



soccer
Pages 14-16



Opinion

King Abdulaziz: I mean what I say

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

KING Abdulaziz bin Saud firmly believed in the Arabian Peninsula's potential to become a powerful force in the Arab world and a prominent player on the international stage when he embarked on the project of unification.

Upon completing the unification process in 1932, he recognized the sacrifices of his fellow countrymen, famously declaring, "I will make you a great people, and you will enjoy a luxury far greater than that known to your ancestors."

He dedicated himself to accomplishing this vision, and subsequent events proved his motivations to be sound.

The leaders of Saudi Arabia followed the path set by the founding king, starting with his saying, "My family and I are soldiers of Allah, striving for the good of Muslims."

To emphasize his commitment, he said, "I am not one to speak without thought; I am a man of action, and I mean what I say."

Along the way, he articulated the third principle that he deemed necessary for his people, "We welcome anyone who finds fault or criticism in us and points it out to us. Our response will be, 'Blessed are those who point out my faults to me'." This is because I want my relationship with my people to remain close at all times, as this is likely to satisfy their desires."

This great country has remained true to the strategic path laid out by its founder, without stopping at the edges of the past or dwelling on past glories but actively pursuing modernization, with each stage bringing both positives and challenges.

As the saying goes in politics, every century, Allah sends someone to rejuvenate, develop, and enhance a nation's capabilities, grounded in a solid legacy. This relies on the people's confidence that all actions taken are for the greater stability and well-being of the nation.

In the realm of state administration, this leader is referred to as the man of the second renaissance and the new founder. He ensures that the country continues to grow in strength, even as it may face periods of decline. During these times, a leader emerges to renew its vigor, invigorating the youth to restore institutions, address gaps, and tackle weaknesses.

This applies to all nations, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has rejuvenated its spirit over the past nine years under the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz. He has faith in his people's ability to achieve accomplishments swiftly but without haste.

When we examine this experience, we see Saudi Arabia following the path laid out by its founding king, driven by a modern renaissance inspired by that vision. King Salman bin Abdulaziz expressed this commitment when he said, "One of Allah's blessings on this country and its people is that wealth exists to serve it."

Continued on Page 5

Email: ahmed@aljarallah.com

Follow me on:



ahmedaljarallah@gmail.com

Kuwait backs joint global bid to combat corruption

BEIJING, Sept 24, (KUNA): Kuwait has expressed its support for the global vision of zero tolerance for corruption, stressing the importance of cross-border cooperation to combat it.

This came during a speech delivered, Tuesday, by Vice President of Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) Counselor Nawaf Al-Muhammad, during his participation in the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (Globe Network), extending from September 24 to 27 in Beijing.

In a statement acquired by KUNA, Al-Muhammad affirmed Kuwait's commitment to boosting the international cooperation in the field of fighting corruption, noting that Kuwait believes in the importance of increasing international efforts and joint work between countries.

Al-Muhammad pledged that the authority would work hard to fulfill its international obligations, including the commitment to implement the UN Convention against Corruption, and close cooperation with regional and international organizations, especially the GlobE Network.

He expressed Kuwait's interest in joining the membership of the Steering Committee, whose elections will be held at this meeting to select new members, starting from the president and his deputy to the international observers, in view of its prominent role in the work of this network since its founding.

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

IT IS often said that swift justice is crucial for maintaining stability. This means that once a punishment is deemed fair, it should be carried out as quickly as possible.

Delaying the implementation of justice diminishes the opportunity for offenders and society to learn from the consequences.

Many individuals commit crimes despite knowing the penalties because they are well aware that it will take a long time for the punishment to be enforced.

The delay emboldens them. As the old saying goes, "Time is like a sword; if you don't cut with it, it will cut you".

Procrastination weakens the impact of justice, and waiting for tomorrow may lead to missed opportunities for correction.

... Yet tomorrow is another day

Zahed Matar



Left: Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets King Abdullah II of Jordan. Right: HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets the United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry.



Crown Prince Diwan photos

Amir's Rep meets Jordan King, US climate official

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met in New York with King Abdullah II of Jordan.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly at the King Abdullah's residence in New York.

During the meeting, His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait to King Abdullah, and discussed the bilateral relations, and ways to further strengthen cooperation for the benefit of both countries, and also exchanged views on key regional and international developments.

Continued on Page 5

Kuwait strongly condemns Israeli attacks on Lebanon

Death toll climbs to 558 as 1,835 suffer injuries



The Chief of General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army visits the General Administration of the Coast Guard at Sabah Al-Ahmad Naval Base.

Army chief visits Naval Base, focuses on joint military efforts

Mol vows protection from cyber extortion

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Director General of the Public Relations and Security Media General Department at the Ministry of Interior Brigadier Nasser Abu Salib has affirmed the ministry's dedication in raising awareness about cyber extortion, as well as safeguarding citizens and expatriates from becoming victims of such fraudulent activities, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This is the main goal of the ministry's awareness campaign for academic year 2024/2025.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Abu Salib highlighted the fact that primary and intermediate students are vulnerable, as they are often targeted by individuals with malicious intentions.

Continued on Page 5

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24, (KUNA): Kuwait Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain on Tuesday visited the Coast Guard General Directorate at Sabah Al-Ahmad Naval Base, as part of the coordination between military sectors that includes the exchange of field visits aimed at developing joint security and military work.

In a press statement issued by the Office of the Kuwait Army Chief of Staff after the visit, Al-Muzain expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Coast Guard General Directorate officers; particularly their readiness to carry out various tasks and duties assigned to them to maintain the security and safety of the dear homeland. He wished them continued success in their work.

Continued on Page 5

Biometrics at shopping malls to end on Oct 1st

By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Six days prior to the September 30 deadline for citizens to undergo biometric registration, Lieutenant Colonel Hamad Jassim Al-Shammari from the Personal Identification Department at the General Department of Criminal Evidence highlighted a strong turnout from both citizens and residents.

He explained that approximately 870,000 citizens have already completed the biometric process, with around 110,000 currently undergoing the process. The total number of residents targeted for biometric registration is approximately 2.6 million, of which 790,000 have not yet undergone the process.

Al-Shammari told Al-Akhbar Channel that the biometric centers are equipped to accommodate individuals with special needs and bedridden patients, adding that they can book appointments in advance using the number provided by the Ministry of Interior.

Continued on Page 5

KUDLO, Philippine officials address domestic worker recruitment delays

By Fares Al-Abdan
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Director General and Advisor to the Union of Domestic Workers Recruitment Office Owners Abdulaziz Al-Ali revealed that he and a delegation from Kuwait Union of Domestic Labor Offices (KUDLO), headed by its chairman -- Khalid Al-Dakhdhan, visited the Office of Labor Attaché at the Philippine Embassy Manuel Dimaano on Sunday.

During the visit, they discussed and reviewed the latest developments regarding the approval of the clearance for Kuwaiti recruitment offices and the issuance of a job order in preparation for the start of the recruitment of Filipino domestic workers for offices that have yet to receive a job order.

In a press statement, Al-Ali confirmed that Dimaano fully understands the demand of the owners of recruitment offices to expedite the job order issuance.

Meanwhile, Dimaano revealed that Philippine Secretary of Migrant Workers Hans Leo Cacadac issued the guidelines and instructions to the Office of the Labor Attaché and the concerned departments.

He explained that the goal of following and implementing these guidelines and instructions is to ensure consistency and integration between the Office of the Labor Attaché and the Department of Migrant Workers regarding the complaints that the embassy received from the domestic workers or their families in the Philippines.

He added the delegation noted that the Office of the Labor Attaché has instructed all embassy employees to receive the comments and complaints regarding the hindrances to obtaining a job order.

Continued on Page 5



Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya at the meeting.

Palestine tops League Council talks

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya participated in the annual coordination meeting of the Arab League ministerial council countries' foreign ministers, which took place Monday on the sidelines of the high-level week of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City.

Al-Yahya headed the Kuwaiti delegation and various issues on the agenda were discussed, including the current UN General Assembly session work.

Continued on Page 5

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24, (Agencies): The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday expressed robust condemnation of the air raids and military operations carried out by the Israeli occupation forces against the brotherly Republic of Lebanon.

This offensive, that inflicted hundreds of deaths and injury cases, is a flagrant breach of international law and international humanitarian law and a dangerous threat to the region's security and stability.

It warned anew of the repercussions of the mounting escalation that may eventually expand and lead to dangers affecting states of the region.

It also warned of the consequences of the ongoing Israeli aggression on the brotherly Palestinian people in Gaza, the Israeli occupation's negligence of international appeals and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, thus a serious and firm stand must be taken vis a vis the crimes perpetrated against the innocent civilians.

The ministry re-affirmed solidarity with Lebanon, rejecting any act against its sovereignty and stability.

Lebanese Health Minister Firas Abiad announced on Tuesday that the death toll of Israeli occupation forces' attacks on Lebanon have reached 558 people.

This came in a joint press conference on Tuesday with President of the Hospitals Association, Suleiman Haroun, where he announced that the death toll from Israeli airstrikes has reached "558, including 50 children and 94 women, in addition to 1,835 injured."

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

NEW DELHI: Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to India Meshal Alshemali reviewed bilateral relations and ways to cement them with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh on Tuesday.

In a statement to KUNA, Ambassador Alshemali said both sides hailed efforts made to strengthen bilateral cooperation in economic, trade and cultural fields. (KUNA)

DUBAI: A US Navy replenishment ship operating in the Middle East sustained damage in an incident which is under investigation, officials said Tuesday.

The damage to the USNS Big Horn comes after the oiler has supplied the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier strike group and remains in the region amid heightened tensions over the Israel-Hamas war and Israel's ongoing strikes targeting Hezbollah in Lebanon. (AP)

TEHRAN: Iran said Tuesday it believes the remaining workers trapped by an explosion at a coal mine in the country's east have died, bringing the death toll in one of its worst industrial disasters to at least 49.

A provincial emergency official, **Mohammad Ali Akhondi**, gave the death toll in a report carried by Iranian state television from the mine in Tabas. (AP)

Prayer Timings

Fajr 04:18 Asr 15:06
 Sunrise .. 05:37 Maghrib .. 17:43
 Zohr 11:40 Isha 19:00

Local

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

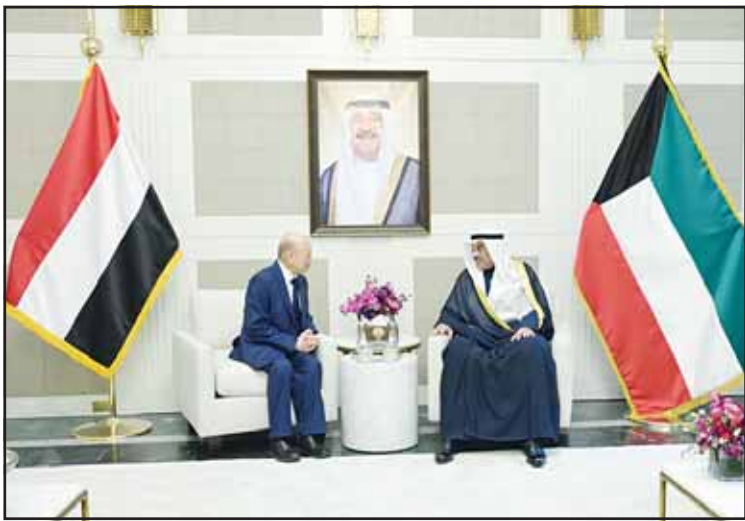
Weather

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with moderate to fresh northwesterly wind, with speeds of 20-55 km/h causing rising dust.
By Night: Rather hot and dust will subside gradually with light

to moderate freshening at times over coastal areas northwesterly wind, with speeds of 15-50 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	43	29
Kuwait Airport	45	27
Abdaly	44	27

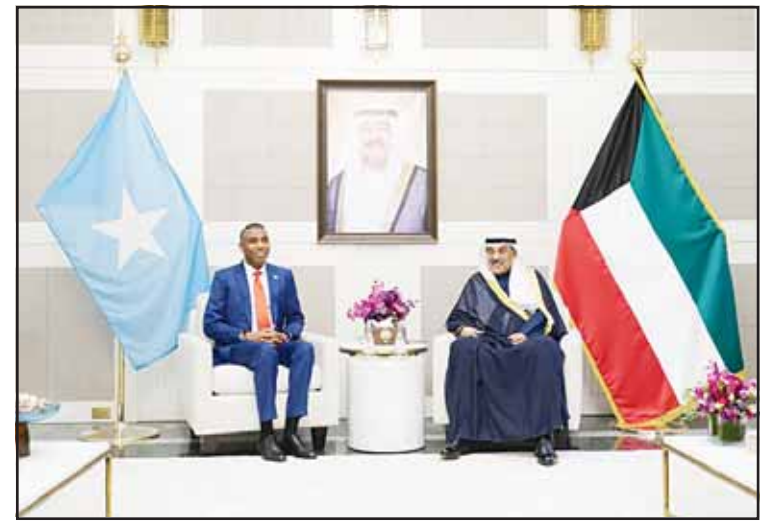
Bubyan	42	24
Jahra	46	31
Failaka Island	42	25
Salmiyah	41	32
Ahmadi	43	26
Jal Aliyah	46	28
Nuwaisib	45	28



Chairman of Presidential Council in Yemen Al-Alimi.



Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.



Crown Prince Diwan photos
Somalian Prime Minister Hamza Barre.

Talks focus on bolstering bilateral relations

HH Amir's Representative receives foreign leaders in New York

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (KUNA): Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received the chairman of the Presidential Council in Yemen Rashed Al-Alimi on sidelines of Summit of the Future at UN Headquarters in New York.

His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed greetings from His Highness the Amir to the president of Yemen.

During the meeting, multiple topics of mutual interest were discussed as both leaders reviewed ways to bolster bilateral relations regionally as well as internationally between the State of Kuwait and Yemen.

Somalia

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received Somalian Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

During the meeting, both discussed multiple topics of mutual interest as well as reviewed ways to bolster bilateral relations regionally and internationally between the State of Kuwait and Somalia.

Maldives

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received, Maldives President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu on sidelines of Summit of the Future at UN Headquarters in New York.

His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir to the president of Maldives.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed ways to bolster bilateral relations that serves mutual interest regionally as well as internationally.

Turkiye

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled met with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Türkiye.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly at the headquarters of Türkiye's permanent delegation to the UN in New York.

During the meeting, HH the Crown Prince conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir to President Erdogan.

The two leaders discussed the bilateral relations, and ways to further strengthen cooperation for the benefit of both countries, and also exchanged views on key regional and international developments.

Italy

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled met on Tuesday with the Prime Minister of Italy, Giorgia Meloni.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly and took place at the residence of the Italian delegation's mission in New York.

The two leaders discussed the key regional and international developments, and bilateral relations and ways to enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interests that serve the benefits of both countries.

Mauritania

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received, on Tuesday, Mauritanian president and the chairperson of the African Union (AU) Mohammad Ould Ghazouani on sidelines of Summit of the Future at UN Headquarters in New York.

His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir to the president of Mauritania.

During the meeting, both leaders discussed ways to bolster bilateral relations regionally as well as internationally between

the State of Kuwait and Mauritania.

Google official

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received Ruth Porat, President and Chief Investment Officer of Alphabet and its subsidiary Google, LLC.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly at Kuwait's permanent mission headquarters in New York.

During the meeting, HH the Crown Prince conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir and expressed desire to increase the presence of global companies in the country and benefit from their expertise.

The discussion covered several economic and investment topics, including the follow-up on the framework agreement signed with Kuwait and the planned development of data centers.

The two sides also exchanged views on the latest global developments and explored opportunities to strengthen cooperation.

The Crown Prince emphasized Kuwait's commitment to developing and enhancing the skills of Kuwaiti youth by technological expertise.

World Bank president

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received in New York on Tuesday President of the World Bank Ajay Banga.

During the reception at the Kuwaiti mission's headquarters in the UN, New York, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled conveyed greetings from His Highness the Amir to the WB president.

The meeting discussed various economic and investment issues and it also exchanged views on how to expand cooperation between the two sides.

His Highness the Amir Representative and Crown Prince affirmed the importance of bolstering cooperation between Kuwait and the World Bank especially in the fields of developing consultancy services and programs to train Kuwaitis at the global institution to hone national cadres' skills and expertise.

Attending the meeting were Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, under-secretary for foreign relations at the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince Mazen Al-Issa, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Washington Sheikhha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Kuwaiti Permanent Representative at the UN Ambassador Tareq Al-Banai, and Executive Director at the World Bank Group (WBG) Abdulaziz Al-Mulla.

Poland

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince received Polish President Andrzej Duda on Tuesday.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, currently being held in New York, as His Highness conveyed greeting of His Highness the Amir to President Duda.

During the meeting, multiple topics of mutual interest, as well as ways to bolster bilateral relations, in addition to latest regional and international developments were discussed.

Vietnam

Representative of His Highness the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled received Vietnamese President To Lam on Tuesday.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, currently held in New York, as His Highness conveyed greeting of His Highness the Amir to President Lam.

During the meeting, multiple topics of mutual interest, as well as ways to bolster bilateral relations, in addition to latest regional and international developments were discussed.

Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia marks 94th National Day

Riyadh, Kuwait share unique relationship: envoy

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia celebrated the 94th National Day of Saudi Arabia at the Sheikh Jaber Cultural Center the day before yesterday in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, several ministers, senior state officials, and heads of diplomatic missions.

The event featured various cultural activities, including a performance by a traditional band of the Saudi dance known as Ardah, which highlights Saudi Arabia's rich folklore and distinctive cultural heritage.

The event began with the Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Sultan bin Saad welcoming the attendees, including His Highness the Prime Minister, and thanking them for accepting the invitation and joining the Saudi people in celebrating the National Day of Saudi Arabia and the announcement of its establishment and unification.

