number of Americans living in poverty, according to the nation's official definition, fell slightly to about 36.8 million in 2023, the Census Bureau announced on Sept. 10, 2024. The data released also indicated that the poverty rate declined a little. However, an alternative way to measure poverty ticked up, as more people in the U.S. faced economic hardship.

The Conversation U.S. asked Mark Rank, a sociologist who researches poverty and economic inequality, to explain the latest numbers and to share some of his insights about poverty in America.

I think the most interesting aspect of this report is the different directions the two measures of poverty went in 2023. On one hand, the official poverty measure declined to 11.1% in 2023 from 11.5% in 2022. At the same time, the supplemental poverty measure, an alternative way to measure poverty introduced in 2011, increased to 12.9% in 2023

from 12.4% a year earlier.

The official poverty rate fell because overall household income rose modestly in 2023 - even after taking inflation into account - according to other census data. However, like many poverty experts, I believe that the supplemental poverty measure is a better indicator of what's going on because it takes into account household expenses as well as tax credits and the effects of government programs on reducing poverty.

It turns out that one key reason for the increase in the current supplemental poverty measure is that Social Security benefits and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - also known as SNAP or "food stamps" - pulled fewer people out of poverty in 2023 than in 2022. The supplemental poverty measure also increased as the result of out-of-pocket medical expenses being higher in 2023 than in 2022.

The annual Census Bureau report only represents a year-by-year snapshot of poverty. I think estimating the long-term risk of impoverishment across a typical American's lifetime is a more meaningful approach.

To that end, I've conducted research using a large nationally representative dataset from University of Michigan researchers who have tracked the same households each

year since 1968. Based on this analysis, I've found that a clear majority of Americans will experience poverty for at least one year of their adult lives.

Some 58.5% of Americans will experience at least one year below the official poverty line between the ages of 20 and 75, while 76% will either experience poverty or near poverty - meaning that their income falls below 150% of the poverty line.

The numbers presented in the annual Census Bureau report indicate that only about 1 in 9 Americans are facing poverty today. But my research shows that 3 out of 4 Americans will experience poverty or near poverty at some point in their lives. The result is that poverty should be viewed as an issue of "us" rather than an issue of "them."

The U.S. has one of the highest rates of poverty among Western industrialized nations. Whether the focus is on working-age adults, children, people over 65 or the population as a whole, the U.S. is near the top in terms of the extent and depth of its poverty.

One major reason is that the federal government does much less than its counterparts in many other countries to help people stay out of poverty. The U.S. safety net is relatively weak when it comes to protecting Americans from economic destitu-

tion. The result is that the percentage of Americans experiencing poverty in any given year is among the highest among comparable nations.

In addition, the extent of both income and wealth inequality tends to be more extreme in the U.S. compared with other high-income countries.

The U.S. made substantial progress in terms of reducing poverty in the middle of the 20th century. The poverty rate was cut in half from 22.4% in 1959 to 11.1% in 1973.

This improvement was due to the robust economy of the 1960s and government initiatives known as the "War on Poverty." However, since 1973, the overall rate of poverty has ranged between 11% and 15%. It has tended to decline somewhat during periods of economic growth, and it has risen during periods of economic stagnation and recession.

The official poverty rate of 11.1% in 2023 matches the poverty rate in 1973. The supplemental poverty measure, which stood at 12.9% in 2023, reflects a similar lack of progress. It was first calculated in 2009, when it stood at 15.1%.

There are two major success stories, however.

First, older Americans have become less likely to experience poverty. (AP)

Americans' inflation-adjusted incomes rebounded to pre-COVID levels last year

WASHINGTON, Sept 12, (AP):The inflation-adjusted median income of U.S. households rebounded last year to roughly its 2019 level, overcoming the biggest price spike in four decades to restore most Americans' purchasing power.

The proportion of Americans living in poverty also fell slightly last year, to 11.1%, from 11.5% in 2022. But the ratio of women's median earnings to men's widened for the first time in more than two decades as men's income rose more than women's in 2023.

The latest data came Tuesday in an annual report from the Census Bureau, which said the median household income, adjusted for in-

flation, rose 4% to \$80,610 in 2023, up from \$77,450 in 2022. It was the first increase since 2019, and is essentially unchanged from that year's figure of \$81,210, officials said. (The median income figure is the point at which half the population is above and half below and is less distorted by extreme incomes than the average.)

"We are back to that pre-COVID peak that we experienced," said Liana Fox, assistant division chief in the Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division at the Census Bureau.

The figures could become a talking point in the presidential campaign if Vice President Kamala Har-

ris were to point to them as evidence that Americans' financial health has largely recovered after inflation peaked at 9.1% in 2022. On Wednesday, economists predict that the government will report that inflation fell from 2.9% in July to 2.6% in August. The Federal Reserve, whose target level for inflation is 2%, is poised to start cutting interest rates next week.

Former President Donald Trump might counter that household income grew much faster in his first three years in office than in the first three years of the Biden-Harris administration, though income fell during his administration after the pandemic struck in 2020.

The data showed that while the

typical American household regained its 2019 purchasing power in 2023, it essentially experienced no rise in living standards over that time. That is a sharp difference from the preceding four years, when inflation-adjusted median incomes rose 14% from 2015 through 2019.

The data is based on pre-tax incomes, including Social Security and other benefit programs, though it excludes noncash benefits such as food stamps and Medicaid.

The jump in incomes reflects solid job creation last year, which helped reduce the unemployment rate to a half-century low of 3.4% in April 2023. The proportion of Americans in the so-called prime age group of

25-to-54-year-olds with jobs averaged 80.7% last year, the highest level in 23 years. Economists often focus on prime-age workers because they exclude younger people, who are often still in school, and older workers, who are more likely to retire or reduce their hours.

By racial groups, median household income rose 5.4% for whites to \$84,630, increased 2.8% for Black Americans to \$56,490 and was unchanged for Hispanics at \$65,540. Asian incomes were also largely unchanged at \$112,800.

While the overall poverty rate declined from 2022 to 2023, under an alternative measure of income the proportion of children in pov-

erty rose from 12.4% to 13.7%. The bump in child poverty comes two years after it had plunged to just 5.2%, when the pandemic-era expansion of the child tax credit provided enhanced benefits to families. But the credit expired in 2022.

"If you want to reduce poverty in the short run, you transfer income to poor families," said Steven Durlauf, an economist at the University of Chicago.

Census also calculated that 92% of Americans had health care in 2023, largely unchanged from the previous year, though the proportion of uninsured children ticked up a half-point to 5.8%.

Transaction alerts recommended by NBK to prevent unauthorized account activity

NBK emphasizes digital safety and fraud prevention in banking awareness

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) continues to strongly support the "Let's Be Aware" banking awareness campaign, initiated by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in collaboration with Kuwait Banking Association (KBA). This effort underscores NBK's dedication to promoting financial literacy and raising awareness across all segments of society.

NBK is consistently focused on offering innovative approaches to enhance financial literacy across the community. The bank is dedicated to educating customers about their rights and safeguarding their data and bank accounts. Despite the extensive content NBK shares daily on social media platforms, including photos and videos, it is crucial to remember that certain sensitive information should never be shared online.

Amidst the rising incidence of fraud and the increasing sophistication of fraudsters' tactics, NBK remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting its customers' rights and following all directives from the Central Bank of Kuwait. The bank is also dedicated to disseminating educational materials that not only inform customers about their rights but also offer practical tips and guidelines to help them prevent falling victim to fraud.

One of the key recommendations for users is to enable transaction alerts through the NBK Mobile Banking App. This feature provides immediate notifications of any unauthorized or unusual activity on their accounts. NBK also advises customers to contact the bank through its official channels if they suspect any irregularities or suspicious transactions.



Diraya Logo

- Customers are encouraged to contact the bank immediately upon noticing any suspicious account activity.
- NBK leverages its extensive digital channels, which boast the largest following in Kuwait, to maintain strong communication with its customers.

NBK advises against sharing sensitive information, such as Social Security numbers, bank account

details, or password-protected data. Customers should also refrain from sending any banking information

through social media messages.

Moreover, NBK emphasizes the importance of using security programs to protect mobile devices and computers, which can help prevent unauthorized access to personal and banking information.

NBK is committed to promoting financial literacy to the broadest possible audience to maximize the reach of the campaign's message. The bank leverages its extensive communication capabilities, including its highly followed digital channels, to engage with customers effectively.

NBK's commitment to customer education is a cornerstone of its strategy. The bank utilizes all available communication channels to advise customers on safeguarding their passwords and sensitive financial and personal data. It emphasizes the importance of not sharing this information with anyone claiming to be

from the bank, including one-time passwords (OTP).

NBK is a prominent supporter and partner of all Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) campaigns and initiatives designed to enhance financial awareness across different groups in the community. As the leading financial institution in Kuwait and the region, NBK actively organizes events and training programs focused on educating the community about critical banking issues, including combating fraud and financial crimes.

NBK is deeply committed to its social responsibility within the communities it serves. The bank consistently takes proactive steps to support key and strategic initiatives, such as the "Let's Be Aware" campaign, which aligns with its dedication to advancing Kuwait's national economy and societal well-being.

Bank resumes normal hours on 16 September

KIB announces 24/7 digital banking access during Prophet's Birthday (1446H) holiday

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that it will continue to provide its online banking services around the clock during the Prophet's Birthday (1446H) holiday. The Bank aims to meet the needs of its customers, whether inside Kuwait or abroad, during the holiday.

The Bank will be closed for business on Sunday, 15 September 2024. Normal working hours will resume on Monday, 16 September 2024.

KIB highlighted its commitment to serving its customers and enabling them to follow up on their financial affairs and complete their banking transactions with the utmost efficiency and without disruption at all times. The Bank indicated that it will continue to provide its banking services through all its digital platforms 24/7 during the holiday, which includes the KIB Mobile smartphone application that allows customers to perform most basic banking operations, in addition to the Live Chat and KIB Online services on the Bank's website www.KIB.com.kw. Customers can also reach KIB via its call center, at



KIB logo

1866866 for local calls and at +965 22957300 for international calls, or through its WhatsApp account registered with the local bank number 1866866 for general inquiries about products and services.