He said, "I find it difficult to describe my feelings or speak from the land of Kuwait about the unique relationship between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. However, I can summarize it in a simple sentence that will remain for future generations to tell the story of Saudi Arabia's struggle - It is enough to say that its founder embarked on his journey from Kuwait."

In a press statement issued on the sidelines of the ceremony, the ambassador extended his heartfelt congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, His Highness the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and the honorable Saudi people on this great occasion, the significance of which is beyond words and has been felt since the time of the founder King Abdulaziz Al Saud.

He said, "The beautiful paradox is that we celebrate here in Kuwait, as Saudi Arabia that you see today was founded by Kuwait, giving it a special place in the hearts of all Saudis."

Gratitude

The ambassador expressed gratitude to Kuwait for celebrating with Saudi Arabia and its people on this joyous occasion.

Meanwhile, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Tajikistan Dr. Zubaydullah Zubaydov extended his warmest congratulations to Ambassador Sultan bin Saad on the occasion of the 94th anniversary of the founding of Saudi Arabia.

In a press statement, Ambassador Zubaydov said Saudi Arabia's celebration is a holiday for all Muslims.

He affirmed the important role that Saudi Arabia plays in the Islamic world and the region.

Ambassador Zubaydov praised the level of development achieved under the wise leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the insightful vision of the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, wishing for continued progress and prosperity for Saudi Arabia and its people.

Furthermore, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bukhameen Holding Group Jawad Bukhameen extended his warmest congratulations to Saudi Arabia, its King, government, and people, wishing them continued progress and prosperity.

Bukhameen said, "As we celebrate the 94th anniversary of Saudi National Day, we proudly remember Saudi Arabia's unwavering support for Kuwait during the brutal Iraqi invasion and its hosting of the Kuwaiti leadership."

We also recall the words of the late King Fahad bin Abdulaziz - "Kuwait must return, otherwise Saudi Arabia will go with Kuwait", "If Kuwait's dignity is lost, Saudi Arabia's dignity will be lost", and "There is no Kuwait and Saudi Arabia; we are one nation, and we either live together or perish together."

Saudi Arabia's holidays are also Kuwait's holidays. Our relationship is solid and deep-rooted, as we are one people."

He praised King Abdulaziz's journey from Kuwait to unify the Arabian Peninsula, and highlighted the remarkable development Saudi Arabia has achieved at all levels.

Bukhameen stressed that Saudi Arabia's development is a benefit to Kuwait and all Gulf



Photo by Ihab Qurtal
Suleiman Al-Jarallah, the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah/Arab Times newspapers and CEO Sattam Al-Jarallah during the celebration to mark Saudi Arabia's National Day in Kuwait.

countries, adding, "We take pride in its advancements, as it ranks among the 20 most economically advanced nations".

He concluded by highlighting the insightful vision of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and his efforts to drive Saudi Arabia's economic and social progress, as well as its pivotal role in the region, as it is the destination of Muslims, which grants it a unique status among Islamic countries and peoples.

Also, the UAE Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Matar Al-Neyadi congratulated Saudi Arabia on this occasion, expressing that it holds significance for all Arabian Gulf countries.

He wished for Saudi Arabia's continued success under the wise leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Ambassador Al-Nayedi said, "Congratulations to Saudi Arabia on this Eid. The joy is a Gulf joy".

In this regard, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Kuwait Vladimir Geltov also extended his warmest congratulations to the Ambassador of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Sultan bin Saad Al-Saud.

He said, "There are personal relations among colleagues and diplomatic relations between countries. Ambassador Sultan is making significant efforts to serve Saudi Arabia across various fronts. Our relations with Saudi Arabia, which span decades, remain strong despite the current regional challenges. We welcome and encourage these ties to further the interests of our friendly nations."

Congratulated

Meanwhile, the British Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis congratulated the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its leadership, government, and people on its National Day, and praised the remarkable developments and achievements in Saudi Arabia.

Ambassador Lewis expressed her best wishes to all Saudi citizens who are celebrating the occasion, stating, "They have a wonderful country that is witnessing many new and progressive developments."

She also expressed her admiration for the cultural events, folklore shows, and Saudi national songs that she enjoyed, indicating that they reflect a distinctive and unique cultural style.

In a similar vein, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Lebanese Embassy in Kuwait Ahmed Arafah extended his congratulations to Saudi Arabia and its people, wishing the country continued prosperity and progress under its wise leadership.

He affirmed that Saudi Arabia continues to play a vital regional and pioneering role.

He also highlighted Saudi Arabia's significant contributions throughout the history of contemporary Lebanon, particularly its pivotal role in the Taif Agreement that ended 15 years of conflict.

He said, "Given the current challenges Lebanon is facing, we hope that Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries will play a role similar to what Saudi Arabia did in the 1980s."

The Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Al-Manhal Al-Safi expressed his happiness at celebrating the 94th anniversary of Saudi National Day.

He wished Saudi Arabia continued prosperity and progress, adding, "There are many plans to build bridges and deepen Iraq-Saudi relations in various economic, cultural, and tourism sectors."

The Australian Ambassador to Kuwait Melissa Kelly conveyed her congratulations in Arabic to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on its National Day. She expressed her admiration for the Sheikh

Jaber Cultural Center, which hosted the celebration, and wished for more progress and prosperity for both Saudis and Kuwaitis.

The Indian Ambassador Dr. Adarsh Swaika congratulated Saudi Arabia on this great day, highlighting the long-standing and strong ties between India and Saudi Arabia in various fields and levels.

The Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Dr. Saleh Al-Kharousi said, "We rejoice with Saudi Arabia in its celebrations. This joyous occasion is a celebration for all Omanis and the peoples of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries".

Growth

He congratulated his Saudi counterpart Ambassador Sultan bin Saad, and wished for further development and growth in Saudi Arabia.

Ambassador Al-Kharousi affirmed that the rapid progress in Saudi Arabia is driven by wise leadership that understands the magnitude of challenges and ambitions, noting that all GCC countries are moving toward greater cooperation and integration.

The Ambassador of Bahrain to Kuwait Salah Al-Malki also extended his warmest congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the occasion of Saudi National Day.

He highlighted the solid and historical nature of Saudi-Bahrain relations, describing them as a model worth emulating.

Ambassador Al-Malki expressed wishes for continued prosperity and security for Saudi Arabia, adding that he hopes its banner will always fly high.

He concluded by saying, "Happy New Year to everyone".

The US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara said, "As you know, my first diplomatic mission was in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, specifically in Jeddah. Saudi Arabia holds a special place in my heart. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to come together and pay our respects to a fellow diplomat, especially a member of the diplomatic corps."

She added, "I was away for three weeks, and this is the first event I've attended since returning to Kuwait."

When asked about her thoughts on the meetings held by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled in New York, the US Ambassador said, "I believe the New York meetings are among the most important multilateral gatherings this year. They brought together many leaders, and His Highness the Crown Prince held several important meetings with heads of state and representatives from various countries."

Ambassador Sasahara affirmed the significance of the diplomatic meetings and discussions occurring at the General Assembly this week, where heads of state and leaders will address important issues.

She indicated that there will be extensive bilateral meetings alongside the Assembly's activities. Ambassador Sasahara said, "What is happening there is not only exciting but also very important, especially at this time, as leaders will have the opportunity to communicate directly, exchange ideas, and monitor current developments."

She expressed her confidence that His Highness the Crown Prince "will meet with members of the private sector and the business community, as well as hold meetings with senior American officials and representatives from other countries."

CSC nominates 556 citizens as teachers

MoE allocates KD 71m as excellent performance budget for 2023/2024

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Ministry of Education has allocated approximately KD 71 million to disburse as performance bonuses for male and female teachers and administrators for the 2023/2024 academic year, reports Al-Anba daily quoting educational sources.

They explained that the bonuses will be deposited into the accounts of eligible teachers and administrators starting next week, with the Mubarak Al-Kabeer educational zone being the first to receive these deposits.

Officials in the administrative and financial sectors are working diligently to audit

and review the lists of eligible individuals from various educational zones. Disbursement will occur successively for each educational zone immediately upon completion of the review process.

Meanwhile, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) has announced the nomination of a new batch of 556 citizens with educational qualifications registered in the central employment system to work as teachers at the Ministry of Education, reports Al-Anba daily.

The CSC has urged these candidates to visit the Ministry of Education directly without the need to visit the CSC.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Political leadership changes, but US commitment to Israel remains strong'

"IN AN atmosphere charged with enthusiasm and optimism, the US Democratic Party pledged allegiance to Vice-President Kamala Harris as the party's candidate for the presidential elections that will be held next November, after listening to speeches and the participation of party stars, most notably former president Barack Obama's wife Michelle Obama and former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, the wife of ex-president Bill Clinton," columnist, former permanent envoy of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations (UN), the former Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) secretary general **Abdullah Bishara** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Waves of optimism about victory in November prevailed, influenced by the results recorded by the survey mechanisms for the desires of voters' votes.

"Despite President Joe Biden's involvement in the ongoing conflict in Gaza and the persistent accusations of genocide against the Israeli military actions, the Israeli government has failed to accord the seriousness and respect to his proposals that global public opinion anticipated.

"This lack of engagement is largely attributed to the deep-rooted American commitment to Israel, which ensures its security and provides the necessary support for its continued dominance in the region. Such unwavering support complicates the situation for Arab nations, limiting their options and pushing them further away from meaningful negotiations.

"The historical context of this American commitment traces back to the latter part of president Eisenhower's first term (1952-1957), during a period marked by the Suez Crisis and Israel's occupation of the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza.

"Eisenhower demonstrated resolute leadership in advocating for the withdrawal of British, French, and Israeli forces from these territories. His firm stance was pivotal in compelling Britain and France to retreat, which was ultimately followed by Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

"This process was facilitated through arrangements that included the deployment of United Nations forces to monitor the borders between Egypt and Israel, ensuring Israel's right to navigate the Strait of Tiran. These agreements, documented by the UN, underscored the importance of international oversight in the withdrawal process.

"Following a decade of relative peace, tensions flared once more when the Egyptian government decided to expel international forces from the Strait of Tiran. This decision posed a significant threat to the fragile stability established by the prior arrangements and Eisenhower's efforts.

"Despite attempts by the United Nations to persuade Egypt to reconsider this move, diplomatic interventions failed to prevent escalating tensions. The situation culminated in the outbreak of war on June 5, 1967, when Israel launched an offensive, resulting in the occupation of Sinai, Gaza, and the Strait of Tiran.

"In response to the crisis, the Soviet Union convened a special session of the United Nations General Assembly. During this tumultuous meeting, the late Sheikh Sabah represented Kuwait, and I was present with him in New York, closely observing the series of discussions among Arab foreign ministers, Mahmoud Riad, Egypt's representative at the session, played a crucial role in the deliberations as the Arab world sought a unified response to the Israeli advances.

"The United Nations session unfolded as a political battlefield between the United States, its Western allies, and the Arab nations. What began as diplomatic discourse quickly turned into a power struggle, with each side vying for influence. The South American bloc, initially attempting to mediate by proposing compromises, found its efforts unsatisfactory to all parties involved.

"Most African nations firmly supported Egypt, while Asian countries were split in their stance. As the session progressed, it became clear that the international community was unable to reach a consensus that aligned with the principles of the UN Charter and was acceptable to all involved. The United States, which had initially positioned itself as a mediator, eventually adopted a more hardline stance, reflecting its shifting priorities in the conflict.

"Throughout these tense days, the Arab foreign ministers convened every morning for continuous discussions. They exchanged the latest diplomatic developments, analyzed the positions of various nations, and sought a strategy that would secure Egypt's primary demand: the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from its occupied territories.

"However, this goal proved elusive. Even the South American countries and several non-aligned states, which had initially shown some sympathy toward the Arab cause, began to waver, presenting conditions for Israel's withdrawal that Egypt and its allies found unacceptable. The outcome was deeply disappointing, not only for Egypt but for the entire Arab world and its supporters. The failure to garner widespread international backing was particularly painful given the urgency of the situation.

"I recall that Egypt's Foreign Minister, Mahmoud Riad, seemed to consider accepting a compromise put forward by the South American bloc, which called for Israel's withdrawal under specific conditions. These conditions, while far from ideal, would have laid the groundwork for future peace negotiations and

regional stability. However, this was not the consensus Egypt had hoped for, and the divisions within the international community persisted.

"By late November 1967, Sheikh Sabah traveled to Washington for a crucial meeting with US president Lyndon B. Johnson. This meeting was a significant diplomatic effort aimed at gauging the US stance and seeking a way forward amid the stalemate. Accompanied by a few advisors, Sheikh Sabah sought to communicate Kuwait's position directly to the American president.

"I, along with the Kuwaiti Ambassador Talat Al-Ghusain, was present in Washington, working closely with Sheikh Sabah and preparing the minutes of the discussions. The meeting marked an important moment in Kuwait's diplomatic efforts to navigate the complexities of the ongoing Middle Eastern crisis, as the region grappled with the fallout of the 1967 war and the quest for a lasting solution.

"The meeting between Sheikh Sabah and president Johnson served as a stark illustration of the shifting landscape of American diplomacy regarding the Palestinian issue. The favorable elements that characterized the Eisenhower administration's approach had dissipated, giving way to a new US policy: no withdrawal of Israeli forces without a comprehensive peace agreement, a sidelining of the United Nations, and an emphasis on resolving all aspects of the Palestinian issue through direct negotiations.

"The Security Council's influence effectively diminished, resulting in a paralysis of international efforts to mediate peace. As Israel began constructing settlements in the Sinai and exploiting oil wells in the Suez region, the global community seemed to coexist with the harsh realities of occupation, which could erupt into conflict at any moment.

"Despite the Security Council's adoption of Resolution 242 in November 1967, aimed at facilitating peace, and the appointment of a UN representative to engage with the relevant capitals, the stagnant situation remained unchanged. Washington's diplomatic strategy narrowed the options available to Arab nations, funneling them into a single path: negotiations with Israel, with the United States positioned to facilitate the process and help overcome obstacles.

"In September 1970, the death of president Gamal Abdel Nasser marked a significant turning point. Nasser's leadership had been synonymous with resistance to the occupation, but his passing left a void amid the ongoing struggles and the absence of viable options for resolution. Anwar Sadat succeeded him, armed with a clearer understanding of the US strategic landscape.

"He began formulating a plan that would confront the prevailing conditions and open avenues for peaceful solutions. This led to the October 1973 War, during which Sadat's decision to halt Gulf oil exports to the United States underscored the global reliance on Gulf oil and intensified tensions in international relations.

"President Sadat aligned his approach with US policy during the negotiations with Israel, culminating in an agreement for Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, accompanied by the deployment of American monitoring forces in the region.

"This marked a significant achievement for Washington, which realized its strategic objectives, while Sadat's willingness to go beyond conventional diplomacy by signing a peace agreement set a precedent that would later be followed by Jordan. This shift drastically reduced the likelihood of further wars and clarified the path toward peace for those willing to engage.

"However, Sheikh Sabah's interaction with president Johnson highlighted a fundamental cultural divide between the Arab world and the United States. The president's remarks were pointed, questioning the absence of Arab moderation that could have prevented Nasser's withdrawal of troops.

"He lamented the lack of Arab recognition of US efforts to secure Israeli withdrawal during the Eisenhower era and criticized the prevailing Arab sentiment that celebrated Nasser's defiant stance, disregarding the serious implications of such decisions.

"Listening to Johnson, I noted a distinct emphasis on the Arab role in mitigating confrontation, reflecting the evolving US position, which expressed readiness to support peaceful solutions leading to stability.

"Today, there are few signs that American diplomacy regarding Israel-Arab relations will evolve. The steadfast military and political backing of Israel within the UN remains a cornerstone of US strategy, aiming to secure Arab acceptance of peace agreements.

"This fixed strategic posture has yielded significant results, notably with Egypt and Jordan, the two principal Arab nations engaged in the confrontation. Meanwhile, the Palestinian people continue to endure oppression and violence, not only from the Israeli occupation but also from factions within their own ranks, driven by desperation toward miscalculated confrontations.

"As the dynamics of Arab-American relations have shifted toward bilateral dialogues on various issues, the focus on Palestinian aspirations -- shaped by their struggles and sacrifices -- remains vital yet precarious.

"Ultimately, Washington's diplomatic approach appears impervious to shifts in political leadership, whether under Democratic or Republican administrations, as both are likely to prioritize substantial support for Israel over addressing the profound injustices faced by the Palestinian people."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes

Mol nabs bedoun selling weapons on social media

434 arrested illegals to be deported

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Ministry of Interior announced that the General Department of Criminal Investigations (Capital Governorate Investigations Department) has arrested a bedoun for selling unlicensed 'weapons' on social media, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The suspect had posted a video showcasing the weapons, offering them at low prices, and targeting school students.

After obtaining the search and arrest warrant issued by the Public Prosecution, the men in uniform zeroed in on the suspect and seized from him different types of weapons including knives.

During interrogation, he admitted to filming the video and using voice-altering software. The suspect has been referred to the relevant authorities for legal action.

434 illegals held in 1 week: The General Department of Residency Investigations at the Ministry of Interior reported the arrest of 434 violators of residency and labor laws from different nationalities during a week of surprise security campaigns held in all governorates, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a press statement, the General Department of Security Relations and Media explained that this initiative is part of ongoing efforts to apprehend violators, particularly those who did not take advantage of the grace period to amend their status.

It stated that all violators have been referred to the concerned authorities for necessary legal action in preparation for their deportation from the country.

The department affirmed that such security campaigns will continue to apprehend violators and ensure the enforcement of the law, adding that these efforts are part of a comprehensive security plan aimed at eliminating violations of the residency and labor laws, with all legal measures being taken against the violators.