KIB also emphasized the readiness of the Bank's ATMs to accommodate the expected increased demand for cash withdrawals during the holiday, both in terms of providing sufficient liquidity and the number of machines available in different areas in Kuwait.

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

Including two classic augmented reality games

Warba Bank launches 'Warba Arcade' via 'Fayez' application

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: Warba Bank announced the launch of the "Warba Arcade" campaign, a new campaign consisting of two classic games with augmented reality technology that will be available to "Warba" clients and non-clients, where they can enjoy the "Warba Arcade" experience by downloading the (Fayez) app.

In this regard, Abdulrahman Ahmed Al-Munaifi, Director of the Digital Transformation at Warba Bank, said that the client can try the game when downloading the Fayez app without logging in or creating an account. This experience provides two games with augmented reality technology, and there will be daily prizes, weekly draws, and major prizes in the app.

Al-Munaifi reviewed the details of the game of the Fayez application, saying: "Get ready to go back to the past with the latest experience from "Warba World" using augmented reality technology (AR) via the "Fayez" application, which offers you two arcade games to enjoy the feeling of



Abdulrahman Ahmed Al-Munaifi

traditional games, enabling you to choose your favourite game inside the arcade, and you will live a more exciting and immersive gaming experience thanks to the augmented reality technology.

What's more, you can download the "Fayez" application and start playing immediately without the need to register or create an account. Al-Munaifi urged everyone to participate

Al-Munaifi:

- The exclusive and distinctive services provided by "Warba" to its clients throughout the year reflect its endeavour to provide them with a special digital experience.

in the weekly draws and compete for the mega prizes for the highest scoring players, once you download the "Fayez" application.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that has achieved great successes in a short period, as it occupied a leadership position in the field of Islamic digital banking services for individuals, and it is one of the largest local banks in the number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent components that make the Bank close to all members of society.

Kuwait joins GCC with new ICCR Chair

ICCR & GUST sign MoU to establish ICCR Chair

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes

Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST), Kuwait, today, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish an ICCR Chair of Indian Studies, focusing on teaching the Hindi language at GUST.

The MoU was signed by HE Dr. Adarsh Swaika, the Ambassador of India to Kuwait, representing ICCR, and Prof. Bassam Alameddine, President of GUST.

Under this agreement, the ICCR will collaborate with GUST to appoint a qualified Indian academic to teach Hindi at the university for a tenure of up to three years. This initiative marks ICCR's first Chair of Indian Studies in Kuwait and is a significant step toward promoting Hindi language and Indian cultural studies

in the country.

In December 2023, a similar ICCR Chair was established in Oman, marking the first of its kind in the Gulf Cooperation Council region.

Hindi is one of the most widely spoken languages globally, with over 600 million speakers, making it the third most spoken language in the world. Beyond India, Hindi is spoken by large Indian diasporas in countries such as Mauritius, Fiji, Nepal, and Trinidad & Tobago.

Acknowledging the language's growing global influence, the United Nations has launched the Hindi language social media platforms on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), and Instagram, along with a Hindi UN News website in 2018.

It is worth mentioning, in April 2024, a weekly Hindi radio broadcast was launched on Kuwait National Radio, further emphasizing the increasing importance of Hindi in Kuwait and recognizing the contributions of the large Indian diaspora.

By Tam Nguyen, University of Dayton

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

CAPTCHAs are those now ubiquitous challenges you encounter to prove that you're a human and not a bot when you go to log in to many websites.

Websites and mobile apps have long been attacked by bots on a massive scale. Those malicious bots are programmed to automatically consume a large amount of computing resources, post spam messages, collect data from websites and even register and perform user authentication. This state of affairs led to the introduction of CAPTCHA, which stands for Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart.

As a computer scientist, I see CAPTCHAs as an effective shield for websites to prevent automated attacks, enhance cybersecurity and improve user experience - at least in the short term. For example, denial-of-service attacks create a bottleneck and cause a web server to become overloaded and unresponsive. CAPTCHAs help stop automated bots from executing such denial-of-service attacks and even fraudulent activities such as sending spam messages and creating fake accounts.

Meanwhile, financial institutions

rely on CAPTCHAs to protect against bots trying to steal clients' data. Additionally, CAPTCHAs improve the integrity of online voting and polls by preventing automated bots from manipulating results.

CAPTCHAs are designed to show questions or challenges that are easy for humans but difficult for computer bots to answer. In practice, there are several types of CAPTCHAs: text-based, image-based, audio-based and behavior-based.

Text-based CAPTCHAs have been very popular since the early days of the internet. This CAPTCHA type requires users to read a distorted and complicated image of text and enter the answer into a text field. A variant of text-based CAPTCHA asks users to solve simple math problems like "18+5" or "23-7." However, it was recently solved by advanced optical character recognition algorithms, thanks to the proliferation of deep-learning AIs.

When the text is tuned to be more distorted and more complicated, actual humans ironically fail to provide a correct answer.

Audio CAPTCHA plays a short audio clip containing a series of numbers or letters spoken by a human or synthetic voice, which the user listens to and then types into a provided text field. The input is verified against the correct answer to determine whether the user is human. Like text-based CAPTCHAs, audio CAPTCHA can be difficult for humans to interpret due to

factors such as background noise, poor audio quality, heavy distortion and unfamiliar accents.

Image-based CAPTCHAs were introduced to make it more challenging for bots. Users must identify specific objects from images - for example, selecting all image blocks containing traffic lights. This task leverages human visual perception, which is still superior to most computer vision-based bots. However, this type of CAPTCHA also confuses people in many cases.

Behavior-based CAPTCHAs analyze user behaviors such as mouse movements and typing patterns. reCAPTCHA, a popular behavior-based CAPTCHA, requires users to check the "I am not a robot" box. During this process, reCAPTCHA analyzes mouse movement and mouse click to differentiate between humans and bots. Humans typically have more varied and less predictable behaviors, while bots often show precise and consistent actions.

CAPTCHA is one more battleground in the seemingly endless battle between AI and humans. Nowadays, AI has become more advanced, using modern techniques such as deep learning and computer vision to solve CAPTCHA challenges.

For instance, optical character recognition algorithms have improved, making text-based CAPTCHAs less effective. Audio CAPTCHA can be bypassed by advanced speech-to-text technology. Similarly, AI models

trained on vast image datasets can solve many image-based CAPTCHAs with high accuracy rates.

On the other side of the battlefield, CAPTCHA researchers have created more complex CAPTCHA technologies. For example, reCAPTCHA assesses user interactions and computes their likelihood of being human.

Ironically, humans are helping AI solve complicated CAPTCHAs. For instance, click farms hire a large pool of low-paid workers to click on ads, such as social media posts, follow accounts, write fake reviews and even solve CAPTCHA questions. Their work is to help AI systems behave like humans in order to defeat CAPTCHAs and other fraud-prevention techniques.

The future of CAPTCHAs will be influenced by the ongoing advancements in AI. The traditional CAPTCHA methods are becoming less effective, thus future CAPTCHA systems are likely to focus more on analyzing user behavior, such as how people interact with websites, making it harder for bots to mimic that behavior.

Websites might turn to the use of biometric CAPTCHAs, such as facial recognition or fingerprint scanning, though these raise privacy concerns. CAPTCHA can be replaced by blockchain, which uses verifiable credentials to authenticate users. These credentials, issued by trusted entities and stored in digital wallets, ensure interactions are performed by verified humans rather than bots. (AP)

The Conversation

How modern AI is outpacing traditional CAPTCHA methods

CAPTCHAs face new challenges from advanced AI techniques



Photos of the signing memorandum of understanding.

Neutral news sites risk bias as polarization drives engagement

Study reveals neutral news outlets may lean partisan for profit

By Abhishek Ray
George Mason University

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

Even news outlets perceived as politically neutral can benefit from today's polarized media environment.

The past decade has seen a surge in partisan online news sites that patently skew toward one side of the American political spectrum, from the right-leaning Blaze Media to the openly liberal Axios. Money is a primary driver of this media polarization: User engagement translates to dollars in subscriptions or advertising. Online news outlets' revenue depends upon attracting eyeballs from an increasingly polarized reading public known to avoid journalism that does not confirm their existing biases.

Surprisingly, those same dynamics can also attract readers of all stripes to officially nonpartisan outlets. That's the unexpected takeaway of a paper I co-authored and published in the June 2024 issue of the Journal of Management Information Systems. It found that news sources perceived as unbiased can sometimes tweak their story presentation to appeal to partisans.

That is good for their bottom line, at least in the short run - but it may not be great for American democracy.

My co-authors and I studied the interplay of political partisanship and competition for audience attention between three hypothetical news outlets: one left-wing, one right-wing and one centrist.

In a series of studies using computer models and game theory, we simulated news outlet competition in different types of media markets, including one with minimal regulation, such as the

United States.

Research shows that as American readers have grown more partisan over the past 30 years, so have many American news sources. At the same time, a handful of websites perceived as neutral, such as The Hill and Reuters, have gained prominence without much controversy.

We wanted to know: How might the U.S. "marketplace" of information with increased polarization evolve?

Our model assumed that, in a market with minimal regulation, competition among news media firms is a main driver of change.

Surprisingly, we found that news outlets perceived as relatively neutral may have a competitive advantage over partisan media on both sides because they can still shift rightward or leftward. Unlike publications with an already well-articulated political niche, centrist media retains the flexibility to slant.

This partisan tilt could begin with small, isolated wording changes. But if those tweaks draw increased engagement from partisans, neutral news websites would be encouraged to advance toward a more permanent polarization.

Essentially, they'd test the boundaries, seeing how far to the left or right they could tack without losing their perceived neutrality.

Many avowedly neutral websites have recently been accused of becoming more partisan, a charge they deny.

The Associated Press, a venerable American wire service, was criticized in July 2024 for allegedly using language favoring President Joe Biden over former President Donald Trump. In 2019, the owner of the politics website The Hill, Trump associate James Finkelstein, came under fire for the website's "conspiratorial" coverage of Biden's dealings in Ukraine. (AP)



From beauty queen to global icon

Features

ARAB TIMES
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13-14, 2024



Victoria Silvstedt

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes
Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

In the vibrant world of entertainment, few people manage to wear as many hats with such finesse as Victoria Silvstedt — an accomplished actress, singer, model and television host.

Victoria has carved out a remarkable niche in the industry through her diverse talents and charismatic presence. From captivating audiences on screen and stage to gracing magazine covers and leading TV shows, she embodies the essence of versatility and creativity.

As she continues to shine in various facets of the entertainment world, Victoria not only entertains but also inspires with her unwavering dedication and multi-faceted career.

In an exclusive interview with the Arab Times, she shares her experiences as a former beauty queen, who first gained attention with her stunning grace and poise, eventually transitioning into a successful career in entertainment.

Whether gracing the runway, commanding the stage with her powerful voice, or bringing characters to life on screen, Victoria continues to inspire and entertain with her exceptional versatility and passion for the arts.

A Swedish actress, singer, model, TV host, and former beauty queen rose to fame in 1993 when she was crowned Miss World Sweden and became a ‘Top 10’ finalist in the Miss World pageant.

Raised in Bollnäs, Sweden, Victoria initially pursued alpine skiing but transitioned to modeling after an injury. She worked with top fashion brands like Chanel and Dior, and her career soared beginning in 1997 she graced over 500 magazine covers and ventured into acting, television presenting, and even music.

Victoria hosted numerous TV shows, including versions of ‘Wheel of Fortune’ in France and Italy, and appeared in several films.

In addition to her entertainment career, she launched her own lingerie line, authored an autobiography, and starred in a reality TV show.

A polyglot, she speaks English, French, and Italian fluently, in addition to her native Swedish, Victoria remains active in fashion and business.

Talking to Arab Times Victoria says, winning the Miss Sweden title for the Miss World pageant was a life-changing.

“I was living in a small village at the time, where I had only done some local catwalks and modeling, so my confidence and experience were very limited. After spending a month in South Africa, where the pageant was held, I learned a lot — how to walk in heels, act more like a lady, and speak proper English. I was 18 at the time and very shy, but I grew a lot after that experience,” she said.

Arab Times: What lessons did you take from your early experiences in the beauty pageant world that have influenced your journey in entertainment?

Victoria Silvstedt: I learned to be nice to people no matter their background. I also learned not to be too naïve — I believed that there’s good in everyone, but people aren’t always honest.

AT: You transitioned from beauty pageants to becoming an international model and actress. What were some of the challenges and highlights of making that shift?

Victoria Silvstedt: The shift happened naturally, from modeling and fashion shows, where I built my confidence. I’ve always loved a challenge. Growing up as an athlete and skiing from an early age, competition has been part of my upbringing.

So, the transition from modeling to TV and acting was a fun and rewarding challenge. It hasn’t always been easy; I’ve made some mistakes in choosing roles or modeling gigs, but you learn from your mistakes and grow.

AT: What do you think is the key to sustaining a successful modeling career over time?

Victoria Silvstedt: Re-invent yourself. Stay healthy and fit, be personal, genuine, and friendly. I’m always positive, which helps me move forward and not give up.

AT: You’ve worked as a model, actress, singer, and TV host. How do you decide which projects to take on, and how do you manage balancing these diverse roles?

Victoria Silvstedt: At this stage in my career, it’s all about challenges and fun projects. I’m turning down a lot of TV shows that I would have accepted in the past. Now, I enjoy life to the fullest!

AT: Do you feel that each of these roles reflects a different side of your personality? If so, how?

Victoria Silvstedt: I love playing a role and also being myself.

AT: How has gaining international fame influenced your perspective on beauty, success, and the entertainment industry?

Victoria Silvstedt: I love all the peaks of fame — the glamorous events, the beautiful places it has taken me, and the amazing people I’ve met.

It’s been an incredible journey, and I’m so thankful. But I also love disconnecting from that world sometimes, just relaxing, and doing normal things. I love nature and going back to my family to just be me.

AT: You’ve worked across various countries and cultures. How do you adapt to different markets, whether in Europe, the US, or elsewhere?

Victoria Silvstedt: I adapt very quickly. I love the different cultures, languages, and traditions in the countries

Victoria Silvstedt: A multi-talented star in entertainment world

where I’ve worked. I learned Italian quickly for a TV show and movies, and the same in France. In Hollywood, I learned the American way. I love the challenges.

AT: What has been the biggest personal challenge you’ve faced in your career, and how did you overcome it?

Victoria Silvstedt: When I transitioned from being a model and actress to hosting live shows in France, in French, it was a tough challenge that required lots of hard work to learn French so quickly. But it paid off, and I became a TV star unexpectedly.

Also, when I made my music album, I signed with EMI Records after having two hits in Scandinavia. I recorded a full album — lots of work, but so rewarding.

AT: How do you maintain a sense of balance and authenticity in an industry that often focuses on external appearances?

Victoria Silvstedt: I’m close to my family. I have good values, and I do lots of yoga, pilates, and sports like hiking.

AT: What advice would you give to young women aspiring to build a multi-faceted career like yours?

Victoria Silvstedt: I think today it’s a bit different since when I started my career, there was no social media. You had to work hard to get noticed.

Now, anyone can promote themselves through social media, but this also means that many real talents face more competition. It’s different now.

AT: Who has been the most significant influence on your career and why?

Victoria Silvstedt: My agent from the beginning, Mika, played a big role in the early stages of my career and continues to do so in Sweden. In the U.S., I got recognized by being on the cover of a prestigious magazine and having my own reality show on E! Entertainment.

I signed with the top agent at Elite Celebrities and landed huge contracts in the U.S., thanks to Monique Pillard, who is no longer alive. My mom has always been my rock in life, and we are very close.

AT: Looking ahead, are there any new ventures or goals you’re passionate about pursuing in the next few years? Are there any causes or projects outside of entertainment that you’re particularly committed to?

Victoria Silvstedt: I’m still doing some modeling, TV, events, and singing — so why not continue? I’m also a proud ambassador for The Perfect World Foundation (focused on preserving local and global biodiversity — all life on earth).

Additionally, I’m an ambassador for the Make-A-Wish Foundation International (bringing wishes and joy to sick kids). I’m happy to give back and help.

editor's choice



People & Places



Shawn Mendes performs 'Nobody Knows' during the MTV Video Music Awards. (AP)



Lenny Kravitz performs during the MTV Video Music Awards. (AP)



Eminem performs 'Somebody Save Me' during the MTV VMAs. (AP)



Miranda Lambert presents the award for song of the year during the MTV VMAs.



LL Cool J performs during the MTV Video Music Awards. (AP)



Flavor Flav performs during the MTV Video Music Awards. (AP)



Taylor Swift, (center), and Post Malone, third from back left, accept the video of the year award for 'Fortnight' during the MTV Video Music Awards on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at UBS Arena in Elmont, N.Y. Host Megan Thee Stallion, (from far left) back, Rodrigo Prieto, and Ethan Tobman, (far right), look on. (AP)



Chappell Roan performs 'Good Luck, Babe' during the MTV Video Music Awards on Sept 11. (AP)



Katy Perry, (far left), performs during the MTV Video Music Awards. (AP)

Music

Perry receives Video Vanguard Award

Swift wins big at MTV VMAs

NEW YORK, Sept 12, (AP): Taylor Swift's dominance continued at the MTV Video Music Awards, where she took home seven awards - including the night's biggest, the trophy for video of the year.

In her speech Wednesday night, Swift thanked her "boyfriend, Travis" for being on set of the "Fortnight" music video and cheering her on. Fans rewarded the mention of NFL star Travis Kelce with loud screams.

"Everything this man touches turns to happiness and fun and magic," she said, before shifting gears to the 2024 presidential election and instructing her fans who are over 18 to register to vote.

Swift did, however, avoid discussing Kamala Harris' presidential bid on stage. On Tuesday night, Swift endorsed the vice president, moments after Harris' debate with former president Donald Trump ended.

History

Swift's awards haul brings her to a career total of 30, tying her and Beyonce for the title of most-awarded musician in VMA history. Eminem is now the male artist with the most VMAs, at 14.

Swift and Post Malone also took home the first televised award of the VMAs for best collaboration, for "Fortnight," handed to them by Flavor Flav and Olympian Jordan Chiles.

Swift started that speech by giving remembrance to everyone who lost their lives and loved ones during 9/11, 23 years ago.

"I've just been thinking about what happened 23 years ago, everyone who lost a loved one and everyone that we lost and that is the most important thing about today," she said. "And everything that happens tonight falls behind that."

She then turned to discussing Malone. "There is a reason Post Malone is everyone in music's favorite person to collaborate with," she shifted her attention to him. "It has taken forever for me to get him to stop calling me ma'am."

Chappell Roan won the MTV Video Music Award for best new artist.

"I dedicate this to all the drag artists who inspire me," she said in her speech, while wearing chain mail, reading from a written speech in her diary. "And I dedicate this to queer and trans people who run pop. ... Thank you for listening."

Women dominated the award show, no example greater than an imaginative, medieval set from Roan.

Drag queen Sasha Colby introduced her with "your favorite drag queen's favorite artist," a reference to Roan's now famous Coachella performance, which in turn was inspired by Colby. Real fans no doubt got a kick out of the hyper-referential tidbit.

Roan appeared in armor, shooting a lit crossbow at castle gates that stood behind her, burning them in the process. Her dancers were knights, battling each other in incredible choreography as she sang her queer pop hit, "Good Luck, Babe."

The other voice of 2024 pop, Sabrina Carpenter, won the trophy for song of the year for "Espresso."

"This is really special," she said in her speech, dedicated to her fans. "And thank you to that me-espreso."