Earlier in August, the Director General of the General Department of Residency Affairs at the Ministry of Interior Brigadier Yousef Al-Ayoub said in an interview with KUNA that over 65,000 residency violators benefited from the grace period granted by the ministry in March this year to either amend their status or leave the country.

He said the areas with the highest number of violations were Mahboul and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

Al-Ayoub stressed that the grace period, which extended from March 14 to June 30, aimed to reinforce Kuwait's humanitarian role and fulfill its mission as a center for humanitarian work.

14 violation citations issued: The Public Relations Department at Kuwait Municipality has announced that the Municipality Services Audit and Follow-up Department conducted field tours in the governorates to check the validity of health licenses and shop advertising licenses; as well as to ensure

'Disciplined work environment'

New attendance measures at Audit Bureau start from Oct 1

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Starting October 1, new regulations for employee attendance at the State Audit Bureau will take effect, as announced by Undersecretary Yousef Al Mazrouei, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Aimed at enhancing accountability and efficiency, these controls will require all employees to adhere to specific protocols during official working hours.

According to the circular, employees are required to use their work IDs when entering and exiting the Audit Bureau headquarters.

The entrance and exit gates of the building will open daily at 2:15 pm during departure periods, ensuring a structured flow of movement.

The circular emphasizes compliance with Article No. (6) of Resolution No. (314) of 2023, which mandates that direct managers are responsible for monitoring presence of their subordinates at work.

They must take appropriate meas-

ures in cases of violations, while higher management will oversee this process. For those assigned to audit teams in external entities, team leaders must ensure that all members adhere to official working hours and report any discrepancies to their direct managers.

Moreover, the new regulations reaffirm the instructions from Administrative Circular No. (4) of 2019 regarding attendance verification for auditors in entities under the Bureau's oversight.

The Administrative, Financial, and Information Technology Affairs Sector will provide monthly reports detailing employee movement through electronic gates in each sector.

Attendance will be recorded via fingerprint devices, starting at 6:45 am for arrivals and ending at 3:00 pm for departures. It is important to note that attendance or departure outside these designated times will not be accepted.

These measures reflect the Audit Bureau's commitment to maintaining a disciplined work environment and ensuring that all employees are present and accountable during official hours.

Al-Qallaf lawsuit adjourned

Case against ex-minister accused of embezzling public funds Oct 8

By Jaber Al-Hamoud

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Ministerial Court has adjourned to October 8 the verdict in the case filed against a former minister who is accused of squandering public funds and abuse of power.

The Special Investigation Committee of the Ministerial Court referred the former minister, and demanded that he be punished for his alleged misconduct.

He is accused of transferring two industrial plots - one while serving as a member of the National Assembly and the other after taking on a ministerial role - and registering both plots in the name of a retired military officer.

The case came to light when the former military officer, who was also referred to the Ministerial Court, sold one of the plots and transferred KD 700,000 to the minister's account.

It is noteworthy that the minister did not disclose this transaction to the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority

(Nazaha), and is also alleged to have purchased a residential apartment in London using public funds.

Ex-MP case adjourned: The Court of Appeals has adjourned to October 8 the trial of former MP Hussein Al-Qallaf in a State Security case, following the Public Prosecution's appeal of his acquittal by the Court of First Instance.

Al-Qallaf denied the allegations leveled against him of challenging the rights and authority of His Highness the Amir and attacking the Amir's position, asserting that his remarks in a recorded speech shared on social media were directed at the government, not His Highness the Amir.

Previously, the Public Prosecution detained Al-Qallaf for 21 days and referred him to Central Prison for these allegations. This followed his criticism of the Interior Ministry's procedures for organizing Hussainiyas during the month of Muharram in an audio recording.

strict compliance with shop and market regulations, indicating the campaign will continue throughout September, reports Al-Anba daily.

The supervisory team at the Municipality Services Audit and Follow-up Department in the Municipality branch in Hawally Governorate carried out an intensive inspection campaign in Jabriya. Director of the department Mohammad Al-Subaie

disclosed the goal of the campaign is to track down violators and take legal measures against them.

Al-Subaie said this campaign resulted in the issuance of 14 citations for various violations like displaying an advertisement for a commercial activity without a license, displaying goods in a shop without a license and non-renewal of the advertising license.

Ministry of Health marks World Physical Therapy Day

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Hospital in Kuwait celebrated World Physical Therapy Day, which is observed annually on September 8, with a focus on "Physiotherapy and Back Pain," reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event highlighted the efforts of the hospital's physical therapy departments for children, women, and men.

Acting Director Shujaa Al-Anzi praised the work of these departments, noting their year-round dedication and their efforts to raise awareness through informational booths, brochures, and discussions on back pain management.

The hospital provides various

physical therapy services, including pain management through physical therapy sessions, hydrotherapy, and traditional Chinese medicine.

Mustafa Bou Abbas, Head of the Men's Physiotherapy Department, emphasized the importance of community awareness in preventing and treating back pain, noting that simple preventive measures can alleviate suffering and reduce healthcare costs.

Nafisa Kamal, Head of the Women's Physiotherapy Department, mentioned that this year's focus is on back pain, with all departments providing guidance and answers to public inquiries.

The hospital received 427 cases in

2024 related to back pain and other issues. Noura Al-Subaie, Head of the Pediatric Physiotherapy Department, highlighted the unique challenges children face with lower back pain, particularly in relation to heavy school bags and prolonged use of electronic devices.

The department focuses on educating parents and children about proper posture and device usage to prevent future complications.

Khaled Al-Kandari, Head of the Technicians at the Artificial Limbs Center, affirmed that the center plays a vital role in rehabilitating patients, comparable to any other department in the hospital.

Charitable fund for the needy students

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The decision to reorganize the charitable fund for needy students has been submitted to the undersecretary of the Education Ministry for approval, say sources from the educational sector.

Sources said the Private Education Department in the ministry will receive applications to register in the charitable fund from Bedoun and needy students for academic year 2024/2025, starting from Oct 15.

Sources confirmed the fund will receive applications from students who meet the admission requirements for a period of three weeks at the Private Education General Department building in Mubarak Al-Kabeer -- from Sunday to Wednesday at 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Sources added that at the end of the specified period for receiving applications and determining the eligible students, the concerned committee in the fund will hand over the list of students, who cannot afford to pay tuition fees, to the private and model schools that host students registered in the charitable fund -- a total of 56 schools.



WE ARE BUDGET-FRIENDLY

MUGHAL MAHAL

FAHAHEEL

Weddings | Seminars | Conferences | Celebrations

Sea view | Ample car parking

For more enquires Call: 23911174 / 23911175

Mr. Jack: 97644421

Email: fahaheel@mughalmahal.com

info@mughalmahal.com

LOCAL

Municipal Council to address land allocations and housing proposals

Land Liberation Committee to hold first meeting of 3rd legislative term

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Municipal Council's Land Liberation Committee will hold its first meeting of the third legislative term on Wednesday, chaired by the Vice President of the Municipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi.



Al-Seyassah photo

Sheikh Faisal Al-Hamoud welcomes Zaid and Abdulaziz Al-Selaiteen along with their father.

Sheikh Faisal congratulates Kuwait's karate champions

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Sheikh Faisal Al-Hamoud Al-Malik Al-Sabah, a consultant at the Amiri Diwan, honored Kuwaiti athletes Zaid and Abdulaziz Mohammad Al-Selaiteen, accompanied by their father, for winning the first place in the Kyokushin Karate durability and jumping competition, and for getting gold medals in various local and international competitions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Sheikh Faisal wished the athletes continued success in their sports careers and encouraged them to keep up with their rigorous training.

In addition, Sheikh Faisal met with the managing editors of Jusoor (bridges) online magazine Hanan Al-Anzi and Athra Al-Refai.

It is worth highlighting that Jusoor focuses on issues related to individuals with disabilities, with the aim of enhancing their role in society and improving communication channels with them. The magazine also highlights their activities and promotes societal awareness and support.

The agenda will cover several important items related to housing, including:

1. A proposal submitted by the Chair of the Municipal Council Abdullah Al-Mahri, Vice Chair Khaled Al-Mutairi, and members Fahad Al-Abduljader, Nasser Al-Jadaan, Hassan Kamal, Nassar Al-Azmi, Ismail Behbehani, Saud Al-Kandari, Abdullatif Al-Da'i, Fahad Al-Muwaizri, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Alia Al-Farsi, Farah Al-Roumi, Munira Al-Amir, and Sharifah Al-Shalfan for the allocation of land to establish a housing project south of the Fifth and Sixth ring roads, and south of the West Abdullah Al-Mubarak area.

2. A proposal submitted by the Chair of the Municipal Council Abdullah Al-Mahri, his deputy Khaled Al-Mutairi, and members Fahad Al-Abduljader, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Nasser Al-Jadaan, and Nassar Al-Azmi to allocate a housing project west of government houses in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh.

3. Two proposals submitted by the Chair of the Municipal Council Abdullah Al-Mahri his deputy, and several members - one regarding the allocation of land southwest of Abdullah Al-Mubarak to the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), and the other for the allocation of land west of Qairawan to PAHW.

4. A request from PAHW to amend the Municipal Council's decision regarding the eastern expansion of the South Saad Al-Abdullah residential city by reducing the expansion area.

5. A proposal submitted by member Alia Al-Farsi for the allocation of land for date palm cultivation in northern Kuwait.

6. A proposal from some Municipal Council members regarding the allocation of land west of Sabahiya (east of Ahmadi) to PAHW.

7. A question submitted by member Fahad Musaed Al-Abduljader regarding the industrial plots designated for storage.



Al-Mutairi

Road maintenance expected to begin mid-Nov

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: With the Central Agency for Public Tenders close to finalizing the bid prices for companies that meet the requirements for road maintenance projects, sources from the Ministry of Public Works told Al-Rai daily that contracts are expected to be signed with the winning companies before the end of October.

This will allow for maintenance operations to commence by mid-November.

The sources explained that once CAPT approves the final bid prices during a negotiation session scheduled for Tuesday, the ministry will forward the approval to the Audit Bureau for its final endorsement, clearing the way for contract signings by the

Project to meet rising demand

MEW awaits SAB's approval for gas turbine conversion tender

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Ministry of Electricity and Water is awaiting approval from the State Audit Bureau (SAB) for the tender related to the supply, installation, operation, and maintenance of the project to convert the second phase of gas turbines at the Subiya station to a combined cycle system with a capacity of 250 megawatts at a cost of KD 116.888 million.

According to informed sources, the ministry has submitted the tender to SAB, and it is currently under study and review. This project is considered one of the important development projects within the ministry's current year plan, as it will enhance the production of electrical energy to meet the rising annual demand, particularly during the summer months when load rates peak.

The project involves the installation, operation, and maintenance of two heat recovery boilers, a steam turbine, and its auxiliary equipment to produce the specified capacity.

The sources affirmed the ministry's commitment to proposing and implementing electrical energy production projects, ensuring adequate budgets to meet the growing demand for energy and meet the requirements for the country's urban expansion.



KUNA photo

Kuwaiti Direct Aid Society conducts eye examinations in Hadhramaut Governorate in Yemen.

Kuwaiti Direct Aid concludes eye surgery camp in Yemen

ADEN, Sept 24, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti Direct Aid Society concluded on Monday a medical camp, in which 500 cataract and intraocular lens operations were performed in a number of districts of Hadhramaut Governorate in Yemen.

In a statement to KUNA, regional director for the Direct Aid office in Yemen, Ali Bteit said that the camp - set up at the Roaya Eye and Retina Center - also conducted examinations for more than 4,200 cases, provided free treatment and glasses to about 1,500 people, and distributed the necessary awareness brochures about eye diseases and cholera; which is widespread in several Yemeni governorates.

The Director General of medical camps at the Yemeni Ministry of Health, Muhammad Tareeq, praised in a press statement the Direct Aid camp.

Acting undersecretary of higher education resigns

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Lamia Al-Malham, the Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, has submitted her resignation, according to informed sources, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Malham's last day in office will be at the end of this month. Al-Malham has been serving as the Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs at the Ministry since May 2019 and took on the role of Acting Undersecretary following the resignation of Dr. Subaih Al-Mukhaizeem in February 2023.

Ministry responds to enrollment surge

7 new schools set to open in Mutlaa

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: According to informed sources, the Ministry of Education is planning to open seven new schools in Mutlaa Residential City during the second semester in addition to the schools that opened in the first semester.

This initiative is in response to the noticeable increase in student enrollment and the growing population in the area. The new schools will consist of two elementary schools, two middle schools, two high schools, and a kindergarten.

The schools that were opened in the first semester experienced significant increases in student numbers, with some schools reaching around 1,000 students, which resulted in overcrowding in classrooms and educational facilities.

The population increase and the ongoing transfer of students to Mutlaa schools have prompted the ministry to expedite the opening of additional schools to accommodate the rising numbers and ensure a

suitable educational environment.

The sources indicated that the ministry has received a sufficient number of schools from the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, enabling it to meet the region's school needs.

They added that the ministry possesses the necessary administrative and student furniture to equip and operate these schools immediately, ensuring readiness to welcome students at the beginning of the second semester.

In a related context, the sources stated that the nominations committee at the Ministry of Education will hold a meeting today to decide on the names of the new schools being opened. This is part of the preparations to ensure the efficient operation of these schools and accommodate the growing number of students in the city.

They added that this initiative aims to alleviate pressure on existing schools and achieve ideal student densities in the Mutlaa City's schools, which are experiencing rapid population growth.



Al-Anba photo

The second batch of trainees pose for a group photo during graduation ceremony.

KCCI celebrates 2nd batch of graduates

Abdulaziz Hamad Al-Saqr Center for Development, the training arm of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), recently organized a graduation ceremony for the second batch of trainees for the Qualification and Training Program for new employees in the private and public sectors, reports Al-Anba daily.

The program was conducted for three weeks -- from Sept 1 to 18 -- at the headquarters of KCCI, with the participation of 30 trainees. Its first edition in 2023 was a tremendous success, so the organizers held it again this year, with a wider scope to accommodate more participants.

The program has three stages, each of which consists of various courses; through which the participants are trained on communication skills, work

ethics, problem solving, overview of legal skills, marketing and sales, customer relationship management, cybersecurity, and accounting skills for non-accountants.

It focused on the foundations of writing administrative reports, raising job efficiency, teamwork and the art of public speaking. Practical examples from the Kuwaiti labor market were presented during the program and the participants worked in groups to solve real-life problems.

It also included a review of the work mechanisms in private companies and government institutions, and ways to coordinate them.

Certificates were distributed to the participants and a group of national lecturers specialized in the courses included in the programs were honored towards the end of the ceremony.

Higher Education seeks applicants for 'Cultural Attaché' positions worldwide

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Ministry of Higher Education has announced the opening of applications for the role of Cultural Attaché in various Arab and foreign countries, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Acting Undersecretary Lamia Al-Malham stated that the ministry is seeking candidates for 11 offices worldwide, and that interested

individuals can submit applications through the ministry's website starting today, Tuesday, September 24, until October 7.

Eligible applicants must be Kuwaiti citizens holding a PhD and must have at least the rank of lecturer at Kuwait University or assistant professor at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

September

Room Promotion

Weekdays (Saturday - Wednesday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 57.173 net	BHD 128.000 net
Weekends (Thursday & Friday)	
Queen Cabana (2 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.	2 Bedroom Chalet (4 persons inclusive of breakfast) per night.
NOW	NOW
BHD 65.000 net	BHD 145.000 net

Promo period from 24th September to 30th September 2024 Terms & conditions apply*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort

Kuwait advances water security initiatives

New strategies unveiled for sustainable management at World Utilities Congress

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Kuwait has made a significant contribution to the discourse on water security by participating in the World Utilities Congress 2024 in Abu Dhabi, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Representing the Kuwait Water Association, Technical Advisor and Head of the Sustainability Committee, Eng. Hiba Abbas, took part in a roundtable discussion titled "Water Security: Technology and Investment."

During the conference, Dr. Saleh Al-Muzaini, President of the Kuwait Water Association, emphasized the importance of engaging with specialists to address global water security challenges. He noted that international collaboration fosters innovation and helps develop sustainable management solutions for water resources, ultimately contributing to a secure future for all.

Eng. Hiba Abbas highlighted the urgency of accelerating innovation in water security solutions. She announced an ambitious acceleration program designed to develop innovative projects within a 100-day timeframe.

This program consists of four stages: forming work teams, planning, implementation, and presenting the final results, all aimed at enhancing regional cooperation and strengthening local capacities. Abbas further explained that the insights gained from these discussions would play a crucial role in preparing a strategy paper for the upcoming IDRA (International Desalination and Reuse Association) World Congress.

She reaffirmed the Abu Dhabi National Energy Company PJSC's (TAQA) leadership in advancing sustainable solutions in both the energy and water sectors, showcasing Kuwait's commitment to addressing water security challenges on a global scale.



Participants of the Burgan Bank's 'Empower Her' seminar group photo.

Kuwait participates in Construct Iraq exhibit

ERBIL, Sept 24, (KUNA): Kuwait's Public Authority for Industry is taking part in the Construction International Exhibition (Construct Iraq) in Erbil, Iraq alongside 400 other participants.

Authority Deputy Director General, Dr. Sanad Al-Ajmi, told KUNA that this is a great opportunity to promote Kuwaiti products, and encourage deal signings.

The Authority's pavilion is home to a number of local businesses, including Sadeem Doors, Ahlia Chemicals and International Industrial Projects.