Earlier in the night, she brought her sum-

mery-pop to the award show, powering through her hit singles "Please Please Please," "Taste" and "Espresso" while dancing with a moon man and an alien.

Katy Perry received the Video Vanguard Award, performing an eight-song medley spanning her career: "Roar," "E.T.," "California Gurls," "Teenage Dream," "I Kissed a Girl," "Firework," and "Lifetimes."

"I did that all on the first day of my period, can you believe it?" she joked after accepting the honor from her partner, Orlando Bloom. "There are so many things that have to align to have a long and successful career as an artist. There are no decade long accidents."

She also teased a new song, "I'm His, He's Mine," featuring Doechii, which samples the Crystal Waters classic, "Gypsy Woman (La Da Dee La Da Da)."

Previous recipients of the Video Vanguard Award include Shakira, Beyoncé, Minaj, Madonna, Janet Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Rihanna and Missy Elliott.

An army of Slim Shady-lookalikes followed Eminem as he kicked off the VMAs, launching into a medley of his hits "Houdini" and "Somebody Save Me," featuring a broadcast feed of Jelly Roll. (The song references Jelly Roll's massive country radio hit, "Save Me.")

Megan Thee Stallion welcomed the crowd as a first-time host Wednesday night, who joked that the VMAs now stands for the "voluptuous Megan awards." She later performed.

Performance

Earlier in the evening, Karol G took over, for a fiery performance of her hit, "Si Antes Te Hubiera Conocido." Rauw Alejandro brought Puerto Rico to the stage, running through "Touching The Sky," "DILUIVO" and "Dé-jame Entrar."

Tyla won the best Afrobeats award. LL COOL J celebrated 40 years of Def Jam Records with Public Enemy's Flavor Flav and Chuck D.

Halsey took it to the suburbs for her new single, "Ego," channeling garage bands. Glo-Rilla's "Yeah Glo!" and "TGIF" brought style.

Blackpink's LISA, the best K-pop award winner, made her way to the VMA stage for the first time as a soloist, powering through two of her brand-new singles, "New Woman" and "Rockstar." Shawn Mendes made along-awaited return, debuting a new John Mayeresque acoustic number, "Nobody Knows."

Anitta performed "Paradise," "Alegria," and "Savage Funk," joined by DJ Khaled, Fat Joe and Tiago PZK and won the award for best Latin. Camilla Cabello performed in a panopticon. Benson Boone seemed as stoked as ever to perform his viral hit "Beautiful Things" on the VMAs stage. Lenny Kravitz proved rock isn't dead with "Are You Gonna Go My Way," "Human" and finally "Fly," in which he was joined by Quavo.

The 40th VMAs were held at the UBS Arena on New York's Long Island.

The night was stacked with celebrities and featured plenty of Swift, who arrived at the award show wearing a green tartan corset with a matching train and long black leather gloves.

Throughout the night, MTV flashed back to history-making across the VMAs' 40-year-run, including Britney Spears' albino python and Madonna's performance of "Like A Virgin."



Sabrina Carpenter performs 'Please Please Please.' (AP)



LISA poses with award for best K-Pop for 'Rockstar.' (AP)



Tyla poses with award for best afrobeats for 'Water.' (AP)



Benson Boone with award for best alternative for 'Beautiful Things.' (AP)

A guide to deactivating account and protecting your data

Ever wanted to quit Musk's X platform? Here's how to do it

LONDON, Sept 12, (AP) — Since Elon Musk acquired Twitter, renamed it X, fired much of its staff and made other big changes, a steady stream of celebrities, public figures, organizations and ordinary people have quit the social media platform.

Some blame Musk for turning a place that used to be fun into one that's chaotic and toxic, pointing to moves like allowing polarizing figures such as Donald Trump back in. Others are turned off by Musk's juvenile humor or by how he's increasingly barging into their feeds with his posts, often to amplify far-right tropes.

They're defecting to rival sites like BlueSky, Mastodon, Meta's Threads, and Reddit. Some even are - gasp - quitting social media altogether.

So if you've decided it's time to exit X, here's what you need to do: Begin by deactivating your account, which starts a 30-day countdown until your account is deleted permanently. Go to settings and privacy, then to the Account tab and click Deactivate your Account, enter your password and confirm you want to proceed.

Once you go ahead, your profile and username will be hidden from public view. If you change your mind, you can stop the process by logging in at any point during the 30-day period.

If you've signed up for a subscription, like a premium account, cancel that if

you don't want to make another payment. Subscriptions are only automatically canceled when the account is deleted.

If your account somehow gets reactivated even though you didn't want to, X says on its help pages that it might be because you've granted access to third-party apps. These are built by other software developers and can do things like read and make posts or access direct messages on your behalf.

To see which third-party apps you've given access to, head to the settings menu, then Security and Account Access. Click Apps and Sessions, and then Connected Apps. You can revoke access to individual apps by tapping or clicking on each one.

If you suspect that a rogue app still has access to your account, try changing your password for X.

Before you leave for good, you can download an archive of all your data from your time on Twitter and X. It could be useful if you want to look up a memorable post you wrote, refer back to direct messages you traded with other users, or find the accounts that you followed or were following you.

In the settings menu, you'll need to enter your password to request the data, which will come in a zip file. When I requested my archive, which amounted to 211 megabytes of data, it was available to download about 24 hours later.

What happens to that data once you're gone for good? X says on its privacy page that it keeps users' profile information and content "for the duration of your account." It holds on to other "personally identifiable data" for up to 18 months, without being more specific on what that data is.

It has become a ritual for X users to announce they're departing the platform. Politicians and celebrities have used their final post to take a parting shot at Musk, warn that the site is becoming too toxic, or let their followers know about the other social media venues they're using. Then, their statements usually disappear because their account is deleted.

Users who aren't famous have drafted heartfelt farewell letters, on X, their blogs or platforms like LinkedIn, explaining their reasons for leaving. It's not necessary, though it might help you achieve closure.

Are you sure you want to leave, permanently? If you're not ready to commit to full deletion, you could instead lock down your account.

Go to the privacy section in your settings, then click on Your posts and then tick the boxes to protect your posts and videos.

Protecting your posts means that only people who follow you already will be able to see them. Any other users will see a padlock. If they try to follow you, you'll get a notification requesting access.

Fentanyl overdoses surge

How social media became a hub for fake pills as families struggle

NEW YORK, Sept 12, (AP) — Fentanyl overdoses have become a leading cause of death for minors in the last five years or so, even as overall drug use has dropped slightly. In a 2022 analysis of fentanyl-laced prescription pills, the DEA found that six out of 10 contained a potentially lethal dose of the drug.

And social media, where tainted, fake prescription drugs can be obtained with just a few clicks, is a big part of the problem. Experts, law enforcement and children's advocates say companies like Snap, TikTok, Telegram and Meta, which owns Instagram, are not doing enough to keep children safe.

In 2022, two weeks after she turned 17, Coco left home just outside New York City to meet with a dealer she'd messaged through Instagram who promised to sell her Percocet, her mom, Julianna Arnold, recalled recently. She never made it home. She was found dead the next day, two blocks from the address that the guy had provided her.

Whatever the dealer gave Coco, her mother said, was not Percocet. It was a fake pill laced with fentanyl, which can be lethal in a dose as small as the tip of a pencil.

Mikayla Brown lost her son Elijah, who went by Eli, to a suspected fentanyl overdose in 2023, two weeks after his 15th birthday. His father found him unresponsive on a September morning last year. His cause of death was accidental fentanyl overdose. But he

wasn't trying to buy fentanyl, he was looking for Xanax, and, like Coco, ended up with tainted pills that killed him.

While data on the prevalence of drug sales on social platforms is hard to come by, the National Crime Prevention Council estimates that 80% of teen and young adult fentanyl poisoning deaths can be traced to social media contact.

In a sweeping 2023 report on the problem, Colorado's attorney general called the availability of fentanyl and other illicit substances online "staggering."

Regulation

"Due to their ubiquity, convenience, and lack of regulation, social media platforms have become a major venue for drug distribution," the report said. "Where once a teen might have had to seek out a street dealer, hassle friends, or learn to navigate the dark web to access illicit drugs, young people can now locate drug dealers using their smartphones - with the relative ease of ordering food delivery or calling a ride-share service."

Accidental overdoses in the US have decreased slightly each year since 2021 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Paul DelPonte, executive director and CEO of the National Crime Prevention Council, attributes this partly to more education and awareness about the issue. Among young people ages 0 to

19, there were 1,622 overdose deaths in 2021, then 1,590 in 2022, and 1,511 last year.

The decline, DelPonte said, is "very small."

In a statement, Meta said drug dealers "are criminals who stop at nothing to sell their dangerous products. This is a challenge that spans across platforms, industries, and communities, and it requires all of us working together to address it."

The company added that it works with law enforcement and proactively took down 2 million pieces of content, 99.7% before they were reported in the first three months of 2024.

Meta says it blocks and filters "hundreds" of terms associated with illicit drug sales and links to recovery and substance abuse resources when possible. But drug dealers and other bad actors constantly shift their strategies, coming up with fresh ways to avoid detection.

Snap, in a statement, said it is "heartbroken by the fentanyl epidemic and are deeply committed to the fight against it."

"We've invested in advanced technology to detect and remove illicit drug-related content, work extensively with law enforcement helping to bring dealers to justice, and continue to raise awareness and evolve our service to help keep our community safe. Criminals have no place on Snapchat," said Jacqueline Beauchere, Global Head of Platform Safety at the company.

A milestone achievement in private spaceflight

US billionaire steps out of SpaceX capsule for 1st private spacewalk

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Sept 13, (AP) — A billionaire stepped out for the first private spacewalk Thursday, teaming up with SpaceX on the daring endeavor hundreds of miles above Earth.

Tech entrepreneur Jared Isaacman and his crew waited until their capsule was depressurized before popping open the hatch. Isaacman emerged first, joining a small elite group of spacewalkers who until now had included only professional astronauts from a dozen countries.

It was the main focus of the five-day flight financed by Isaacman and Elon Musk's company, and the culmination of years of development geared toward settling Mars and other planets.