Kuwaiti participants in the World Utilities Congress. Al-Seyassah photo

King Abdulaziz:

Continued from Page 1

He further stated, "I always repeat: blessed are those who point out my faults to me. If you or my fellow citizens see anything that serves your religion first and foremost, and your country, the country of the Two Holy Mosques, of which we are all servants, then you are welcome. I reiterate, our doors are open, our phones are open, and our ears are attentive to every citizen."

In this context, Saudi Arabia continues to develop and thrive under the leadership of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who recognizes the value of what the fathers and grandfathers built for the benefit of the country. He believes in the resilience of the Saudi people, stating, "I live among great people, and the determination of the Saudis is like Mount Tuwaiq" (which is a towering mountain on the outskirts of Riyadh).

He is right about this. The renaissance that Saudi Arabia is experiencing today at all levels is a testament to great people and wise leadership. When we assert that we are living in an era of renewal and the second foundation of Saudi Arabia, we are not exaggerating.

The flags are rising once again, illuminating all aspects of society. Saudi Arabia has become the talk of the world, with its leadership serving as a model for determination, integrity, and effective governance. Saudi Arabia is committed to development that benefits its future, whether in industry, the economy, or social modernization, and it stands strong in all international forums.

KUDLO, Philippine

Continued from Page 1

He informed the delegation that the delay in issuing the job order was due to "many organizational steps toward overcoming the obstacles to the issuance of a job order." He is keen on easing the issuance process as much as possible, and address all the obstacles that the recruitment offices and companies are currently facing.

On the other hand, Al-Dakhnan thanked Dimaano for being broadminded and for understanding all the complaints; "giving us time to explain all the difficulties and obstacles that the recruitment offices are facing." He affirmed that the latter's door is open for everyone to present their comments and suggestions regarding the labor problems that hinder the recruitment process and promised to solve them.

Al-Ali added all the opinions were presented to Dimaano and the sources of pressure on the offices were explained -- whether from the government agencies and Kuwaiti families, in a bid to expedite the process of recruiting Filipino domestic workers.

Dimaano stated that he stands at an equal distance from everyone and stands by KUDLO to solve the problems and overcome obstacles, stressing he will spare no effort in this regard.

He asked Al-Dakhnan about the suspension of the issuance of the Domestic Labor Visa (Article 20) and the latter stressed that the union will coordinate with all the concerned parties in Kuwait to solve this problem as Kuwaiti companies and institutions are in need of Filipino domestic workers.

Al-Dakhnan added the union will address all the difficulties that the recruitment offices are facing, and it will continue holding meetings with the concerned parties in and outside the State of Kuwait.

Biometrics at

Continued from Page 1

In related context, the Ministry of Interior announced that biometric centers in shopping malls will continue to provide services until September 30 and will stop on October 1. After that date, the biometric process will be carried out at identity investigation departments throughout the week from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm, but only with prior appointments made via the Sahel app.

Mol vows

Continued from Page 1

He said many parents fail to grasp the serious risks posed by certain online games that enable communication between players, as games can expose children to dangers like cyber blackmail; hence, it is crucial for parents to actively monitor their children's online activities in order to protect them.

He stressed that the rising number of cases involving online games has made it imperative for all parties, especially parents, to take serious action. The ministry's current academic year campaign focuses on delivering a direct message to parents; underscoring their critical role in shielding their children from online threats, he added.

Army chief

Continued from Page 1

He also praised the strong cooperation between the Coast Guard and Naval Force units in the Kuwait Army, stressing this is the fruit of concerted efforts and joint planning between the two units to reach the desired levels of efficiency, ability and effectiveness in performing various tasks and duties assigned to them.

During the visit, Al-Muzaini was briefed on the tasks and duties of the Coast Guard General Directorate. He toured Sabah Al-Ahmad Naval Base, including the operations unit, technical workshops, radar system and crisis management unit.

Kuwait backs

Continued from Page 1

Nazaha has been an active and effective member since joining the Globe Network in 2021, as it participated in the discussions to launch the network's charter, membership in thematic teams, and attend sessions.

He commended Globe Network's role, as an invaluable platform for fostering cooperation between anti-corruption authorities worldwide, extending gratitude to the network's role in investing in some Kuwaiti younger talents through chairing workshops and moderation of Thematic Working Group sessions, as well as through the Network's first mentorship program, "Empowering Women in Justice/for Justice: A Mentorship Programme for Women Professionals in Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement and the Judiciary."

Palestine tops

Continued from Page 1

One of the persistent issue during the meeting was the Palestinian topic, the peace process in the

Women's empowerment and leadership in Kuwaiti banking sector

Burgan Bank hosts 'Empower Her' seminar

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Burgan Bank recently hosted the "Empower Her" seminar as part of its dedicated efforts to empower women in leadership positions across society. The event, held at the Four Seasons Hotel under the auspices and sponsorship of Sheikh Dana Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, gathered a distinguished audience of around 200 participants, including prominent figures in the Kuwaiti banking and various sectors, to share valuable market insights and experiences and expand the network of impactful female industry leaders.

The "Empower Her" seminar is the latest testament to Burgan's commitment to fostering gender equality and diversity in the workplace and encouraging women's professional advancement as market leaders and decision-makers in the Kuwaiti private sector.

"In a market that is evolving and expanding at a phenomenal speed, our hope for keeping up and leading with innovation lies in diversity and equality," said Mr. Naqeeb Amin, General Manager - Human Resources and Development for the Group at Burgan Bank. "As a leader in human capital development and social responsibility, it is among our top priorities to constantly advance our capable talents and pave a smooth path for all out-

standing calibers to lead Burgan Bank into a future of sustainable, inclusive growth. Today, we are in the presence of numerous female figures who have left a lasting mark on Kuwait's banking and financial industry and continue to inspire women in our community to believe in their unique potential and pursue their dreams."

"Talent development is a hallmark of Burgan's success as an employer, a business, and a corporate citizen," said Ms. Fatma Ahmad, Acting Senior Manager - Learning and Development at Burgan Bank. "As part of our robust human capital investment strategy, we continue to tailor programs and initiatives that address our employees' various needs for growth and development. On our mission to empower female talents, we are proud to hold more spaces for women to share their stories, pass on valuable experiences, and express themselves in a safe and inclusive environment. With the 'Empower Her' seminar, we are delighted to add yet

another milestone in Burgan's dedicated women empowerment journey which centers on providing female professionals with tools, inspiration, and networking opportunities, as well as equipping them with strategic skills to drive meaningful change."

Among the event's attendees were leaders from Burgan Bank as well as representatives from KIPCO Group, leading Kuwaiti banks, Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS), Kuwait Banking Association (KBA), and Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

The seminar also hosted the prestigious keynote speakers, Dr. Amani Bouesli, former Minister of Commerce, Minister of Planning and Development Affairs, and current Independent, Non-Executive Board Member at Burgan Bank; Dr. Louise Lambert, advisor, professor, and researcher in Middle East Journal and Positive Psychology; and Laurence Harvey, diversity champion, inclusion advocate, and

unconscious bias expert. The speakers discussed the impact of female empowerment in the workplace, the importance of sponsorship and providing support, and solutions to help women overcome the challenges they face in their careers. They also addressed the biased perceptions that women often encounter and discussed strategies for transforming these biases into collective synergy. Other topics included the role of male allyship in supporting women's growth and success, which is considered a critical factor in creating a more inclusive and equitable environment.

In addition, the seminar hosted two panel discussions on female leadership strategies, managing organizational transformation, and advancing women in leadership roles, which was represented by inspiring female leaders like Eng. Sara Akbar (Kuwaiti chemical petroleum engineer, women's rights advocate, and co-founder and former CEO of Kuwait Energy), Dr. Mona Al Khawari (Director of the Child Protection Office at the Ministry of Health, Founder and Executive Director of Kuwait National Program for Child Protection), and Dr. Suad Al-Faqan (Olympic Champion and Kuwait University Professor of Science and Biology).



Amin



Ahmad

Middle East, and the current developments in the region and international arena.

Ways to enhance coordination between the Arab League and United Nations was also tackled during the meeting.

Amir's Rep

Continued from Page 1

The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr. Mishal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary at the Crown Prince Diwan Mazen Al-Essa, and Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's Representative, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received on Tuesday United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry.

The reception, on the sideline of the 79 UN General Assembly, was held at the Kuwaiti Mission's headquarter in the UN, New York.

During the meeting, the two officials discuss a variety of issues pertaining to climate change and also exchanged views on the latest international developments as well as exploring issues of joint cooperation.

Kuwait strongly

Continued from Page 1

"There are still a significant number of remains that security forces are working to identify," Abiad said.

"We had previously established disaster response plans, which are now in implementation, enabling hospitals to fulfill their roles in the face of aggression," he stressed. Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced Tuesday, the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid campaign for families displaced from areas affected by Israeli occupation air strikes in Lebanon.

Lebanese Red Cross relief coordinator Youssef Boutros told KUNA that the urgent humanitarian campaign was launched due to the massive displacement of people, which were subjected to violent raids by Israeli occupation aircrafts.

The KRCS relief campaign was distributed with cooperation of the Lebanese Red Cross, includes food supplies, cleaning supplies, mattresses and blankets sufficient for 10,000 displaced families. Boutros added. Boutros stated that the urgent campaign was launched in a number of shelter centers and schools that were allocated to displaced families in different areas by the local Lebanese authorities.

In addition, Boutros expressed his sincere appreciation to the government and people of Kuwait for their permanent positions in supporting Lebanon and for the aid and assistance it provides, adding his hope that this aid will contribute to alleviating their suffering and pain.

KRCS has implemented plenty of humanitarian and relief projects in Lebanon since the launch of Operation (Al-Aqsa Flood) in Gaza Strip and the beginning of the military confrontations with the Israeli occupation forces on the southern border areas in Lebanon. Israel and Hezbollah traded fire again Tuesday - including a new Israeli airstrike on Beirut - as the death toll from a massive Israeli bombardment climbed to nearly 560 people and thousands fled from southern Lebanon with the two sides on the brink of all-out war.

Health center supervision restructured

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi recently issued a decision to transfer the technical supervision of the citizen service centers in health districts to the Citizen Service Department director, reports Al-Anba daily.

Al-Awadhi also issued a decision to

transfer the technical supervision of the pharmaceutical units in the health districts, hospitals and primary healthcare centers to the Medicines and Medical Equipment Sector; indicating they should report directly to the assistant undersecretary for Medicines and Medical Equipment Affairs.

Gulf Spic General Trading & Contracting Co. W.L.L.
شركة سبيك الخليج للتجارة العامة والمقاولات ذ.م.م.

S.No. 1

Position : Mechanical Engineers (Nos. 4)
Qualification : Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical)
Years of Experience : 8+ Years
Area of Experience : Must have Oil & Gas Construction Experience(1.Piping Works & Static Equipment's 2. Rotary Equipments (Compressors, Pump & Etc.)
Salary Range (KD) : KD 600 ~ 700

S.No. 2

Position : Civil Engineers (Nos. 2)
Qualification : Bachelor of Engineering (Civil)
Years of Experience : 8+ Years
Area of Experience : Must have Oil & Gas Construction Experience
Salary Range (KD) : KD 600 ~ 700

S.No. 3

Position : Safety Engineer (Nos. 2)
Qualification : Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical / Chemical) + Diploma in Industrial Safety / NEBOSH / IOSH
Years of Experience : 8+ Years
Area of Experience : Must have minimum 8 years experience as HSE Personnel in Oil & Gas Construction Experience. All other requirements as per KOC HSEMS Guidelines.
Salary Range (KD) : KD 600 ~ 700

S.No. 4

Position : Planning Engineer (Nos. 6)
Qualification : 4 Years Engineering Graduate in Mechanical Discipline from a recognized University (Regular full time) with KSE (Kuwait Society of Engineers Membership)
Years of Experience : 8+ Years
Area of Experience : Must have minimum 8 years experience in Oil & Gas Construction Experience. All other requirements as per KOC HSEMS Guidelines.
Salary Range (KD) : KD 600 ~ 700

S.No. 5

Position : Safety Officer (Nos. 4)
Qualification : Diploma in Mechanical / Chemical or Bachelor's Graduate in Physics or Chemistry or Maths + Diploma in Industrial Safety / NEBOSH / IOSH
Years of Experience : 8+ Years
Area of Experience : Must have minimum 5 years experience as HSE Personnel in Oil & Gas Construction Experience. All other requirements as per KOC HSEMS Guidelines.
Salary Range (KD) : KD 400 ~ 450

S.No. 6

Position : Mechanical Foreman (Nos. 4)
Qualification : Diploma In Mechanical
Years of Experience : 8+ Years
Area of Experience : Must have Oil & Gas Construction Experience(1.Piping Works & Static Equipment's 2. Rotary Equipment's (Compressors, Pump & Etc.)
Salary Range (KD) : KD 250 ~ 300

S.No. 7

Position : Civil Foreman (Nos. 4)
Qualification : Diploma in Civil Engineering
Years of Experience : 8+ Years
Area of Experience : Must have Oil & Gas Construction Experience
Salary Range (KD) : KD 250 ~ 300

S.No. 8

Position : Surveyor Foreman (Nos. 2)
Qualification : Diploma in Civil Engineering
Years of Experience : 8+ Years
Area of Experience : Must have experience in Survey related works in that 5 years oil & gas is required. Able to perform Topographic survey and establish control point; able to prepare survey reports and drawings.
Salary Range (KD) : KD 250 ~ 300

SUITABLE CANDIDATES CAN SEND THEIR RESUME ALONG WITH EDUCATIONAL & EXPERIENCE CERTIFICATES, PASSPORT COPY, CIVIL ID & WORK PERMIT TO THE BELOW MAIL ID WITHIN 5 DAYS

jobs@gulfspic.com

or SUBMIT IT DIRECTLY AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF
GULF SPIC GENERAL TRADING & CONTRACTING COMPANY, W.L.L
PLOT # 5, BLOCK # 8, ROAD # 100, SHUAIBA INDUSTRIAL AREA, KUWAIT

World News Roundup

Europe

UK PM aims to shed gloomy image with speech: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer tried to shake off his image as a gloom-monger on Tuesday, telling voters exhausted with politics that better times are on the way - if they swallow his recipe of short-term pain for long-term gain.

Starmer capped Labour's first annual conference since winning a landslide election victory with a speech assuring members and supporters that things will be "tough in the short term" but there is light at the end of the tunnel.



Starmer

Some members of the center-left party say Starmer has made that dark tunnel longer by delivering downbeat messages about the economy since becoming Britain's first Labour prime minister for 14 years in July. That and a distracting row about freebies have overshadowed what should be a celebratory gathering for thousands of party members in the northwest England port city of Liverpool.

"I know this country is exhausted by and with politics," Starmer said. "I know that the cost-of-living crisis drew a veil over the joy and wonder in our lives and that people want respite and relief."

He said the government will deliver positive change, but won't offer "false hope."

"Just because we all want low taxes and good public services, does not mean that the iron law of properly funding policies can be ignored," Starmer said. He pledged to take "tough" decisions - code for spending restraint and likely tax increases - to achieve economic growth to fund schools, hospitals, roads, railways and more.

The government is gambling that voters will hear out Starmer's argument and give the government time to show results. But anxiety about missteps has clouded the mood among Labour members, supporters, politicians and officials gathered beside the River Mersey in a rain-drenched Liverpool for the four-day conference. (AP)

□ □ □

SPD dismisses questions about Scholz candidacy:

The leadership of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's party on Monday sought to squash questions about his candidacy in next year's national election after narrowly beating the far right in a regional vote.

Scholz's center-left Social Democrats (SPD) beat the far-right Alternative for Germany in the eastern state of Brandenburg Sunday thanks to the popularity of Gov. Dietmar Woidke, who had trailed in polls and said that he would quit unless his party finished first.

Woidke kept Scholz and the unpopular national government out of his campaign, while the two other parties in Scholz's coalition in Berlin dropped to extremely poor results.

The Social Democrats' co-leader, Lars Klingbeil, took comfort from the outcome for the national election due next September, although the party's performances in the European Parliament election in June and in two state elections in eastern Germany on Sept 1 were dismal and it is performing poorly in nationwide polls.

"I as party leader want to win the national parliamentary election - that is 12 months away and we will fight together," Klingbeil said at a news conference. (AP)

□ □ □

'Increase number of bodyguards for politicians':

German police office that provides security for leading politicians says it plans to increase the number of bodyguards significantly over the coming years, citing growing dangers at home and abroad as the next national election nears.

The head of the Federal Criminal Police Office, Holger Münch, said in comments to the RND newspaper group published Tuesday that his office currently has more than 500 bodyguards. He was quoted as saying that it plans to add 100 next year and another 100 after that.

"This has to do not just with growing dangers at home but also abroad, for example with the Ukraine or Gaza wars," Münch said.

His office is responsible for the protection of politicians including President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Chancellor Olaf Scholz, federal government ministers and leading lawmakers in the German parliament. The national election is scheduled for Sept 28 next year. (AP)

□ □ □

2 foreign tourists missing in Italy floods:

Two foreign tourists, a 5-month-old baby and his grandmother, were missing on Tuesday after floods hit Italy's central Tuscany region overnight, firefighters said.

Rescuers searched for the two on Tuesday using divers, rescue dogs and drones.

The baby's parents and grandfather were rescued from a rooftop after the house where they were staying was flooded as Pisa province was battered by torrential rain. Firefighters did not specify their nationality.

The severe flooding was caused by a local river that broke its banks in Montecatini Val di Cecina in central Tuscany.

"We always aim at finding people alive, but this accident doesn't leave us many hopes," a spokesperson for the firefighters, Luca Cari, told SkyTG24. "The situation is very, very critical."

The heavy rain also led to the closure of local roads and left 700 homes without electricity, Tuscany President Eugenio Giani wrote in a Facebook post on Monday night, adding that the area had not seen such intense bad weather since 1928. (AP)

□ □ □

American man gets 6 years in Russia:

A Russian court on Monday handed a six-year prison sentence to an American man convicted on charges linked to his attempt to illegally take his 4-year-old son out of Russia, a verdict that comes amid soaring U.S.-Russian tensions.

The court in Russia's westernmost Kaliningrad region said in a statement that the convict, whose name wasn't given, visited Kaliningrad in July 2023 to meet with his Russian-born son and attempted to drive him out of the country. The boy's mother didn't give her consent for that, it said.

The man was detained by Russian border guards near the village of Lipovka close to the border with Poland while trying to covertly leave Russia and charged with abduction of a minor and attempted illegal crossing of the border.

There was no immediate comment from the US Embassy in Moscow. (AP)

□ □ □

Lithuania signs deal with US defense firm:

Lithuania signed a deal with US ammunition producer Northrop Grumman on Monday as it seeks to increase defense capabilities in the shadow of Russia's war in Ukraine.

Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte and Steve O'Bryan, the company's vice president, met in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius to formalize the agreement on the development, production and supply of medium-caliber ammunition in the southernmost Baltic country.

Simonyte told reporters after the signing ceremony that the project "will create clear value for Lithuania and for our region as a whole."

Lithuania, which borders Russia's Kaliningrad exclave to the west and Belarus to the east, remains the largest buyer of US arms among the three Baltic states with more than 1.3 billion euro (\$1.4 billion) worth of acquisitions in the near future, according to the Defense Ministry. Northrop Grumman is a leading producer of 30mm ammunition. (AP)

□ □ □

4 migrants died trying to reach Samos:

A small boat carrying migrants from nearby Turkey sank Monday in wind-tossed waters in the eastern Aegean Sea just off the island of Samos, killing at least four people, Greek authorities said.

The bodies of three women and a girl were found in the water. The coast guard said five others were rescued from the sea, and another 26 who safely made it to shore were later found on land.

A large search and rescue operation by air, land and sea remained in effect because survivors said it was possible one or two people might still be missing.

Authorities were initially alerted by a local resident who heard screams and cries for help from the sea, local officials said.

It wasn't immediately known how the boat, believed to have been a small dinghy, sank, and there was no immediate information on the identities or nationalities of the survivors and the dead. (AP)



Workers clear rubble at Copenhagen's Old Stock Exchange building in Copenhagen on Sept 19. (AP)

Reconstruction set to begin on Copenhagen's Old Stock Exchange landmark

Five months after a devastating fire destroyed more than half of Copenhagen's Old Stock Exchange, workers are set to begin the reconstruction of the 400-year-old building to return it to its former glory.

On Thursday, King Frederik X of Denmark will lay a "foundation stone" within part of a red brick wall

that survived the mid-April blaze, commencing a yearlong reconstruction plan.

"We will do this as fast as possible to have Boersgaard ready for the Copenhageners, for the Danes, for the world again," said Lars Daugaard Jepsen, head of reconstruction at Denmark's Chamber of Commerce, which owns the building. He used the Dan-

ish name for the stock exchange building.

On Friday, there will be an open day event where visitors can come and see what is left of the downtown exchange. Construction started in 1615 and first opened in 1624. It is considered a leading example of Dutch Renaissance style in Denmark. (AP)

Politics

North Carolina absentee ballots distributed

Trump, Harris work to expand coalitions

WASHINGTON, Sept 24, (AP): The lines that have long defined each party's policy priorities are blurring as Kamala Harris and Donald Trump seek to expand their coalitions in the final weeks of a fiercely competitive presidential election. The contest may well hinge on how many disaffected suburban Republicans vote for Harris and how much of Democrats' traditional base - African Americans, Latinos, young people and labor union members - migrates to Trump.

That's prompting both candidates to take stances that would have once been anathema to their bases, scrambling longtime assumptions about what each party stands for.

Trump traveled to the swing state of Pennsylvania on Monday to speak about his plans to counter US reliance on China with a group led by a loyalist who served as his top intelligence official. The event on Monday focuses on proposals to increase America's food supply and to protect US farmers. Harris will visit Pennsylvania on Wednesday.

Breaking

Donald Trump spoke Monday to a small group of farmers in Smithton in rural Pennsylvania, breaking with his usual campaign form by listening more than he talked.

The former president asked questions and offered a few jokes. But he mostly listened quietly as farmers from the area explained their economic difficulties. Trump also stopped at a market and gave a woman checking out a \$100 bill to help pay for groceries - further showing off a softer side.

He reverted back to form during a raucous evening event in Indiana, Pennsylvania, sharply criticizing Vice President Kamala Harris and suggesting without evidence that this year's contest would be the last election should he lose.

"I don't like anybody that doesn't like me, I'll be honest," he said before adding, "sounds childish" but "that's the way it is ... call it a personality defect."

Minnesota Gov Tim Walz told a group of about 30 donors focused on climate change that Trump's energy catchphrase to "drill baby, drill" is "not a solution to things, and the public knows that it's a cheap, easy thing."

Threat

The Democratic vice presidential nominee, speaking at a midtown Manhattan hotel to an audience that included former presidential candidate Tom Steyer and Hollywood producer Jeffrey Katzenberg, called climate change an "existential threat" but also "an incredible opportunity to grow our economy." Walz cited farmers who use their land to generate wind energy in addition to growing crops.

He also praised Harris for casting the tie-breaking vote in the US Senate on the Inflation Reduction Act, Biden's 2022 law to fight climate change. Doppelgangers have been selected to help prepare for the vice presidential debate next week. Walz's mock debates will feature Pete Buttigieg, the US transportation secretary, playing JD Vance.

Meanwhile, Vance's preparations include Minnesota Rep Tom Emmer in the role of Walz. The choices were disclosed by people with knowledge of the candidates' preparations.

Walz and Vance are scheduled to face off on Oct 1.

Harris' transition team has reached an agreement with the General Services Administration to accept pre-election support from the federal government to prepare for her potential presidency.

The agency, which is required by law to offer office space, technology support and other resources to major

party nominees, posted the agreement to its website on Monday.

Also:

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump confirmed Monday that he would be the sole featured speaker at this year's Al Smith charity dinner in New York, typically a good-humored and bipartisan political event that Vice President Kamala Harris said she is skipping in favor of battleground state campaigning.

The former president and current Republican presidential nominee confirmed in a Truth Social post on Monday that he would speak at the Oct 17 dinner, calling it "sad, but not surprising" that Harris had opted not to attend.

The gala benefiting Catholic Charities traditionally has been used to promote collegiality, with presidential candidates from both parties appearing on the same night and trading barbs. But on Saturday, Harris' campaign said the Democratic nominee would not go to the event, breaking with presidential tradition so she could campaign instead in a battleground state less than three weeks before Election Day.

□ □ □

RALEIGH, N.C.: North Carolina counties started distributing absentee ballots Tuesday for the November general election to those who requested them, roughly two weeks later than anticipated as a legal challenge forced delays.

Election officials in all 100 counties planned to mail out the first ballots to regular state residents starting Tuesday. Ballots to military and overseas voters requesting them - mostly transmitted electronically - went out starting this past Friday.

In all, more than 207,000 absentee ballot requests had been received as of early Monday, according to the State Board of Elections.



In this photo provided by Betty Tsuiji, police officers arrest Ikaika Hussey for obstructing during a demonstration outside a medical center in Honolulu on Sept 23 where nurses have been locked out during contract negotiations. (AP)



Morial



Mills

America

2 officers vie for county sheriff:

Two law enforcement officers who were allies when they faced tough questions about their interactions with an Army reservist who last year killed 18 people in Maine's deadliest shooting are squaring off to become sheriff.

Neither four-term Democratic incumbent Sagadahoc County Sheriff Joel Merry, nor his Republican rival, patrol Sgt. Aaron Skolfield, want their career to be defined by the mass shooting that also injured 13 others. But it's impossible to escape their connection on the verge of a grim one-year anniversary that will be marked less than two weeks ahead of Election Day.

For his part, Skolfield was criticized by Democratic Gov Janet Mills' independent commission - and by the governor herself - for failing to use Maine's so-called yellow flag law to take Robert Card into protective custody in the midst of a spiraling mental health crisis, and start the process of removing his access to guns. (AP)

□ □ □

10 arrested outside hospital: Ten people, including a recently elected state lawmaker, were arrested Monday outside Hawaii's only women's and children's hospital, where unionized nurses have been locked out since going on a one-day strike during contract negotiations.

Those arrested sat and blocked the driveway of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children on Monday morning and refused to leave after officers issued warnings, Honolulu police spokesperson Sarah Yoro said in an email.

More than 600 nurses have been locked out since they went on a one-day strike earlier this month. Since then, nurses and supporters have been demonstrating and holding signs outside the hospital, which said it would continue to provide care with a temporary workforce. (AP)

□ □ □

Jill Biden pays tribute to Morial: US First lady Jill Biden, former ambassador Andrew Young and the Rev Al Sharpton were among those who paid tribute

during funeral services Monday for New Orleans civil rights activist Sybil Morial.

Morial, who was also the widow of New Orleans' first Black mayor, Ernest



Motorcyclists take part in a parade in Moscow, Russia, on Sept 21. The parade marked the end of this year's motorcycle season in Moscow. (Xinhua)

N. "Dutch" Morial, and mother to former Mayor Marc H. Morial, died earlier this month at age 91.

New Orleans news outlets reported that Biden paid her respects in a video played for attendees at the service held at Xavier University, where Morial attended school and worked for 28 years. Young, the one-time United Nations ambassador and former Atlanta mayor who was a friend of Morial's since their childhood, also spoke. (AP)

□ □ □

Colorado gunman gets life: A mentally ill man who killed 10 people at a Colorado supermarket in 2021 was sentenced Monday to life in prison for murder after a jury rejected his attempt to avoid prison time by pleading not guilty by reason of insanity.

Victims' relatives recounted in pained testimony the lives gunman Ahmad Alissa destroyed in the 2021 attack in the college town of Boulder.

"To the person that's done this, we hope that you suffer for the rest of your life. You are a coward," said Nikolena Stanic, whose only sibling, Neven, was killed. "I hope this haunts the defendant until the end of time. The defendant deserves the absolute worst." (AP)

Africa

30 bodies found in Dakar

8 main opp'n figures in Tanzania arrested

NAIROBI, Kenya, Sept 24, (AP): Police arrested Tanzania's most prominent opposition figures Monday whose party has called for protests against what it says is a crackdown targeting its supporters.

Hundreds of backers of the country's main opposition party, CHADEMA, were arrested last month and the party's secretariat member Ali Kibao was abducted and later found dead with signs of beatings and acid poured on his face. Amnesty International at the time called for an immediate stop to "arbitrary detentions of political opposition" in Tanzania.

Authorities said Monday's arrests were made as party officials defied a prohibition on protests.

CHADEMA said in a statement its chairman Freeman Mbowe and his deputy Tundu Lissu together with six other party officials were arrested at various locations, adding that the planned protests were in line with the constitution and that police had been notified as required by law.

Mbowe and Lissu were arrested in August and later released.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who is serving out the late President John Magufuli's term after he died in office in 2021, including the unbanning of rallies, but the recent killing of Kibao, which she was quick to condemn, sparked outrage.

Magufuli's autocratic rule was marred by human rights abuse allegations that included a total ban on opposition political rallies.

Tanzania is set to hold a general election in 2025.

30 bodies found in boat off Dakar: At least 30 bodies were found on a boat drifting off the coast of Senegal's capital, the military said Monday, as the number of migrants leaving West Africa increases.

The navy was informed of the vessel's presence on Sunday evening and sent out a boat patrol to the area, 70 kilometers (38 nautical miles) from Dakar, Ibrahim Sow, spokesperson for Senegal's military said in a statement.

"So far, 30 bodies have been counted," Sow said.

The advanced state of decomposition of the bodies is making the identification process very difficult, the military said, adding that investigations will provide more information on the death toll and the boat's origin.

Earlier this month, a boat carrying 89 people on board capsized off the coast of Senegal. At least 37 people died, according to Senegalese authorities.

Many of the migrants leaving West Africa through Senegal flee conflict, poverty and a lack of jobs. Most head to the Canary Islands, a Spanish archipelago off the coast of West Africa, which is used as a stepping stone to continental Europe.

Since the beginning of the year, more than 22,300 people have landed on the Canary Islands, 126% more than the same period last year, according to statistics released by Spain's Interior Ministry.

Last month, the Senegalese army said it had arrested 453 migrants and "members of smuggling networks" as part of a 12-day operation patrolling the coastline. More than half of those arrested were Senegalese nationals, the army said.

In July, a boat carrying 300 migrants, mostly from Gambia and Senegal, capsized off Mauritania. More than a dozen died and at least 150 others went missing.

The Atlantic route from West Africa to the Canary Islands is one of the deadliest in the world. While there is no accurate death toll because of the lack of information on departures from West Africa, the Spanish migrant rights group Walking Borders estimates the victims are in the thousands this year alone.

Congo ill inmates released: Nearly 1,700 ill inmates were released Monday from Congo's largest prison, the minister of justice said, as part of an effort to thin out the country's overcrowded prisons.

The operation took place at Makala Central Prison in the capital Kinshasa on Monday afternoon. Severely ill prisoners received immediate medical care, while others were sent home on buses provided by the ministry of justice and a state-owned company, Minister of Justice Constant Mutamba said.

Makala prison, Congo's largest penitentiary with a capacity for 1,500 people, holds more than 12,000 inmates, most of whom are awaiting trial, Amnesty International said in its latest country report.

Earlier this month, an attempted jailbreak at the prison left 129 people dead, including some who were shot by guards and soldiers and others who died in a stampede at the overcrowded facility, according to authorities. Emmanuel Adu Cole, a prominent prison rights activist in Congo and president of the local Bill Clinton Peace Foundation, put the death toll at more than 200.

Inmates had increasingly grown frustrated with the poor conditions in the facility, including inadequate beds, poor feeding and poor sanitation. However, authorities failed to act despite warnings, said Cole, whose foundation has visited the prison in the past.

Stanis Bujakera Tshimama, a prominent Congolese journalist who was recently detained in the prison for months, spoke of its "deplorable and inhumane" conditions and how inmates constantly lack food, water and medical care. Nearly 700 women, and hundreds of minors who are "treated in the same way as adults," are among the inmates, he said.

US hiker found dead in mountain: An American woman who went missing while on a hike on Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa has died and her body has been recovered, authorities said on Monday.

The woman has been identified as a 20-year-old student from North Carolina named Brook Chevront.

Chevront was reported missing on Saturday after a tracking app she was using stopped updating and friends could not reach her, said SANParks spokesman JP Louw.

The management of SANParks, which manages Table Mountain and other national parks, said the cause of death was still unclear and an inquest into her death has been opened.

An initial search was conducted by rangers, wilderness search and rescue members, and trail runners until late Saturday evening when it was no longer practical to continue, said Louw. An aircraft joined the search the next day and helped to locate the body.

South African authorities have urged people to avoid hiking on their own, suggesting it be done in groups of at least four people.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, meets with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil in New York on Sept 23. (Xinhua)

Chinese FM meets Venezuelan counterpart

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday met with Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil in New York, expressing China's willingness to aid Venezuela's economic and social development.

Noting that China and Venezuela are good friends and partners, Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central

Committee, said that China will continue to support Venezuela in maintaining its national sovereignty and dignity, and aid its economic and social development.

Both sides should strengthen and develop their all-weather friendship, provide each other with steadfast support on core interests and major concerns, and turn the important consensus between

the two heads of state into practical actions for the development of bilateral relations, Wang said.

The Venezuelan foreign minister said that Venezuela is China's most reliable and steadfast strategic partner, and is committed to promoting continuous growth in their relationship for the benefit of both peoples. (Xinhua)



This photo taken on Sept 24, 2024, shows the Constitutional Monument in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni on Tuesday inaugurated the monument in celebration of the 31st anniversary of the promulgation of the country's constitution. (Xinhua)



Petro



Maduro

Lat/Am

'Arrest Maduro and Cabello': A federal court in Argentina on Monday ordered the "immediate" arrest of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello for alleged crimes against humanity committed against dissidents.

The court order came in response to an appeal by Argentine prosecutor Carlos Storinelli after a previous ruling dismissed the complaint against both Venezuelan leaders.

Federal court members Pablo Bertuzzi, Leopoldo Bruglia and Mariano Llorens ordered that "the arrest warrants for Nicolás Maduro and Diosdado Cabello be executed immediately, and that their international arrest should be ordered via Interpol for the purposes of extradition to the Argentine Republic," according to the resolution.

The order comes hours after Venezuela's Supreme Court issued an arrest warrant for Argentina's President Javier Milei amid a controversy between the two countries over the detention in Argentine territory - and delivery to the United States - of a cargo plane that Washington says was sold by a sanctioned Iranian airline to a Venezuelan state-owned company.

The tit-for-tat heightens the tensions between Venezuela and Argentina that have been brewing since far-right Milei assumed power in December and that has led to a breakdown in diplomatic relations. (AP)

Egmont Group suspends Colombia:

The Egmont Group, an international organization created to combat money laundering, said Monday that it has suspended Colombia's access to its global information sharing platform, after President Gustavo Petro shared confidential information that Colombian officials had obtained from the group.

The Egmont Group said in a statement that Colombia's government will no longer have access to a secure web used by the group to share data on financial crimes and that can be accessed by 177 member countries. The group said the measure will remain in effect while it further investigates the situation.

Earlier this month, Petro read out information from a document obtained through the Egmont Group suggesting that in 2021, Colombia's government, which was then headed by conservative President Iván Duque, paid an Israeli company \$11 million in cash to acquire Pegasus spyware.