All four on board donned SpaceX's new spacewalking suits to protect themselves from the harsh vacuum. They launched on Tuesday from Florida, rocketing farther from Earth than anyone since NASA's moonwalkers. The orbit was reduced by half - to 460 miles (740 kilometers) - for the spacewalk.

This first spacewalking test, expected to last about two hours, involved more stretching than walking. The plan called for Isaacman to keep a hand or foot attached to it the whole time as he flexed his arms and legs to see how the new spacesuit would hold up. The hatch sported a walker-like structure for extra support.

After about 15 minutes outside, Isaacman was to be replaced by SpaceX engineer Sarah Gillis to go through the same motions.

Each had 12-foot (3.6-meter) tethers but no intention of unfurling them or dangling at the end unlike what happens at the International Space Station, where astronauts routinely float out to do repairs at a much lower orbit.

More and more wealthy passengers are plunking down huge sums for rides aboard private rockets to experience a few minutes of weightlessness. Other have spent tens of millions to stay in space for days or even weeks. Space experts and risk analysts say it's inevitable that some will seek the thrill of spacewalking, deemed one of the most dangerous parts of spaceflight after launch and reentry but also the most soul-stirring.

This operation was planned down to the minute with little room for error. Trying out new



This image made from a SpaceX video shows the crew of the first private spacewalk led by tech billionaire Jared Isaacman inside the capsule, Thursday Sept. 12. (AP)

A Soyuz craft with 2 Russians and 1 American docks at ISS

MOSCOW, Sept 12, (AP) — A Soyuz spacecraft carrying two Russians and an American docked at the International Space Station on Wednesday, a little more than three hours after its launch.

The capsule atop a towering rocket set off from a Russian launch facility in Baikonur, Kazakhstan, and docked with the space station after two orbits of the Earth, a fast trip compared with some that have lasted for days.

The crew already aboard the station were performing a lengthy series of system checks before those in the capsule can enter.

The mission commander is Alexei Ovchinnikov, with Russian compatriot Ivan Vagner and American Donald Pettit in the crew.

The launch took place without obvious problems and the Soyuz entered orbit eight minutes after

liftoff, a relief for Russian space authorities after an automated safety system halted a launch in March because of a voltage drop in the power system.

On the space station, Pettit, Vagner and Ovchinnikov will join NASA's Tracy Dyson, Mike Barratt, Matthew Dominick, Jeanette Epps, Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams, and Russians Nikolai Chub, Alexander Grebenkin and Oleg Kononenko.

Wilmore and Williams have remained on the station long past their scheduled return to Earth. They arrived in June as the first crew of Boeing's new Starliner capsule. But their trip to the orbiting laboratory was marred by thruster troubles and helium leaks, and NASA decided it was too risky to return them on Starliner.

spacesuits from a spacecraft new to spacewalking added to the risk. So did the fact that the entire capsule was exposed to the vacuum of space.

Scott "Kidd" Poteet, a former Air Force Thunderbird pilot, and SpaceX engineer Anna Menon stayed strapped to their seats to monitor from inside. All four underwent intensive training before the trip.

Isaacman, 41, CEO and founder of the Shift4 credit card-processing

company, has declined to disclose how much he invested in the flight. It was the first of three flights in a program he's dubbed Polaris; this one was called Polaris Dawn. For SpaceX's inaugural private flight in 2021, he took up contest winners and a cancer survivor.

Until Thursday, only 263 people had conducted a spacewalk, representing 12 countries. The Soviet Union's Alexei Leonov kicked it off in 1965, followed a few months later by NASA's Ed White.

Violence hits Pakistan anti-polio drive

Mysterious fever outbreak kills 16 in India

NEW DELHI, Sept 12, (Agencies) — A mysterious fever outbreak in the western Indian state of Gujarat has killed 16 people, officials said Thursday.

The outbreak has been reported in several villages of Kachchh district, about 380 km west of Gandhinagar, the capital city of Gujarat.

Doctors have yet to diagnose the disease accurately. Health officials said cases of mysterious fever began to pour in immediately after the region was hit by flooding following heavy rainfall.

"So far 16 deaths have been reported in seven villages of Lakhpat and Abdasa of Kutch after the outbreak of fever," local health minister Rushikesh Patel said. "The health department of the entire state is in action to ascertain the reasons behind the disease."

Locals told the media the patients who died from the mysterious disease



A health worker administers a polio vaccine to a child at a school in Peshawar, Pakistan, Monday, Sept. 9. (AP)

had symptoms like fever, cold, cough, pneumonia and breathing issues.

Health officials said since the beginning of this month over 60 cases of mysterious fever have been detected.

Amit Arora, district collector of Kachchh, was quoted in local media saying the deaths appear to have been

caused by pneumonia.

Also:

PESHAWAR, Pakistan: A pair of gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire on Thursday and killed a policeman guarding a group of polio workers going door-to-door in a vaccination campaign in northwestern Pakistan, police said, the second attack on the country's anti-polio campaign in as many days.

The latest attack took place in Bannu, a district in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to police officer Nasrullah Khan. The policeman who was gunned down was standing on a street corner and the attackers fled the scene, Khan said.

In a similar attack Wednesday in Bajur, also in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a group of gunmen on motorcycles killed two people, a polio worker and a police escort.

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Argentine leaves behind turbulent PSG and Chelsea eras

Pochettino embarks on 'journey' with US men's team

WASHINGTON, Sept 12, (AP): Mauricio Pochettino didn't expect to be here.

His appointment as United States men's national team head coach was not in the plans when he signed a two-year contract at Chelsea last season and made his triumphant return to the Premier League.

But soccer management is a fickle industry and the U.S. has taken advantage of the unexpected availability of a top-tier coach, who still has much to prove despite having already taken on some of the biggest jobs in the sport.

"Hiring Mauricio is a step forward in our mission to compete at the highest level and make a lasting mark on the global soccer landscape," U.S. Soccer CEO JT Batson said. "Mauricio understands the unique potential of this team and this country, and he shares our belief that U.S. Soccer is on the cusp of something truly special." Pochettino heads to America after spells with Tottenham, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea. Along the way his name has been mentioned in connection with Manchester United, Real Madrid and England. That is the level at which he is often pitched, which is why convincing him to succeed Gregg

Berhalter can be viewed as a major coup for the U.S.

Not least because his appointment comes at a time when England is seeking a new coach and jobs may be on the horizon at United and Manchester City over the next 12 months.

Instead of waiting - as he did for 12 months between PSG and Chelsea - Pochettino has opted to dive straight back in after exiting Stamford Bridge at the end of last season and take up the

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project of leading America into a home World Cup in 2026.

It is a bold and somewhat surprising move. One that is unlikely to end with a trophy and offers no guarantee of him eventually returning to club soccer at the same level at which he leaves it.

Jürgen Klinsmann, who had managed Germany and Bayern Munich, followed his stint as U.S. coach by managing Hertha Berlin and South Korea.

"The decision to join U.S. Soccer wasn't just about football for me; it's about the journey that this team and this country are on," Pochettino said.

Rivaldo calls for return of vets to Brazil team

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 12, (Xinhua): World Cup winner Rivaldo has called for the return of veterans Thiago Silva and Hulk to Brazil's national team amid a poor run of results.

Atletico Mineiro forward Hulk, 38, has not played for his country since 2021 while Fluminense defender Silva, 39, last represented the Selecao at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Rivaldo's comments came less than

a day after Brazil's 1-0 loss to Paraguay in Asuncion, a result that leaves the five-time world champions fifth in the South American zone qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup.

"From what I saw in yesterday's game, if you call up Hulk, even if it's not for the World Cup, he would be a huge help in these qualifiers," said Rivaldo, who was a part of the Brazil team that won the 2002 World Cup in

Japan and South Korea.

"Thiago Silva could return to a team like this, to help us qualify more easily. They are big-name players who would

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be good for the present time because they can handle the pressure of these games and from the press." Rivaldo,

who won the Ballon d'Or awarded to the world's best player in 1999, urged Brazil manager Dorival Junior to act quickly to remedy the situation.

"We have many standout players in the Brazilian league who have already played for the national team," he said.

"Apart from his input on the pitch, it would be invaluable for younger players to see how he trains and prepares," the former Barcelona star added.

move to Inter Miami.

If that's what he will get from American soccer, what can American soccer expect from him? "There's a lot of things that need to change and just the mentality and the culture of the group," U.S. forward Christian Pulisic said. "I know, hopefully, that's the first thing that he's going to want to change." Developing talent was Pochettino's calling card at Southampton and then Tottenham in the Premier League.

Previously unheralded players at Southampton were suddenly being picked up by England's top teams after working with Pochettino. Adam Lallana, Dejan Lovren and Rickie Lambert left for Liverpool, with Luke Shaw and later Morgan Schneiderlin joined United.

At Tottenham he nurtured the talent of Harry Kane - who had yet to show his potential as a world-class striker. Son Heung-min, Dele Alli and Kyle Walker all flourished under him.



Los Angeles Sparks forward Azura Stevens, left, and Seattle Storm forward Nneka Ogumike go after a rebound during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Los Angeles. (AP)

Wilson 'breaks' single season scoring record, Aces top Fever

Storm stays within 1 game of fourth place Las Vegas

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept 12, (AP): A'ja Wilson broke the WNBA single season scoring record just before the first half of the Las Vegas Aces' game against the Indiana Fever.

Wilson hit a jumper from the free throw line with 26.4 seconds left in the second quarter to surpass the previous mark of 939 points set by Jewell Loyd in 2023. The Aces' two-time league MVP came into the game averaging 27.3 points and 11.9 rebounds.

She finished the game with 27 points and 12 rebounds as Las Vegas won 86-75. Wilson credited her teammates for helping her break the record.

Wilson needed just 35 games to top last year's record by Loyd, who did it in 38 games. Wilson's previous high was 912 points, set in 40 games last

season. She now has 956 points this season and could potentially be the first player in league history to reach 1,000 in a year.

She missed the team's previous game in New York on Sunday as she was recovering from an ankle injury she suffered against Connecticut last Friday night.

Storm 90, Sparks 82

In Los Angeles, Skylar Diggins-Smith had 26 points, Gabby Williams scored 13 of her 17 in the second quarter and the Seattle Storm beat the Los Angeles Sparks.

Seattle (22-14) stayed within one game of fourth place Las Vegas (23-13), which also won Wednesday, in the WNBA standings. The Storm play at Dallas on Friday before returning home for a matchup against the Sparks on Sunday. Los Angeles (7-30) is off until Sunday.

Seattle trailed 39-29 with 3:40 left in the first half before closing on a 11-2

run, with five points from Williams, to tie it at 41-all at the break. Williams scored 15 points in the first half and Nneka Ogumike added 10.

Seattle had its lead trimmed to 75-74 with 4:19 remaining on a Rae Burrell basket, but the Sparks did not make another field goal until Rickea Jackson's layup with 27.1 left.

BASKETBALL

Williams responded with two free throws at the other end with 25.6 left to regain an eight-point lead.

Ogumike added 16 points and eight rebounds for Seattle. Ogumike moved into 11th place on the WNBA's all-time scoring list, moving past Sylvia Fowles (6,415). Ezi Magbegor set a franchise record for blocks in a season, passing Lauren Jackson's mark of 81 from 2002.

Rickea Jackson finished with 22 points and Azura Stevens had 18 points

and 15 rebounds for Los Angeles. Dericia Hamby, who had six points and eight rebounds, set a franchise record for most rebounds in a single season, passing Lisa Leslie (336).

Mystics 89, Sky 58

In Chicago, Aaliyah Edwards had 15 points and 10 rebounds, Brittney Sykes added 14 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, and the Washington Mystics beat Chicago to move within one game of the eighth-place Sky for the final playoff spot.

Washington (12-24) is tied for ninth with Atlanta (12-24), which hosts the Mystics on Friday in the first of a home-and-home series. Chicago (13-23) closes the week against playoff-bound Minnesota and Phoenix - before a matchup with Atlanta on Sept. 17.

Washington shot 50% from the field, with all 11 active players making a field goal. The Mystics allowed a season-low 58 points after the Sky shot just 36% with 15 turnovers.

Kattaf joins Al-Nasr

Al-Salmiya signs Midani, parts ways with Al-Najjar

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: Al-Salmiya Club has decided to terminate the contract of Moroccan professional Younes Al-Najjar and replace him with Syrian defender Amr Midani.

Al-Najjar's performance fell short of expectations and did not meet the standards set by the technical staff, led by Croatian coach Ante Miša. After failing to impress, Miša decided to release Al-Najjar and instructed the administrative team to find a new professional to fill the center-back position.

This decision also comes in light of the decline in form of team captain Fahad Al-Mujammed, who is currently undergoing a treatment program expected to last over 30 days following an injury sustained in the third round of the Zain Premier League.

Al-Salmiya had signed Al-Najjar last July, and its squad also includes foreign professionals such as Tunisia's Imad Lawati, Brazil's Alex Lima, Libya's Al-Sanousi Al-Hadi,

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and Guinea's Sang Pierre.

Midani brings extensive experience, having previously played for Al-Nasr last season and Kuwait Club earlier in his career. He has also had stints with Al-Wahda, Iraq's Al-Minaa, UAE's Hatta, and Egypt's Pyramids and Al-Ittihad of Alexandria, in addition to representing Syria at all national team levels.

Meanwhile, Al-Nasr Club has signed Algerian defender Ahmed Kattaf to a contract that will run through the end of the current season, following the departure of Iraqi player Karrar Amer.

Karrar Amer announced his departure from Al-Nasr earlier last week due to circumstances beyond the club's control. Amer, who entered Kuwait on a visit visa, faced issues renewing his visa after returning to Iraq during the league's suspension, leading the club to seek a replacement.

The 25-year-old Kattaf previously played for Gazélec Olympique Ajaccio and Saint-Priest in France before joining ES Setif in January. He now joins Al-Nasr's roster alongside other international players: Bernardo Villar (Brazil), Zakaria El Wardi (Morocco), Carlos Ventura (Dominican Republic), and Onanuga Babatunde (Nigeria).

Kattaf began training with Al-Nasr two days ago and is available to participate in their upcoming match against league leaders Kuwait in the fourth round of the Zain Premier



Amer Midani



Ahmed Qataf

League on Saturday.

Al-Nasr coach Dhafer Al-Adwani is keen to strengthen his squad amid ongoing administrative challenges. The club's issues have prevented them from holding an external training camp before the season and led to the cancellation of a planned camp at the end of August.

Currently, Al-Nasr has secured only one victory in the Zain Premier League, alongside two defeats.

Best of the Rest

Axelsen reaches last 8: Denmark's Viktor Axelsen fought off tenacious challenge in the first set to beat Su Li Yang of Chinese Taipei in the second round of the Hong Kong Open badminton championships on Thursday.

Second-seeded Axelsen, playing his first tournament after retaining the Olympic champion in Paris, won 24-22, 21-6 to book a quarterfinal showdown against sixth seed Chou Tien Chen, also of Chinese Taipei.

"I did not train enough after the Olympic Games," Axelsen said. "So it is not easy to win two matches in a row. My goal is to find back my form." Defending champion Jonatan Christie of Indonesia defeated Rasmus Gemke of Denmark 21-12, 21-19, and will next play fifth seed Kodai Naraoka, who beat his Japanese compatriot Takuma Obayashi 19-21, 26-24, 21-11. (Xinhua)

Haidara finishes treatment: Leipzig midfielder Amadou Haidara cleared its concussion protocol and is back in training ahead of next week's Champions League games, the club said on Thursday.

Haidara was substituted after being struck in the head by opponent Victor Boniface's attempted overhead kick during Leipzig's 3-2 win over Bayer Leverkusen on Aug. 31. Coach Marco Rose indicated at the time that Haidara had seemed confused.

He missed two national-team games for Mali during treatment.

Haidara "has successfully passed the procedure and the tests related to his concussion," Leipzig said in a statement on X. "He has been training with the team again since the beginning of the week without any problems." (AP)

Boban says he's doesn't want UEFA presidency

GENEVA, Sept 12, (AP): Soccer great Zvonimir Boban says he does not want to succeed his former ally and boss Aleksander Čeferin as president of UEFA.

The European soccer body needed "a real football man," he suggested on Thursday, in a barb at technocrats who he claimed think they are bigger than the game.

The former Croatia and AC Milan player resigned as UEFA chief of football in January in protest at Čeferin moving to change legal statutes that would let him stay longer in the president's office.

Čeferin later called Boban a clown and his supporters suggested the dramatic exit was positioning to one day challenge for the presidency - a claim denied in an interview with Italian

daily Gazzetta dello Sport published on Thursday.

"I don't have any interest. But a real football man in UEFA is really needed," said Boban, who previously had a senior role at FIFA under its president Gianni Infantino. He left in 2019 to work for Milan.

"In that sense, I say it with bitterness, having fought for changes at UEFA, like FIFA before that, I was of no use for anything," Boban said.

UEFA declined to comment on Thursday.

Čeferin and Infantino are both lawyers first elected in 2016 in fallout from turmoil at UEFA and FIFA during American and Swiss federal investigations of international soccer officials. Infantino was previously UEFA general secretary for more than six years.

"Unfortunately for years the soccer technocracy has been all the rage inside the system, depriving it of its values, which instead it should always represent and defend," Boban told Gazzetta.

"These people think they're more important than the game, than the players, than the coaches, than the fans and even the actual soccer institutions," he said.

Boban joined UEFA in 2021 to be a senior advisor to Čeferin, who called his former advisor a clown in February at the UEFA Congress.

"I'm sorry about the way our relationship ended," Boban said on Thursday, adding they had not spoken since.

Boban resigned in January citing his "total disapproval" of the legal move that would let Čeferin stay in office for 15

years through 2031.

UEFA has a 12-year term limit for its president among anti-corruption reforms passed in response to the criminal investigations that rocked international soccer bodies.

However, Čeferin steered through an amendment approved by UEFA member federations in February that would not count his first three years - technically completing the mandate of predecessor Michel Platini, who was removed from office - against his 12-year limit.

Within hours, Čeferin then pledged he will leave office in 2027 and not seek a final four-year mandate.

Some of UEFA's 55 member federations have since said they support their Slovenian leader staying on.

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Executive Management awards Faisal Sorour and Faisal Al-Rajhi with KD 30,000

NBK honors Kuwait's champions in the 2024 Paralympic Games

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK's) executive management honored Kuwait's medalists in the 2024 Summer Paralympic Games, which recently concluded in Paris, in recognition of their spectacular achievements that adds to the track record of Kuwait's sports achievements.

The paralympic champions Faisal Sorour and Faisal Al-Rajhi were welcomed by Mr. Isam Al-Sager, the Vice Chairman and Group CEO of National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), who congratulated Faisal Sorour on winning the gold medal in the men's shot put contest and Faisal Al-Rajhi on winning the bronze medal in the men's 5000m wheelchair race, praising the achievement of the two champions.

On this occasion, NBK awarded the two champions KD 30,000: KD 20,000 to the gold medalist Faisal Sorour and KD 10,000 to the bronze medalist Faisal Al-Rajhi.

For their part, Sorour and Al-Rajhi expressed their deep appreciation for



Isam Al-Sager honoring Faisal Sorour.

NBK's initiative in supporting and honoring Kuwaiti athletes, stressing that this support encourages them to go the extra mile to continue achieving achievements and raising the Kuwaiti flag high in the upcoming

international sports forums.

This event reflects NBK's pride in national champions and their outstanding achievements in the most prestigious global sports events. NBK is committed to supporting all



Isam Al-Sager honoring Faisal Al-Rajhi.

national athletes who strive to raise the Kuwaiti flag in international sports events that attract worldwide attention.