Petro made the revelation during a nation-

Asia

N.Korea vows response to US sub visit to Seoul

Tokyo asks China to protect Japan nationals

TOKYO, Sept 24, (AP): Japan's top diplomat asked China to ensure the safety of Japanese citizens there after the fatal stabbing of a Japanese schoolboy, and demanded a crackdown on what she called "groundless, malicious and anti-Japanese" social media posts that threaten children's safety.

Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa requested her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, conduct a full investigation into the stabbing and provide a clear explanation to Japan about what happened, and to punish the suspect and implement preventive measures for the future.

Kamikawa said Beijing should take concrete steps to ensure safety of Japanese residents, especially children, in China, according to Japan's Foreign Ministry. The two ministers met in New York on Monday on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

The 10-year-old boy was stabbed on Sept. 18 near the gate of the Shenzhen Japanese School. The attacker, identified as a 44-year-old man, was arrested on the spot and is being investigated, according to Chinese officials. No motive for the attack was immediately clear.

Kamikawa has said the attack occurred despite Tokyo's request to Beijing for increased security for Japanese citizens and around Japanese schools ahead of the Sept. 18 anniversary of the Mukden Incident in 1931, which China marks as the beginning of the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, now northeast China.

Also:

TOKYO: Small tsunami waves splashed ashore on remote Japanese islands Tuesday morning after an earthquake that may have been triggered by volcanic activity.

The offshore quake was not felt, and the tsunami advisory was lifted about three hours later. No damage or injuries were reported.

The Japan Meteorological Agency had advised that waves up to 1 meter (yard) above tide levels could occur on the coasts of the Izu and Ogasawara island chains after the magnitude 5.8 quake occurred off the Izu Islands. The US Geological Survey measured the quake's strength at 5.6 magnitude.

About 21,500 people live on the is-

Ex-Singaporean minister S. Iswaran pleads guilty to receiving illegal gifts

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Sept 24, (AP): A former Singaporean cabinet minister pleaded guilty to charges of receiving illegal gifts Tuesday, in the Asian financial hub's first ministerial criminal trial in nearly half a century.

Former Transport Minister S. Iswaran pleaded guilty to one count of obstructing justice and four of accepting gifts from people with whom he had official business. The court set Oct 3 for sentencing, Channel News Asia reported.

Iswaran, 62, was initially charged with 35 counts but in a twist at the start of the trial, prosecutors said they would proceed with only five, while reducing two counts of cor-

ruption to receiving illegal gifts. Prosecutors said they will apply for the remaining 30 charges to be taken into consideration for sentencing. No reasons were given for the move.

Iswaran received gifts worth over 74,000 Singapore dollars (\$57,000) from Ong Beng Seng, a Singapore-based Malaysian property tycoon, and businessperson Lum Kok Seng.

The gifts included tickets to Singapore's Formula 1 race, drinks and a luxury Brompton bike. Ong owns the right to the local F1 race, and Iswaran was chair of and later adviser to the Grand Prix's steering committee.

lands in the Izu group and about 2,500 on the Ogasawara Islands.

JMA said a tsunami of about 50 centimeters (about 20 inches) was detected in the Yaene district on Hachijo Island about 30 minutes after the quake. Smaller waves were detected on three other islands - Kozushima, Miyakejima and Izu Oshima.

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar: Soldiers carted away debris Monday from parts of military-run Myanmar where floods and landslides from Typhoon Yagi and monsoon rains earlier this month left more than 380 dead and 89 missing, according to reports in state-run media.

The death toll in Myanmar was higher than the combined total for all the other Southeast Asian countries affected by the devastating typhoon, which killed almost 300 people in Vietnam, 42 in Thailand and four in Laos, as well as 21 in the Philippines, according to the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance.

Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the head of Myanmar's military government, said during a weekend ceremony to accept cash donations for flood-

affected areas that 384 people were killed and nearly 150,000 affected by the floods, the state-run Myanmar Alinn newspaper reported.

SEOUL, South Korea: The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed Tuesday to boost the country's nuclear war capability and take other steps to protest the recent arrival of a nuclear-powered U.S. submarine in South Korea.

North Korea has repeatedly vowed to expand its nuclear arsenal, but the latest threat by Kim Yo Jong came after North Korea dialed up regional tensions by unveiling a uranium-enrichment facility and testing a new ballistic missile earlier this month.

In a statement carried by state media, Kim Yo Jong said that the submarine's visit "clearly reveals the frantic military and strategic attempt of the U.S." She said North Korea's nuclear war deterrence must be bolstered "both in quantity and quality continuously and limitlessly" in response.

Pyeongang often responds furiously to such visits, calling them proof of hostile intentions.

ally televised speech, where many expected him to discuss a truckers' strike instead.

The president said that the spyware was used by Duque's conservative administration to spy on activists and members of left-wing parties that opposed his government,

including Petro himself. Duque administration officials have denied the charges.

Pegasus is able to gather information from cellphones undetected and control a cellphone's camera and microphones. The software was developed by an Israeli company

and has been used to target more than 50,000 politicians, journalists and human rights activists by at least a dozen governments, according to a report published by Amnesty International and 18 media organizations in 2021.

Petro on Monday defended his decision to declassify confidential information, arguing he did so to defend the nation's interests. (AP)

2 dead after John hits Mexico: Two people are dead after former hurricane John barreled into Mexico's southern Pacific coast, blowing tin roofs off houses, triggering mudslides and toppling scores of trees, officials said Tuesday.

John grew into a major hurricane in a matter of hours Monday and made landfall about 80 miles (130 kilometers) east of the resort of Acapulco before declining to a tropical storm after moving inland.

John came ashore near the town of Punta Maldonado late Monday night as a Category 3 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph (190 kph). It weakened back to tropical storm status Tuesday with maximum sustained wind speeds of 50 mph (85 kph) and was expected to weaken rapidly.

Evelyn Salgado, the governor of the coastal state of Guerrero, said two people died when the storm sent a mudslide crashing into their house on the remote mountain of Tlacoachistlahuaca (TLAH-ko-chis-tlah-waka), further from the coast. (AP)



Children play on fishing boats known as 'pirogues' in Dakar, Senegal on June 24, 2023. At least 30 bodies were found on a boat drifting off the coast of Senegal's capital, the military said on Sept 23 as the number of migrants leaving West Africa increases. (AP)

MoCI urges companies to register actual beneficiaries

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has urged all companies, including closed joint-stock companies not listed on the Boursa Kuwait and individual institutions, to register and disclose their actual beneficiaries within two weeks, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The ministry said failure to do so may result in legal actions. Meanwhile, the sources indicated that the ministry will close-

ly monitor all licenses and procedures associated with these entities to identify the actual beneficiaries and trace the sources of their funds.

This initiative aims to strengthen compliance with the Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Law, thereby enhancing the prevention of financial manipulation and money laundering activities.

In the meantime, the ministry

has established a comprehensive and reliable database to support this initiative, emphasizing that inaccuracies will lead to legal consequences.

This move is intended to safeguard company data from potential exploitation and to assist regulatory bodies, financial institutions, and businesses in verifying and identifying the true individuals behind financial or commercial transactions.

Economic Committee to finalize market maker mechanism

The Economic Committee of the Federation of Investment Companies is set to meet today to discuss the final draft for improving the market maker's work mechanism, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This follows a review of proposals submitted by investment companies, which will be presented to the Stock Exchange and the Capital Markets Authority.

Meanwhile, the sources re-

vealed that the proposals emphasize the need to enhance awareness of the market maker service among both the service providers and the listed companies benefiting from it.

This initiative includes plans for seminars and workshops aimed at educating stakeholders about the market maker's role, mechanisms, and the solutions to obstacles limiting its effectiveness. One highlighted issue is the

borrowing of treasury shares from agreed-upon companies, as specified by regulatory rules, and the market maker's obligation to return the borrowed shares at the end of the agreement, irrespective of their market price.

Moreover, companies wishing to act as market makers for listed shares without a binding agreement face challenges, especially with large-cap and high-priced shares.

Market Movements

24-09-2024

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
SAUDI	- TASI	+138.80	12,268.42	EGYPT	- EGX 30	-151.44	30,871.10
DUBAI	- DFMGI	+27.40	4,461.46	PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	-366.49	81,570.13
JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+216.68	37,940.59				
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+14.96	7,432.21				

Business

'Bank to convert over 50 branches into eco-friendly spaces by 2025'

Gulf Bank reopens three renovated branches with eco-friendly design

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: As part of the GB Talks series, Nasser Al-Salman, Project Manager of Gulf Bank's Facilities Management, announced that the bank has reopened three fully renovated branches in Abdullah Al-Salem, Nuzha, and Jabriya. Additionally, Gulf Bank also opened its first fully eco-friendly branch in Sabah Al-Ahmad, demonstrating its commitment to sustainability and its ambitious plan to transform its entire branch network into eco-friendly spaces.

Al-Salman stated, "We are working on renovating more branches as part of our goal to convert over 50 branches into eco-friendly spaces, aligning with our new branch identity. This plan is part of our 2025 strategy and Kuwait's Vision 2035, supporting the country's efforts to move towards a sustainable economy and reduce carbon emissions."

He stated that the revamped branches feature modern designs and offer



Nasser Al-Salman speaks during the GB Talks.

faster, more advanced banking services, incorporating the latest technology to keep up with global banking trends.

He added, "The new branches are designed for greater comfort, ease,

and speed for customers. They are fully sustainable and environmentally friendly, meeting green building standards by reducing electricity consumption through solar panels, maximizing



A glimpse of interior design of the new branches.

natural light, and using sensors to minimize power usage. Thermal insulation is also installed to naturally lower indoor temperatures, and we've included electric vehicle charging stations."

Al-Salman concluded by saying, "At Gulf Bank, we are focused on delivering an exceptional customer experience, whether through our mobile app, which is the easiest and fastest

in the sector, or through branch visits, ATMs, and our updated customer service center with an interactive voice response system."

Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional customer service while contributing sustainably to the community. Through its extensive branch network and innovative digital services, the bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring a seamless experience.

In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, "New Kuwait," and its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships, Gulf Bank is dedicated to driving robust sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The bank is committed to implementing strategically selected and diverse sustainability programs both internally and externally.

KFH introduces electronic opening of 'Al Nuwair' deposit for children

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced that customers can now open Al Nuwair deposit for their children electronically using the KFH Online application. In line with KFH's strategy, this new service aims to provide customers with simple digital services and products to enhance their banking experience, adhering to the latest international standards in financial and banking services.

The innovative Al Nuwair investment deposit offers a pre-determined return and several unique features. Profits are distributed on the maturity date, eliminating the need to wait until the end of the fiscal period. The deposit is flexible, allowing for withdrawals of up to 30% of the invested amount without breaking the deposit. Additionally, investors can choose to reinvest their profits to maximize future returns.

Before opening the Al Nuwair deposit, a client can open an account for their children. This also applies to the guardian of a minor. Such accounts are considered profit accounts for the new deposit that will be created. The client can activate this service through Allo Baitak or by visiting any branch. The father or guardian can manage the deposit and withdraw from it up to a maximum of 30%, and withdraw funds

from it, up to a maximum of 30%.

Al Nuwair deposit is based on the legitimate principle of "Wakala investment" where KFH acts as an investment agent for its clients. KFH promises clients a pre-determined profit rate according to various investment periods ranging from one month to three years. Additionally, clients can choose specific investment periods in days, starting from 30 days or more. The minimum initial deposit for Al Nuwair is KD 1,000, making it accessible to a wide range of customers.

The distinctive Al Nuwair deposit complements a diverse range of savings and investment products, catering to the varied needs of all KFH customers and offering highly competitive returns. KFH stands out in the banking industry, offering a comprehensive range of investment deposits that excel in terms of return, maturity, and investment ratio. Its deposits are renowned for their innovative features and ease of account opening, available through a convenient network of branches, online channels, and ATMs.

KFH provides competitive returns on deposits within the banking sector. This is attributed to its strong investment performance, robust profitability indicators, and diverse investment opportunities.



Mohammed Salem Al-Haimer



Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasir Al-Sabah

KPC CEO stresses importance of collective efforts in oil sector for Kuwait's economy

KUFPEC hosts oil sector leaders meeting on digital transformation

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) organized Oil Sector Leaders Town Hall Meeting, titled "Digital Transformation 2024", at the Four Seasons Hotel on 24 September.

The event is a significant platform for oil sector leaders to reflect on achievements of the past fiscal year and address major issues such as "digital transformation" in line with the strategy of KPC and its subsidiaries. The meeting also shed light on the rapid technological developments, and the changes required to implement digitization in all procedures and operations of the oil sector to boost operational excellence and continuous innovation.

In his keynote address, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasir Al-Sabah underscored the importance of the collective efforts and knowledge-sharing among oil sector employees to propel Kuwait's national economy forward. Sheikh Nawaf said developing and refining the skills of the next generation of oil sector leaders is crucial for achieving the strategic objectives of KPC and its subsidiaries, as well as steering the Kuwaiti oil industry toward providing sustainable energy for a promising future.

KUFPEC CEO Mohammed Salem Al-Haimer highlighted the significance of optimal utilization of artificial intelligence and digital transformation to

Brent and WTI dip

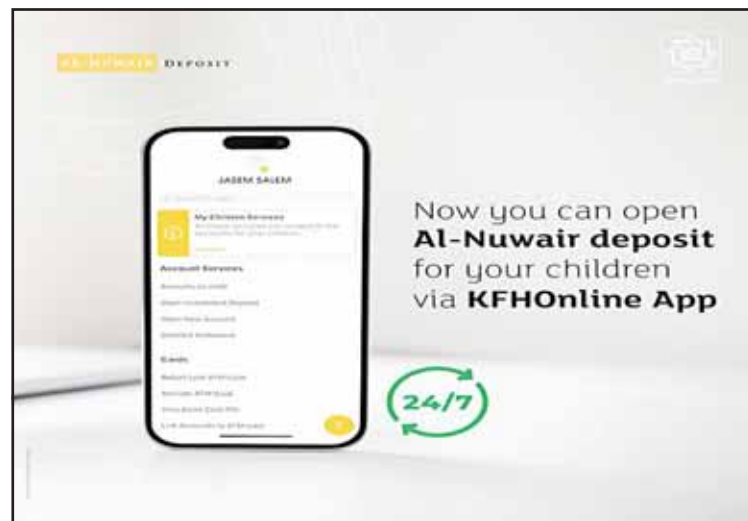
Kuwait oil price up to \$75.57 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24, (KUNA): The price of Kuwaiti oil went up by 2 cents to USD 75.57 per barrel on Monday as opposed to USD 75.55 pb last Friday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Tuesday.

The prices of the Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate had a similar performance in the global market, going down each by 59 and 63 cents to USD 73.90 per barrel and USD 70.37 pb respectively.

achieve oil sector goals, asserting that KUFPEC is keen to continue its successes in exploration operations. KUFPEC recently made a new oil discovery in the Geisum and Tawila West concession in the Gulf of Suez, Egypt, which demonstrates our commitment to enhancing our international position as an active investor in the field of exploration and production of hydrocarbons outside Kuwait, added Al-Haimer.

At the end of the meeting, oil sector leaders reiterated their dedication to serve the State of Kuwait and the oil sector to fulfil more achievements and ensure a bright and sustainable future for the operations and assets of KPC and its subsidiaries.



Al Nuwair deposit flyer

Career fair attracts over 7,000 professionals

Al Hamra hosts Kuwait's first-of-its-kind career fair with 20+ top companies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Al Hamra Career Fair, held on 18th and 19th of September at Al Hamra Shopping Center, concluded with remarkable success, further solidifying Al Hamra's position as a dynamic business hub in Kuwait. Organized in collaboration with Zone Company, the organizer responsible of "Watheeft Career Fair," the event provided professionals with unparalleled opportunities to connect with leading companies in Kuwait, embodying Al Hamra's, dedication to empowering businesses and communities to thrive and succeed.

Al Hamra's mission goes beyond business. As part of its Enhancement Strategy, the company has introduced a variety of initiatives focused on sustainability, art and design, health and wellness, women's empowerment, and most recently, the Al Hamra Career Fair.

The Al Hamra Career Fair brought together top-tier companies and experienced professionals from diverse sectors, playing a crucial role in advancing Kuwait's economic vision.

Al Hamra's vision for this fair goes beyond traditional recruitment; it reflects the company's firm commitment to playing a pivotal role in Kuwait's evolving business ecosystem. The fair, the first of its kind in



Photos during the Career Fair.

the country, attracted more than 7,000 professionals, providing them with a unique platform to engage with over 20 leading companies across various sectors, including retail, banking, technology, healthcare, and the public sector, represented by the Public Authority of Manpower (PAM). PAM played a key role in supporting local talent by providing direct access to job opportunities, reinforcing the importance of nurturing Kuwait's national workforce.

In this context, Mr. Abdulaziz Mohammed Al Duwaih, Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Al Hamra Real

Estate Company, stated: "The Al Hamra Career Fair marks a pivotal moment in the evolution of Kuwait's business sector. We are proud to organize an event that transcends the traditional frameworks of job fairs, offering experienced professionals a platform to achieve significant career advancements. The strong turnout from both participants and companies reflects the inherent value of these initiatives in promoting individual and societal growth."

He added: "As a thriving business hub, Al Hamra is committed to connecting talents with leading companies,



fostering innovation, and enhancing Kuwait's commercial landscape. By supporting local and international talent, we aim to raise service standards and strengthen Kuwait's future vision."

The Fair is part of the enhancement strategy of Al Hamra, reflecting its unwavering commitment to community inclusiveness. The event once again reaffirmed Al Hamra's key role as a catalyst for professional growth and development, contributing to shaping the very fabric of Kuwait's economic landscape. With a focus on fostering leadership, growth, and innovation that

touches every corner of society, it reinforces Al Hamra's position as a central figure in Kuwait's evolving business environment.