NBK stressed that these achievements of champions Sorour and Al-

Rajhi demonstrate Kuwaiti athletes' ability to achieve spectacular results. The bank also applauded the efforts of the athletes who participated in the 2004 Paris Olympics and Paralympic games and other interna-

tional championships, wishing them continued success in the future.

NBK also appreciates the achievements of Kuwait's champions, especially para-athletes, as great role models who motivate and inspire others through their perseverance and determination to realize their dreams and add achievements to Kuwait's track record in sports.

NBK is a key supporter of all national athletes as part of fostering sporting activities. The bank is committed to encourage and promote sports and athletes who successfully advance to a higher level of competitions and proudly step on the podium raising the Kuwaiti flag.

NBK maintains its leading role among private sector institutions in supporting national talent across various fields, including sport, by recognizing their achievements and highlighting their successes on the international arena, in addition to providing them with all necessary support to achieve their goals.

Kuwaiti athletes arrive in Taif for 10th Arab Championship

TAIF, Saudi Arabia, Sept 12: The Kuwaiti junior athletics team arrived in Taif, Saudi Arabia, recently to take part in the 10th Arab Junior Championship.

Saad Khalifa, a member of the Kuwait Athletics Federation Board of Directors, expressed optimism to KUNA about the team's chances, stating that they are prepared to deliver strong performances and secure medals and top positions in the tournament.

ATHLETICS

Khalifa highlighted the intensive training camp the junior team completed in Turkey as part of its preparation for the championship, emphasizing the athletes' high level of physical and technical readiness.

The championship runs until September 15. A total of 18 teams, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the UAE, Egypt, and others, are represented by 241 athletes, competing across 20 events.

La Liga returns

Injuries a factor for Real Madrid

MADRID, Sept 12. (Xinhua): La Liga returns after the international break with a game where injuries are likely to play a key role, as Real Sociedad entertains Real Madrid on Saturday night.

Real Madrid is without Eder Militao, Eduardo Camavinga, Dani Ceballos, Aurelian Tchouameni and David Alaba with various injuries, while Jude Bellingham is a doubt due to a muscle problem he picked up before the break.

The absences leave Carlo Ancelotti with a jigsaw puzzle to complete in defense and midfield and Dani Carvajal or Jesus Vallejo could start alongside Antonio Rudiger in the heart of its defense.

Real Sociedad has lost its two home matches this campaign and is also struggling with a long list of absentees that includes Mikel Oyarzabal, with a badly twisted ankle, Hamari Traore, who is out for the season, and creative midfielder Brais Mendez, along with Ariz Elustondo and Alvaro Odriozola, leaving coach Imanol Alguacil without a fit right back in his first team squad.

SOCCER

The round of matches starts on Friday when Betis takes on recently promoted Leganes, who could give a debut to star signing Sebastian Haller, who they hope will give some spark to their attack.

Villarreal impressed in the opening games of the season, but it is still hard to understand why it allowed Arnaud Danjuma to join Girona after he began the season with two goals in three games. Villarreal coach Marcelino will hope not to miss the Dutch forward when his side make the short trip to Mallorca on Saturday lunchtime.

Consecutive wins have lifted Alaves well up the table and confidence will be high when Luis Garcia's team visits Espanyol, although its Barcelona-based rival got its season up and running with a late winner at home to Rayo Vallecano before the break.

Sevilla and Getafe go head-to-head on Saturday, with both sides looking for their first win of the season, with Sevilla without the injured Loric Bade due to a muscle problem.

Sunday kicks off with Celta at home to Valladolid. The visitor has had two weeks to recover from its 7-0 humiliation in Barcelona a fortnight ago, but will have to plug the gaps against a rival that bases its football on all-out attack.

The big game on Sunday is the Catalan derby between Girona and FC Barcelona. Girona beat Barcelona twice last season and after a lot of changes over the summer, it began to run into form ahead of the break. It has also added Danjuma to its attack.

Barca is the only team in La Liga with a 100 percent record, but with the same injury problems, it remains to be seen how fresh players such as Raphinha and Robert Lewandowski are after their respective international efforts.

Athletic Club Bilbao is at full strength as it prepares to visit a Las Palmas side that has gone 18 games without a win, before Sunday ends with Atletico Madrid at home to Valencia.

Atletico was very lucky to win in Bilbao before the break, but will fancy its chances against a rival that has only one point from four games and who are without the injured Hugo Duro. Rafa Mir's arrest for alleged sexual assault has kept Valencia in the headlines for the wrong reasons during the break and the big forward will take no part in Sunday's match.



The Kuwait athletics delegation.

Head provides fireworks as Australia outclasses England

Poms suffer 28-run loss

SOUTHAMPTON, England, Sept 12, (AP): A new era for England's white-ball teams got off to a shaky start with a 28-run loss to Australia in the first of three T20 matches between the fierce cricket rivals.

Australia was put into bat and dismissed for 179 with three balls remaining - an under-par score at the Utilita Bowl in Southampton given the team smashed 86 off the powerplay and was 118-2 after 10 overs. Travis Head hit a 19-ball fifty in his knock of 59, which included eight fours and four sixes, to get the Australians off to a rapid start.

England, with a batting lineup missing injured captain Jos Buttler and including uncapped Jordan Cox and Jacob Bethell, stumbled to 52-4. After Liam Livingstone (37) and Sam Curran (18) threatened a fight-back with a 54-run partnership for the fifth wicket, England lost three wickets in 10 balls to plunge to 113-7 and was eventually all out for 151 with four balls left.

CRICKET

The other matches in the T20 series are in Cardiff on Friday and Manchester on Sunday. Then comes a five-match ODI series between the teams, where Buttler - England's white-ball talisman - may return from his right calf injury that will cause him to miss the T20s.

With the 30-year-old Jamie Overton also selected for the first time, England's lineup included three un-



Australia's Matt Short attends the first T20 match between England and Australia at the Utilita Bowl, Southampton, England. (AP)

Kuwait Club, Qadsia, and Salmiya return from training camps ahead of Clubs Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The delegations from Kuwait Club, Qadsia, and Salmiya clubs have returned following their external training camps in preparation for the 39th Arab Clubs Championship for League and Cup Champions. The tournament will be held from September 15-26, hosted at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall in Kuwait.

HANDBALL

Kuwait Club completed its camp in Croatia, where they played several friendly matches. Sameh Al-Hajri, Director of Handball at Kuwait Club, reported that the camp was highly beneficial and that the team is well-prepared to defend their title from the previous edition. He expressed confidence that the team will represent Kuwait handball and Kuwait Club effectively in the upcoming championship.

Meanwhile, Qadsia and Salmiya concluded their training camps in Doha, Qatar, also engaging in a series of friendly matches.

The draw for the Arab Clubs Championship placed Kuwait Club, the defending champion and host, in

capped players as well as a stand-in captain in Phil Salt. The English are looking to the future after under-



Players hold training session.

Group A alongside Al-Ahli (Qatar), Al-Karkh (Iraq), Al-Qoton (Yemen), and Salmiya. Group B features Qadsia, Al-Ahli Bank (Egypt), Al-Gharafa (Qatar), Maliha (UAE), and Al-Hashd (Iraq).

The tournament's opening round will feature four matches: Al-Hashd vs. Al-Ahli Bank, Salmiya vs. Al-

Ahli, Qadsia vs. Al-Gharafa, and Kuwait Club vs. Al-Qoton.

Before the draw, Algerian clubs Mouloudia Bordj Bou Arreridj and Olympique El Oued, as well as Al-Huda (Saudi Arabia) and Al-Sha'la (Yemen), announced their withdrawal from the tournament. Mudhar (Saudi Arabia) also recently withdrew.

whelming defenses of their 50-over and T20 World Cup titles over the past year, so have overhauled the team and gotten rid of senior players such as Jonny Bairstow, Moeen Ali and Dawid Malan - the latter two having since retired from international cricket.

Australia's more-established team had too much for the hosts, with the 86-run opening partnership between Matthew Short (41 off 26 balls) and Head building an excellent platform.

Head crashed 30 runs off the first over bowled by Curran, who quickly disappeared from England attack.

"I'd love to go out and whack it every time," said Head, who was Australia's star in its victory in last year's 50-over World Cup final. "I know that's not going to be the case every time, but I'm in a nice bit of form at the moment and I want to continue that. I'm taking my chances."

It took the arrival of spinners Adil

Rashid and Livingstone to slow the run-rate, and Australia started to quickly lose wickets - with the last eight departing for 61.

In the chase, the 23-year-old Cox was out for an unconvincing 17 off 12 balls and the 20-year-old Bethell managed only 2. Overton was also in the top seven of an inexperienced and fragile batting lineup, and made 15.

Australia's fielding was brilliant, with Tim David's catch - on the dive after turning round and running into the leg side - to remove Cox particularly standing out.

"Heady came out swinging in the powerplay and gave them a head start but we dragged it back quite nicely in the middle," Salt said.

"He can do that," he added about Head. "He's done that all over the place for a couple of years now ... every ball is an event in its own right."

Best of the Rest

Everton holds 'positive' talks:

Everton has engaged in "positive conversations" with John Textor in relation to the American businessman's potential purchase of the club, the English team said on Thursday.

Textor, a 58-year-old digital media and entertainment entrepreneur, said last month he wanted to sell his stake in Crystal Palace - one of the many teams under his ownership - so that he can purchase Premier League rival Everton.

"While positive conversations and progress continues to be made with Mr. Textor to formalize any deal with him, there remains some work to be done to complete the transaction," Everton said in a statement.

Everton was moved to comment on the talks after Textor gave an interview with Sky Sports News in Britain on Wednesday, saying he is confident everything could be completed before his exclusivity agreement with the club expires on Nov. 30. (AP)

Fortaleza stumbles:

Fortaleza missed the chance to move to the top of Brazil's Serie A standings on Wednesday, stumbling to a 2-1 defeat at Internacional.

Alan Patrick gave the hosts the lead with a 21st-minute strike but Cristian Chagas equalized on the stroke of halftime.