About Al Hamra Real Estate Co.: Carrying the proud legacy of an iconic national landmark, Al Hamra Real Estate Co. remains a leader in real estate management. With ample office space available for a wide range of business activities, its highly acclaimed Business Tower is the tallest carved skyscraper standing at 413m high with 80 levels. The tower serves as the focal point of Kuwait's business district, enabling peo-

ple and businesses to thrive. Al Hamra's Shopping Center operates as a contemporary lifestyle destination that trends premium, new brands and offers special shopping and entertainment concepts. The center also functions as the gateway to a dynamic mix of culinary flavors through its popular Food Hall as well as its Shopping Center.

Credited for revolutionizing workspaces in the 21st century and transforming the urban landscape of Kuwait City's skyline, Al Hamra has won awards for its distinctive Business Tower from Honeywell, Arabian Business Achievement Awards, The American Institute of Architecture (AIA) - New York Chapter, American Concrete Institute, The Dubai, African and Arabian Property and International Property Awards 2019-2020 as well as the 'Audience Award' in the 10-year category for its completion of projects during 2021 by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH).

To discover how Al Hamra is reshaping the business networking community, society through its national movements and maintaining its trademark of guaranteeing diverse offerings, please visit www.alhamra.com.kw or [@alhamra_tower](https://www.instagram.com/alhamra_tower).

Britain's Treasury chief tries to turn on the economic optimism after months of gloomy talk

British Treasury chief Rachel Reeves promised on Monday not to return to an era of public spending cuts despite the dire state of the U.K.'s national finances, as she tried to inject a dose of optimism after weeks of negative headlines for the country's new Labour Party government.

Reeves used a speech to Labour's annual conference to try and reassure party members, jittery despite a recent landslide election victory, that her first budget next month won't be all doom and gloom.

Reeves promised "there will be no return to austerity" and said the government will invest in industry, infrastructure and green energy to reverse declines in "growth, productivity and family incomes."

Reeves, the first woman to hold the 800-year-old post of Chancellor of the Exchequer, said the government would get "shovels in the ground,

cranes in the sky."

"My optimism for Britain burns brighter than ever," she said.

The center-left party is gathering in the northwest England port city of Liverpool three months after winning power in Britain's July 4 election. While Labour's return to office after 14 years in opposition has many delegates buzzing, some are anxious about the government's faltering start and downbeat economic messaging.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer won the election on a promise to banish years of turmoil and scandal under the Conservatives, get Britain's sluggish economy growing and restore frayed public services such as the state-funded National Health Service.

Since then, he has struck a gloomy note, saying there is a 22 billion pound (\$29 billion) "black hole" in the public finances left by the Con-

servative government, and warning that "things will get worse" before they get better. That has many party members worried that tax increases and spending cuts loom in the Oct. 30 budget.

"Conservative austerity was a destructive choice for our public services -- and for investment and growth too," Reeves said about spending cuts imposed by previous governments after the 2008 global financial crisis. "We must deal with the Tory legacy and that means tough decisions. But we won't let that dim our ambition for Britain."

Reeves sketched out how the government hopes to fill some of the fiscal black hole without raising income tax, sales tax or corporation tax, all of which she has ruled out. Measures include a crackdown on tax avoiders and a drive to claw back money defrauded from contracts issued during the COVID-19 pandemic. (AP)

Will the public eventually agree?

Federal Reserve sees its inflation fight as a success

WASHINGTON, Sept 24, (AP) — With its larger-than-usual half-point cut to its key interest rate last week, the Federal Reserve underscored its belief that it's all but conquered inflation after three long years.

The public at large? Not so much. Consumer surveys, including one released Friday by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, show that most Americans remain unhappy with the economy, still bruised by an inflation rate that hit a four-decade high two years ago as the economy rebounded from the pandemic recession.

Yet in the view of some economists, the shift toward steadily lower borrowing rates could eventually boost consumer sentiment. Inflation has sunk for more than two years and is nearly back down to the Fed's 2% target. Though that means overall prices are still rising, they're doing so much more slowly.

The costs of some high-profile consumer goods, from used cars to grocery prices, have actually been falling. Economic history suggests that a low, stable inflation rate, with prices rising only gradually, eventually leads Americans to adapt to higher price levels. One favorable factor is that average incomes are now rising faster than prices, allowing more households to afford necessities.

The issue remains a heated one in the political campaign. Seeking to capitalize on public discontent, former President Donald Trump has blamed the Biden-Harris administration's policies for having caused inflation to spike. Yet Friday's AP poll found that voters are now roughly split on who they think would better handle the economy, Trump or Vice President Kamala Harris. Back in June, an AP poll had found that six in 10 disapproved of President Joe Biden's economic record.

That is a sign that, at least seen through a political prism, Americans' economic views have begun to brighten.

Powell also provided a colloquial definition of the Fed's mandate to seek "price stability."

"A good definition of price stability," he said, "is that people in their daily decisions, they're not thinking about inflation. That's where everyone wants to be - back to, 'What's inflation?' Just keep it low, keep it stable."

Powell did not suggest that the Fed had fully succeeded in that goal. He acknowledged that consumers are still "experiencing high prices, as opposed to high inflation," which he said is "painful." But, he added, "I think we've made real progress."

China cuts rates to help the economy

BEIJING, Sept 24, (AP) — China rolled out a raft of measures Tuesday aimed at countering a prolonged downturn in its property market that is weighing on the world's second largest economy.

The chief of China's central bank said it would cut the amount of reserves banks are required to keep. It also slashed interest rates on its loans to commercial banks, reduced required down payments for some property purchases and promised other moves to revive the slowing economy.

Disruptions and job losses during the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with falling prices for homes, have left many Chinese unwilling or unable to spend, despite government efforts to encourage purchases of homes, electric vehicles and other big-ticket items.

People's Bank of China Gov. Pan Gongsheng told reporters in Beijing that the reserve requirement for banks would be cut by 0.5 percentage points "in the near term," and that the central bank would follow up with further cuts. That would free up more money for lending.

The news lifted share prices, especially for real estate developers. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index jumped 3.6%, while the Shanghai Composite index was up 3.4%.

The central bank also plans new policies to support stable development of the stock market, Pan and other officials said.

Analysts said the latest, coordinated approach to supporting the property sector might be more effective than earlier, piecemeal efforts that so far had brought only scant relief. The Federal Reserve's half-a-percentage point rate cut last week also alleviated pressure on the Chinese yuan, giving the PBOC more leeway to act.

It's "a step in the right direction," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a commentary. "But it will probably be insufficient to drive a turnaround in growth unless followed up with greater fiscal support," he said.

Unlike the U.S., where inflation due to a hot economy has been the main preoccupation of policymakers in recent years, China has been contending with slowing growth and downward pressure on prices due to slack demand.

Ban eyed for Chinese, Russian software and hardware used in some vehicles on US roads

Commerce Dept announcement proactive

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (AP) — The Commerce Department has said it's seeking a ban on the sale of connected and autonomous vehicles in the U.S. that are equipped with Chinese and Russian software and hardware with the stated goal of protecting national security and U.S. drivers.

While there is minimal Chinese and Russian software deployed in the U.S., the issue is more complicated for hardware. That's why Commerce officials said the prohibitions on the software would take effect for the 2027 model year and the prohibitions on hardware would take effect for the model year of 2030, or Jan. 1, 2029, for units without a model year.

The measure announced Monday is proactive but critical, the agency said, given that all the bells and whistles in cars like microphones, cameras, GPS tracking and Bluetooth technology could make Americans more vulnerable to bad actors and potentially expose personal information, from the home address of drivers, to where their children go to school.

In extreme situations, a foreign adversary could shut down or take simultaneous control of multiple vehicles operating in the United States, causing crashes and blocking roads, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo told reporters on a call Sunday.

"This is not about trade or economic advantage," Raimondo said. "This is a strictly national security action. The good news is right now, we don't have many Chinese or Russian cars on our road."

But Raimondo said Europe and other regions in the world where Chinese vehicles have become commonplace very quickly should serve as "a cautionary tale" for the U.S.

Security concerns around the extensive software-driven functions in Chinese vehicles have arisen in Europe, where Chinese electric cars have rapidly gained market share.

"Who controls these data flows and software updates is a far from trivial question, the answers to which encroach on matters of national security, cybersecurity, and individual privacy," Janka Oertel, director of the Asia program at the European Council on Foreign Relations, wrote on the council's website.

Vehicles are now "mobility platforms" that monitor driver and passenger behavior and track their surroundings.

A senior administration official said that it is clear from terms of service contracts included with the technology that data from vehicles ends up in China.

Raimondo said that the U.S. won't wait until its roads are populated with Chinese or Russian cars.

"We're issuing a proposed rule to address these new national security threats before suppliers, automakers and car components linked to China or Russia become commonplace and widespread in the U.S. automotive sector," Raimondo said.

It is difficult to know when China could reach that level of saturation, a senior administration official said, but the Commerce Department says China hopes to enter the U.S. market and several Chinese companies have already announced plans to enter the automotive software space.

The Commerce Department added Russia to the regulations since the country is trying to "breathe new life into its auto industry," senior administration officials said on the call.

The proposed rule would prohibit



Gina Raimondo, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, speaks during the Democratic National Convention on Aug. 19, 2024, in Chicago. (AP)

Passengers to pay 18% more

Cost of Germany's transport ticket to go up

2 new models unveiled

BERLIN, Sept 24, (AP) — The cost of a popular ticket introduced last year that allows people to use all local and regional trains, buses and subway systems across Germany is set to increase by about 18% next year, a senior official said Monday.

Transport ministers from Germany's 16 states agreed that the price of the Germany Ticket, which has cost 49 euros (\$54.70) per month since it became available in May 2023, should rise to 58 euros at the beginning of 2025.

"With this price, we will manage to keep the ticket attractive and put the financing on a more solid footing," Oliver Krischer, the transport minister of North Rhine-Westphalia state, told German news agency dpa. He said the decision shows that German regional authorities "want to stick to the successful model of the Germany Ticket and further develop it."

The Germany Ticket was intended to encourage people to ditch their cars in favor of more environmentally friendly forms of transportation. It followed a successful experimental ticket offering unlimited travel for 9 euros per month that was offered for three months in the summer of 2022, as part of a government program to help combat high inflation and fuel prices.

Officials said that ultra-low price wasn't financially viable. But it and the Germany Ticket had the added merit of simplifying for ticket holders a fractured public transit system in which individual regions offered myriad different fare options that baffled many travelers.

the import and sale of vehicles with Russia and China-manufactured software and hardware that would allow the vehicle to communicate externally through Bluetooth, cellular, satellite or Wi-Fi modules. It would also prohibit

China automakers eye opportunities in Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 24, (Xinhua) — Chinese automakers are accelerating their global expansion, with a particular focus on increasing their presence in African countries. On Friday, JETOUR Auto, a Chinese automobile brand, unveiled two new right-hand drive (RHD) models, DASHING and X70PLUS, in Johannesburg, South Africa, marking another step forward in its global growth.

In 2023, China exported 4.91 million vehicles, achieving a year-on-year growth of 57.9 percent, making it the world's largest automobile exporter for the first time. The massive growth was propelled by a surge in the exports of new energy vehicles (NEVs), which soared 77.6 percent to more than 1.2 million units last year.

"The global expansion trend offers great opportunities for Chinese auto companies," Li Xueyong, president of JETOUR Auto, told Xinhua in a recent interview, adding that the company has established more than 600 sales and service networks in over 50 countries.

As an economic powerhouse on the African continent, South Africa boasts a mature car market. Since Chinese automakers entered the South African market more than a decade ago, over

Around 13 million people in the country of some 83 million people use the Germany Ticket.

the sale or import of software components made in Russia or the People's Republic of China that collectively allow a highly autonomous vehicle to operate without a driver behind the wheel. The ban would include vehicles

10 Chinese brands have established a presence and achieved strong sales.

"We have placed great importance on the South African market, which is highly competitive and mature, and we have made thorough preparations to enter it," said Ke Chuandeng, vice president of JETOUR Auto. He added that the company aims to establish 40 sales networks in the country by the end of this year and sell 30,000 vehicles over the next three years.

As one of Africa's largest car producers, with a history of more than 100 years, South Africa's car market is relatively saturated, making it challenging for new entrants to gain a foothold. However, as more African countries turn to NEVs, Chinese automakers are finding new opportunities on the continent.

According to the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa, NEV sales in South Africa surged from 896 units in 2021 to 7,746 units in 2023. Last year, the country released a white paper on electric vehicle development, aiming to increase NEV market share from 1.45 percent in 2023 to 20 percent by the end of 2025.

For JETOUR, the African continent

Bavaria's transport minister, Christian Bernreiter, said a price rise was "unavoidable" because sales

made in the U.S. using Chinese and Russian technology.

The proposed rule would apply to all vehicles, but would exclude those not used on public roads, such as agricultural or mining vehicles.

holds significant potential for NEV development.

"African countries have abundant metal mineral resources such as lithium and nickel, providing ample raw materials for batteries. South Africa's auto production and assembly began in the early 20th century, laying a solid foundation for its car industry," said Ke.

For Chinese automakers, the development and introduction of NEV models is key to standing out among international competitors. "JETOUR is actively introducing NEVs to the global market and has a comprehensive technological and product layout for hybrid, battery-electric, and other vehicles," Ke added.

To meet the diverse demands of consumers, JETOUR has launched the "Travel+" strategy, which integrates people, vehicles, and the environment through the ecological layout of the entire travel industry chain, said Li.

"As a Chinese company, we are still adapting to the local market. Today's launch of the DASHING and X70PLUS models is just the beginning, and we plan to introduce more off-road and hybrid models, led by the T2, for African customers in the future," Li said.

were short of expectations, raising the prospect of a large financing shortfall next year.

U.S. automakers said they share the government's national security goal, but at present there is little connected vehicle hardware or software coming to the U.S. supply chain from China.

9 EU nations pledge to turn the Mediterranean into a green energy hub

LARNACA, Cyprus, Sept 24, (AP) — Officials from nine southern European Union member countries said Monday they're focused on harnessing offshore wind and solar energy to try to turn the Mediterranean region into a renewable energy hub and stave off the risks of climate change.

The energy ministers of Cyprus, Slovenia and Malta, Croatia's economy minister as well as officials from Greece, Italy, France, Portugal and Spain said in a joint statement that

they're working on setting up joint renewable energy projects across borders without the red tape that could potentially repel investors.

They called on the European Commission to head a new study on the region's renewable energy potential on which "informed decision-making and concrete action" will be taken on moving ahead green energy projects. The statement came at the MED9 Energy Ministerial Meeting in Larnaca.

George Papanastasiou, energy min-

ister of host Cyprus, told reporters that so-called MED9 countries are looking at ways of generating green energy from offshore platforms because of the growing scarcity of land in Mediterranean countries on which to build such projects.

Papanastasiou said that some countries have already undertaken offshore wind energy pilot projects in shallow waters, whose results will be studied by fellow MED9 nations to tailor their own facilities. There are also plans for wave-

generated energy and floating photovoltaic units since there's greater capacity in southern Europe for such technologies owing to abundant sunlight.

Spain's Energy Agency Director-General Joan Groizard said that Mediterranean countries "can and must be at the forefront of the energy transition," because they are the most vulnerable to climate change.

A key challenge to tapping offshore wind and solar energy generation facilities is plugging them into existing

onshore power grids and interconnections to transmit to other countries.

Greece's ambassador to Cyprus, Ioannis Papameliou, said that the Aegean has among the highest wind power capacities in the EU, noting that there is "great room for cooperation and exchange of best practices."

He said that Greece has set a target of introducing 2 gigawatts of wind power to its energy mix by 2030, expanding that to 10 GW by 2040 and 17 GW by 2050.

What's On



Ribbon-cutting for the opening.



Chairman Talal Behbehani with the Bank's team at the exhibition.



US Ambassador at the Bank's Pavilion.

Johair Marafi highlights ABK's commitment to the automotive sector

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait participates in Auto World Show for second consecutive year

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced its participation in the Auto World Show for the second consecutive year, held this September at the Kuwait International Fairground. This event, one of the largest car shows in Kuwait, showcased a wide array of automotive innovations and provided a platform for local and international brands to connect with enthusiasts.



Ms. Johair Marafi

ABK set up an engaging booth to attract visitors, offering worthwhile promotions tailored for potential customers. The Bank showcased its extensive range of banking solutions, enabling customers to find the perfect fit for their needs.

"We are thrilled to participate in the Auto World Show once again," said Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK. "These events allow us to interact directly with our customers, understand their needs, and provide them with tailored solutions. Our presence reinforces our commitment to supporting the automotive sector in Kuwait while offering our customers an elevated banking experience."

ABK's participation at the Auto World Show this year was met with enthusiasm from attendees, who took advantage of the special offers and personalized engagement with the Bank's knowledgeable representatives.

As the Auto World Show continues to grow in popularity, ABK is excited to further its participation in future events, striving to provide innovative financial products and services that empower customers to achieve their aspirations.

High returns, weekly draws for savers

KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza account's draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account's 2024 campaign, which is distinguished by the highest number of winners throughout the year. The fourth weekly draw, based on customers' August deposits, recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank. The KD 1,000 prize was awarded to Ahmed Hussain Raita Raita, Mohammed Motaq Hofan Alrasheedi, Tamer Badreldin Ibrahim Abouhenidi, Talibaldin Islamuddin, and Abdelaziz Abdelaty Abdallah Sayed, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded to Shurooq Saleh Mohammad Alfajri, Yousuf Alaa Jabbar Aldughaim, Mashhour Julaib Husain Alsaedi, Nourah Abdullah Mohammad Alsenafi, Batoul Mohammad Jafaar Alhasan, Nuha Saleh Humoud Alshayji, and Walaa Ahmed Mohamed Baker.