Gustavo Prado restored Internacional's advantage with a powerful left-footed drive seven minutes from time.

The visitors' chances of victory all but evaporated two minutes later when Emanuel Brites was sent off for a second yellow card following a rash challenge.

The result leaves Fortaleza second in the 20-team standings with 48 points from 25 games, two points behind leaders Botafogo. Internacional are eighth, 13 points further back. (Xinhua)

Bentancur charged by FA:

Uruguay midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur was charged with misconduct by the English Football Association on Thursday, three months after making an offensive comment about South Koreans in relation to a remark about Tottenham teammate Son Heung-min.

Appearing on a Uruguayan television show in June, Bentancur was asked for a Tottenham player's jersey and replied, "Sonny's?" He added it could be Son's cousin, too, because "more or less they are all the same."

Bentancur apologised to Son on Instagram, saying it was a "very bad joke" and he would "never disrespect you or hurt you."

The FA said it is alleged Bentancur has "acted in an improper manner and/or used abusive and/or insulting words and/or brought the game into disrepute." The FA said it constituted an aggravated breach because it included "reference to nationality and/or race and/or ethnic origin." (AP)



Colombia's Karla Torres, left, and South Korea's Bae Ye-bin fight for the ball during a U-20 Women's World Cup round of sixteen soccer match in Cali, Colombia. (AP)

Sports

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PSG says pleased with two-hour hearing

Mbappé rejects mediation offer in \$60 mln financial dispute with PSG

PARIS, Sept 12, (AP) — Kylian Mbappé is not ready to compromise with Paris Saint-Germain.

The France superstar rejected a mediation offer by the French soccer league's legal commission on Wednesday in his dispute with his former club over wages and bonuses.

PSG officials and Mbappé's representatives met in Paris after Mbappé asked the commission to get involved. Mbappé, who joined Real Madrid this summer on a free transfer, says PSG owes him 55 million euros (\$60 million).

In a statement to The Associated Press, Mbappé's representatives said the player asked the commission to take note of the non-payment of three months' salary and the last third of a loyalty bonus.

SOCCER

"The eventuality of a mediation was mentioned this morning," the statement read. "This possibility was rejected during the meeting by the player's representative. A mediation would be useless to record a lack of payment that would be seen from a simple analysis of the player's payslip."

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.

"To avoid its payment obligation, the club seeks to demonstrate the existence of a secret agreement that would justify it. But the club fails to

demonstrate the existence of such an agreement," Mbappé's representatives said.

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 did not respond to a request for comments from the AP.

The player's representatives did not say what action they will now take. In light of the current deadlock, it's likely the case will ultimately be settled by an employment court.

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 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, Mbappé 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.

Al-Mutairi congratulates Kuwaiti junior team on WC qualification



The Kuwaiti players celebrate with officials after beating Japan to qualify for the Junior World Cup.

Minister attributes achievement to ongoing support from political leadership

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: Kuwait junior handball team has secured a spot in the 2025 Junior World Cup in Egypt, demonstrating its merit and capability. The team achieved this milestone by defeating Japan 27-23 in their final group stage match of the 10th Asian Championship in Amman.

With this victory, the Kuwaiti team topped its group and advanced to the semi-finals of the Asian Championship, alongside Japan, who also qualified for the World Cup. Saudi Arabia and South Korea advanced from the other group, while Bahrain will face Iran for the fifth-place spot and the final World Cup qualification slot.

Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, congratulated the junior handball team on its World Cup qualification. In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), he praised the players' exceptional performance and expressed hope for continued success in the tournament. He attributed the achievement to the ongoing support from the political leadership and the dedicated efforts of the Kuwait Handball Federation and the team's technical and administrative staff.

Fouad Al-Balushi, President of the Handball Federation, commended the team's accomplishment, stating that it has revitalized the sports community. He acknowledged the significant effort from players, staff, and the Federation's management, as well as the support from the players' families. Vice President of the Kuwait



Secretary of Kuwait Handball Federation, Gayed Al-Adwani

Handball Federation, Shabib Al-Hajri, also expressed his congratulations, noting the impressive level of play throughout the qualifiers. He highlighted the Federation's success in creating a positive environment for the team, which contributed to their achievement.

Secretary of the Handball Federation, Gayed Al-Adwani, dedicated the success to the political leadership, Minister Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Acting Chairman of the Sports Authority Bashar Abdullah, and everyone who supported the team. He emphasized that the qualification reflects Kuwaiti handball's ongoing success and resilience on both regional and international stages.

Al-Adwani concluded by thanking Minister Al-Mutairi and Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, Bashar Abdullah, for their unwavering support and efforts in overcoming challenges faced by Kuwaiti handball teams.

HANDBALL

Kazma seeks redemption as Qadsiya squares off against Al-Salmiya

Kuwait Club looks to extend winning streak

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 12: The Zain Premier League resumes today after a 21-day break due to Kuwait's national team commitments in the 2026 World Cup Asian qualifiers. The fourth round kicks off with a match between Khaitan and Yarmouk at Nasser Al-Osaimi Stadium, starting at 7:45 pm.

Two more matches will take place on Saturday. The first will see Kuwait Club face Al-Nasr at Al-Sadaka and Al-Salam Stadium at 6:20 pm, followed by a clash between Al-Tadamon and Kazma at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium at 8:35 pm.

The round concludes on Sunday with two final fixtures: Al-Fahaheel hosting Al-Arabi, and Al-Qadsiya squaring off against Al-Salmiya in the highlight match of the round.

Currently, Kuwait Club tops the league standings with 9 points, edging out Al-Arabi on goal difference. Al-Salmiya and Al-Fahaheel are tied for third with 6 points each, while Al-Qadsiya, Kazma, Al-Nasr, and Khaitan share 3 points each. Al-Tadamon and Yarmouk are at the bottom with just 1 point each.

In today's match, Khaitan (3 points) is aiming for a second win, having beaten Al-Nasr 2-0 in the second round, despite suffering heavy losses to Al-Fahaheel (4-1) and Kuwait Club (5-0). Yarmouk

(1 point) is still chasing its first win after defeats to Al-Qadsiya (1-0) and Al-Fahaheel (4-2), with a single draw against Al-Tadamon (4-4).

SOCCER

Meanwhile, Kuwait Club will be aiming for its fourth consecutive win, having already beaten Al-Qadsiya (1-0), Al-Fahaheel (3-0), and Khaitan (5-0) without conceding a goal. A win would further boost the team's morale ahead of its AFC Champions League Group 2 opener against Uzbekistan's Nasaf next Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Al-Nasr (3 points) has

intensified training in preparation for the match, hoping to secure a second win after defeating Kazma 1-0 in the previous round, despite earlier losses to Al-Salmiya (3-1) and Khaitan (2-0).

In the second match, Kazma will be seeking its second win of the season, having defeated Al-Salmiya 4-3, but lost to Al-Arabi (2-0) and Al-Nasr (1-0). Under new Tunisian coach Lassad Al-Shaabi, Kazma will also be bolstered by its recent signing of Angolan defender Jonas Ramalho, replacing Jordanian player Ahmed Ersan.

Al-Tadamon, on the other hand, is eager to capitalize on Kazma's form and secure its first win of the compe-

tion, following losses to Al-Arabi (3-2) and Al-Salmiya (2-1), and a draw with Yarmouk (4-4).

Germany sweeps Chile in Davis Cup

ZHUHAI, China, Sept 12, (AP): Germany remained unbeaten in the Davis Cup group stage finals after sweeping aside Chile 3-0 on Thursday.

On an indoor hard-court in Zhuhai, Maximilian Marterer beat Tomas Barrios Vera 6-1, 6-3, then Yannick Hanfmann defeated Alejandro Tabilo 7-5, 6-4 to clinch the tie. Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz, who have lost only one cup match, took apart Barrios Vera and Matias Soto 6-1, 6-3. In no match was Germany broken.

Germany, without No. 2-ranked Alexander Zverev, has never lost to Chile, which didn't use an ill Nicolas Jarry.

The Germans, after also beating Slovakia 3-0, lead Group C, followed by the United States, Slovakia and Chile. The next tie is U.S. vs. Slovakia on Friday.

Four groups of teams are playing in four cities this week to qualify for the eight-team Finals in Malaga, Spain, in November. The top two countries in each four-team group advance.



Fans show a banner with photo of Arsenal's manager Mikel Arteta, reading in Spanish 'Let's go' during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Brighton, at Emirates Stadium in London. (AP)

'I feel very inspired'

Arteta signs new 3-yr contract

LONDON, Sept 12, (AP) — Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta signed a new contract to 2027 on Thursday.

"I feel very inspired, I feel challenged, I feel supported and I want to do much more than what we've already done together," Arteta said.

The 42-year-old Spanish coach has been at Arsenal since December 2019 and transformed the team into Manchester City's main English Premier League title rival by finishing runner-up in the last two seasons.

His previous deal was due to expire at the end of this season and speculation mentioned him as a potential successor to Pep Guardiola at City.

"We are really happy that Mikel has signed a new long-term contract. It's a very positive and proud moment for everyone at the club and an important part of what we're all working towards," Arsenal sporting director Edu said. "Mikel has shown his qualities since the very first day he joined us, not only as a football manager, but as a person with wonderful values. We have a strong belief in what we are doing and what we

want to achieve together. Mikel's new contract gives us stability and clear direction as we aim for new heights."

Arteta was Guardiola's assistant at City before succeeding Unai Emery at Arsenal and going on to win the FA Cup in his first season in charge.

SOCCER

Two seasons ago, Arsenal spent 248 days at the top of the league but was beaten to the title by City. No other team had spent so long in first place without being crowned league champion.

Last season, Arsenal pushed City even closer when taking the title race down to the last day, and eventually finished two points behind Guardiola's team.

"Mikel is a dynamic and passionate manager, who is relentless in the pursuit of excellence," said Arsenal co-chair Josh Kroenke. "He has a deep understanding of Arsenal's values, and since joining us as head coach in December 2019, he has taken the team to another level in an Arsenal way."