KIB's Al Dirwaza account.

opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the weekly, monthly and annual draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account. For the weekly and monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes a two-month cycle in the account – based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

'IDAK' successfully hosts 21st Scientific Study Club

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Indian Dentists' Alliance in Kuwait (IDAK), in collaboration with the Kuwait Dental Association (KDA), successfully hosted the 21st Scientific Study Club on Friday at the Dasman Ballroom, Radisson Blu Hotel. The event, titled "DENTOPEDIA – Decoding Multi-faceted Dentistry," served as a vital platform for exploring the latest advancements in dentistry and oral healthcare. Over 200 dentists practicing in Kuwait attended the event which was accredited with 5 CME credits by Kuwait Institute of Medical Specialization (KIMS).

The program commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Jagan Baskaradoss, Chair of the Scientific Committee, who introduced the speakers and highlighted the growing interest in IDAK's study club among dental professionals in Kuwait.

The 'Keynote Address' was delivered by Dr. Hessa AlBader, Pedodontist at Farwaniya Dental Center, Ministry of Health. Dr. AlBader discussed the management of dental trauma in children, providing an insightful overview of current practices and innova-

tions in identifying and treating trauma in young patients.

A 'Distinguished Lecture' was presented by Dr. Kawther Ali from the College of Dentistry, Kuwait University, who covered "Digital Workflow in Dentistry." Dr. Ali highlighted the latest technology in prosthetic dentistry, including the use of artificial intelligence to enhance patient care and dental practice efficiency.

The IDAK Lecture Series featured three prominent speakers. Dr. Inamdar Saquib Ahmed, Endodontist at the Kuwait National Guards Specialized Dental Center, discussed the use of lasers in managing chronic periapical lesions, showcasing successful cases from his practice. Dr. Jacob Lonappan, an Orthodontist from Adan Dental Center, focused on the use of extra-oral devices to treat patients with irregular occlusion, presenting cases tracked over five years. Dr. Ranjitha R S, Oral Surgeon at Smile Inn Dental Center, Sharq, stood out with her presentation on the use of Botox in facial esthetics and dental procedures, which was especially well-received by the attendees.



IDAK Study Club

Dai Forni unveils live music and martini nights starting Oct 10

Right Place, Right Time: Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya launches weekly on-trend dining events

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: This autumn, two new dining experiences ensure Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya remains the city's go-to gastronomy destination. Renowned for its global dining offerings, the Forbes five-star urban sanctuary launches two weekly events designed to be shared—Unlimited Sushi Night at Sintoho every Tuesday and Mix & Mingle at Dai Forni every Thursday—bringing together live music, fine food and drink, and a sense of being in the right place at the right time.

Unlimited Sushi Night at Sintoho every Tuesday

Every Tuesday night from September 24, in-the-know Kuwaitis and expats can head to the on-trend Sintoho Restaurant and Lounge for Unlimited Sushi Night. From 5:00 pm until midnight, the stylish hotspot on the hotel's 21st floor will be serving unlimited sushi along side uplifting DJ beats and soaring city views for KD 20 per person.

Oozing ambient vibes, Unlimited Sushi Night is the perfect see-and-been night out. Diners can choose from seating with panoramic views over Kuwait's glittering lights or a chilled lounge area overlooking Al Shaheed Park. Complimentary valet parking service ensures a stress-free arrival before a refreshing drink sets the welcoming tone.

Following a starter of miso soup, a 'buffet on wheels' brings an array of handcrafted sushi direct to diners, including maki rolls and nigiri glazed and torched at the table and two trolleys of sushi and nigiri with signature sauces. After feasting on unlimited sushi, a dessert of Kakigori—crushed ice with mango, matcha or cherry syrup—ends the night on a sweet note. DJ Solo's deep house and melodic techno music adds a soaring sound-



Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait.

scape to the whole experience.

Mix & Mingle at Dai Forni every Thursday

Equally committed to bringing new experiences to Kuwait City, the hotel's chic Italian restaurant Dai Forni will be launching Mix & Mingle every Thursday. From October 10, diners can head to the lively eatery with its espresso bar and huge copper-seathed wood-burning ovens—from which the restaurant gets its name—for live music and delicious Martini drinks

alongside classy Italian comfort food.

Atmospheric live renditions of iconic hits come courtesy of Kuwaiti musician and singer Zak Musawi, while custom Martini Mocktail recipes have been crafted by the hotel's mixologists and are available to purchase on the night. As part of the event, diners can savour a 50% discount on starters every Thursday.

"We're thrilled to expand our dining offerings with these exciting new experiences highlighting the vision of Chef

Thierry Papillier, Executive Chef and the rest of the team," comments the hotel's General Manager, Martin Kipping. "Our resort-like urban retreat has long prided itself on its world-class dining scene. With these events happening weekly, we're looking forward to inviting guests and locals alike to enjoy five-star feasting in sublime surroundings."

For details or to book a dining experience at Four Seasons Hotel Kuwait at Burj Alshaya, please contact: 2200 6000

New 'Kanzee for GenZ' program offers exclusive rewards for young shoppers

Sultan Center launches digital features targeting Kuwait's youth market

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Sultan Center Food Products Company today announced the launch of its innovative new digital features, along with personalized offers and services targeting Kuwait's youth segment in its Sultan Express stores and Q-commerce service, Rush. This initiative aligns with Sultan's plan to enhance shopping experiences for younger customers while keeping pace with global technological advancements in the retail sector.

Sultan CEO, Mr. Bassam Zantout, said: "At Sultan, we are committed to innovation and providing tailored offers and services for our younger customers. Our new 'Kanzee for GenZ' tier is a testament to our dedication to meeting the evolving needs of this segment. By engaging with the younger generation, we are building a stronger future for Sultan. Our goal is to foster loyalty by offering products and services that seamlessly integrate into Gen Z's fast-paced, modern, tech-



Mr. Bassam Zantout, Sultan CEO

savvy lifestyle."

He added: "The youth segment is a significant and growing part of our customer base. We're excited to launch these innovative digital updates today, aiming to attract more customers in the next year. We're confident that this step will have a positive im-



New 'Kanzee for GenZ' program.

pact on our overall sales."

Sultan's "Kanzee for GenZ" tier program offers exclusive features tailored to younger customers, including 3% cashback in coins from their "Kanzee" loyalty program when shopping at Sultan Express stores or using "Rush" delivery service.

The program also offers exclusive coupons throughout the year and special "Kanzee Plus" coupons from youth-centric partners, such as entertainment venues, cafes, and restaurants. Sultan is actively expanding its partnerships to ensure rewards align with the

interests of the new generation.

There are currently 30 Sultan Express stores, making it convenient for younger customers to find a nearby location from any point in Kuwait's residential areas. These stores offer trendy and exclusive products such as fresh foods, snacks, protein bars, energy drinks, "Grab-and-Go" meals, and more, enhancing the shopping experience for the youth. The recently launched "Rush" delivery service ensures deliveries within 30 minutes, providing customers with a convenient, easy, and fast shopping experience.



WCD-Kuwait Eco Warriors with Ahmadi Governor.



Kuwait Eco Warriors, founder Priyadarshan Reddy G.

Kuwait Eco Warriors transform beaches into 'pristine havens'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Kuwait's beaches are transforming into pristine havens, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Kuwait Eco Warriors, an environmental advocacy group founded by Priyadarshan Reddy G. Since its inception in October 2020, the group has been relentless in its mission to preserve Kuwait's natural landscapes.

With a global team of 60 volunteers from countries including India,

the USA, Egypt, and Canada, Kuwait Eco Warriors have been cleaning up litter-strewn beaches for 190 consecutive weeks. Their commitment is underscored by 124 straight Fridays of beach cleanups, with locations spanning Fahaeel, Mangaf, Abu Halifa, Fintas, Mahboula, Doha, Al-Bida, Shumayme, and Flamingo Beaches.

Founder Priyadarshan Reddy shared

his personal journey of determination: "I've faced extreme weather and cleaned beaches alone about 25 times, but the sight of a cleaner coast and the knowledge that we're making a difference drives me forward."

The group's work has caught the attention of international and local organizations, teaming up with the World Cleanup Team, the UK Embassy, and Dive Earth Kuwait. On September 21,

2024, Kuwait Eco Warriors organized the World Cleanup 2024 event at Abu Halifa, attended by Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Hamoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who commended the team's dedication.

For those eager to join the cause, Kuwait Eco Warriors invites volunteers to follow them on Instagram at @kuwait_ecowarriors and take part in future cleanups.

Iran pardons Grammy winner whose song became protest anthem

Father gets 31 years to life for sending son to kill PnB Rock

LOS ANGELES, Sept 24, (AP): A man convicted of sending his 17-year-old son into a restaurant to rob and kill rapper PnB Rock was sentenced Monday to 31 years to life in prison.

Judge Connie Quinones handed down the sentence to Freddie Trone, 42, in Los Angeles County Superior Court. A jury on Aug. 7 found Trone guilty of one count of murder, two counts of robbery and one count of conspiracy to commit robbery.

Both sides at Trone's trial agreed that the teen walked into Roscoe's Chicken & Waffles in South Los Angeles in September 2022 and shot the Philadelphia hip-hop star, whose legal name is Rakim Allen, while robbing him of his jewelry as he ate with the mother of his 4-year-old daughter.

The prosecution said he was acting on his father's orders, while the defense, which plans to appeal, said Trone was only an accessory after the fact.

"I want to extend my deepest condolences to the family, friends, and fans of Rakim Allen," District Attorney George Gascón said in a statement. "His life was cut short by an act of violence that no family should have to endure."

Trone's attorney, Winston McKesson, said he disagreed with the judge. He said she declined at sentencing to give the reasons why his client was a "major participant" in the crime, as usually occurs.

He told The Associated Press after the sentencing there was no evi-

dence that Trone was part of planning a killing, nor evidence he knew his son was armed. McKesson said a gun found with Allen was not sufficiently explained at trial, and the jury violated the judge's instructions by doing its own investigating with the evidence, including slowing down video they were shown in real time. He plans to file a notice of appeal.

Deannea Allen, the rapper's mother, traveled from their hometown of Philadelphia to give a statement in the Compton courtroom.

Danger

"I do not understand how a parent could directly put their child in danger. I just can't comprehend it. That one action had a ripple effect, and it has ruined many lives," Deannea Allen said, according to Rolling Stone. "Rakim was the shining light in our family. He was a star to us."

Trone's now-19-year-old son was also charged with murder but is in the custody of the juvenile system. A judge has found that he is not currently competent to stand trial.

The AP does not typically name minors who are accused of crimes. PnB Rock was best known for his 2016 hit "Selfish" and for guest appearances on other artists' songs such as YFN Lucci's "Everyday We Lit" and Ed Sheeran's "Cross Me" with Chance the Rapper. He was 30.

Also:

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates: An Iranian Grammy Award winner said on Monday he was pardoned from serving a three-year sentence over his song that became an anthem to the 2022 protests that rocked the country following the death of **Mahsa Amini** in police custody.

Shervin Hajipour, who was presented his Grammy in 2023 by US first lady **Jill Biden**, uploaded a video story on Instagram, looking overcome with emotion and saying: "A new order had been issued regarding amnesty, and it included my case which has been completely dismissed, adding he learned about the case dismissal on Sunday.

His song, "Baraye," or "For" in English, begins with: "For dancing in the streets," "for the fear we feel when we kiss." The lyrics list reasons that young Iranians posted online for why they had protested against Iran's ruling theocracy after Amini died for not wearing her mandated headscarf to the liking of security forces.

The protests quickly escalated into calls to overthrow Iran's clerical rulers. A subsequent security crackdown killed more than 500 people, with more than 22,000 detained.

On Friday, Iran's Supreme Leader **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** pardoned and commuted the sentences of 2,887 prisoners. It is unclear whether Hajipour's case was part of the amnesty order.

People

Variety



Actors perform during a rehearsal of La Haine musical show, in Tremblay en France, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024. (AP)

Film

India chooses 'Laapataa Ladies' for Oscars 2025

'La Haine' revived as hip-hop musical

NEW YORK: Jazz great **Benny Golson**, a tenor saxophonist and composer of standards such as "Killer Joe" and "Along Came Betty," has died. He was 95.

Golson died Saturday at his home in **Manhattan** after a short illness, said Golson's longtime agent, **Jason Franklin**.

Over his seven-decade musical career, Golson worked with some of the biggest luminaries in jazz, including **Dizzy Gillespie**, **Lionel Hampton** and **John Coltrane**.

He built much of his reputation not as a performer but from his compositions, which also included "I Remember Clifford," written in 1956 after trumpeter **Clifford Brown**, a friend, died in a car crash at age 25.

Born and raised in **Philadelphia**, Golson began learning the piano at age 9 and switched to the saxophone at age 14. He was still in high school when he started performing with other local musicians, including Coltrane, a childhood friend.

Golson began writing and arranging music while attending Howard University.

After stints in Gillespie's big band and in drummer Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, Golson co-founded The Jazztet in 1959 with flugelhorn master Art Farmer.

The Jazztet disbanded in 1962, and Golson moved on to writing music for movies and for television shows such as "Man-nix," "M-A-S-H" and "Mission: Impossible." He also arranged music for performers including **Peggy Lee**, **Lou Rawls** and **Dusty Springfield**.

After a hiatus of more than a dozen years, Golson resumed playing the saxophone in the mid-1970s and launched a new version of the Jazztet with Farmer in 1982. He continued performing and writing music into his 90s. (AP)

WASHINGTON: **Johnny Cash** will soon be seen in the unlikely of venues: the US Capitol.

Congressional leaders, **Arkansas** lawmakers and members of the Cash family will be on hand Tuesday for the unveiling of a bronze statue depicting the "Man in Black."

Speaker **B. R. Latta**, and House Minority Leader **Hakeem Jeffries**, D-N.Y., will join Arkansas' con-

gressional delegation, Gov. **Sarah Huckabee Sanders** and members of the Cash family for the event.

The Cash statue is the second new figure Arkansas has sent to replace two existing images that had represented the state at the US Capitol for more than 100 years. Another statue depicting civil rights leader **Daisy Bates** was unveiled at

the Capitol earlier this year. Bates mentored the nine Black children who desegregated Little Rock Central High School in 1957.

The state's legislature in 2019 voted to replace Arkansas' two prior statues, which depicted little-known figures from the 18th and 19th centuries, with Bates and Cash. The two were approved after

France, Sept 24, (Agencies): Watching "La Haine" nearly 30 years ago, there was a sense of something inexorable about violence in the French suburbs.

French director **Mathieu Kassovitz's** critically acclaimed black-and-white film opens with video images of news footage of urban riots. The film then follows three friends - **Hubert**, **Vinz** and **Saïd** - over the course of 24 hours in a world of police brutality. It ends with the killing of one of the young men by a police officer.

A confrontation ensues, followed by a voice-over: "It's about a society in free fall." A gunshot is heard, leaving little doubt as to the dramatic outcome, with more blood spilled.

The film served as a revelation about the grim reality of life in what the French call the "banlieue" - the deprived suburbs with housing projects - and took the 1995 Cannes Film Festival by storm. Kassovitz won the best director award, and "La Haine" achieved cult status in France and around the world.

Nearly three decades later, it's still hailed as the reference film on housing projects in crisis. Kassovitz and theater director **Serge Denoncourt** are giving it new life, turning it into a stage musical that opens in October.

The title remains the same - "La Haine," which translates as "hate," but adds a subtitle: "So far, nothing has changed."

"Two days after we announced the show (last year), we were very hyped," Kassovitz said. "We were very happy to say: 'OK, we're going to officially announce it and it's going to be a beautiful show and it's going to be a beautiful party and everything. Two days later, we saw the video of Nahel, you know, the kid who got shot by policemen.'"

Kassovitz was referring to **Nahel Merzouk**, a 17-year-old delivery driver who was fatally shot by a police officer in June 2023, sparking riots across the country and unleashing anger over police violence, poverty and discrimination against people with im-

migrant backgrounds. Merzouk was of North African origin.

"Yes, we know why we are doing this," Kassovitz said. "It's for him. It's for all the victims that suffered that kind of violence after so many years."

Despite shooting "La Haine" in black and white, Kassovitz tries to avoid overly simplistic conclusions about the roots of violence.

"We are trying to solve the questions that the movie raised," he said. "We cannot point fingers all the time. Maybe now it's time to have solutions. And we think that the solution is love. So, that's what the show is. It's how to stop hating and start loving."

To find the trio of actors who would carry this message of love through the musical, Kassovitz and his team traveled across France for months. The director believes that **Aliyou Diop**, **Samy Belkessa** and **Alexander Ferrario** are the right choices to recreate the chemistry from the film.

Darkness

For all its darkness, the movie already had a dose of good feeling. It's filled with dozens of funny punch lines and jokes that only reinforce the bond and love between the three main protagonists as they venture into the heart of Paris.

"There's a lot of love in the hood, too" said **Diop**, who comes from a working-class neighborhood in the port city of **Le Havre**. "Otherwise we'd all be shooting at each other. In the movie you see three buddies living in a complicated context, and you forget the context as you watch the film. They manage to make us forget that. That's why I like them so much. They laugh, they laugh in their misery."

When Kassovitz made his film, French suburban culture was still largely underground. The local rap music scene had already emerged, but the local mainstream media tended to portray the youth from the housing projects in an unflattering and largely fear-based light.

Kassovitz said that he's pleased that some of the stereotypes have been broken and that suburban youth are now getting a chance to make their way to the top of the charts, like French-Malian pop star **Aya Nakamura**, who sang at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

For Kassovitz, the difference between the film and the show is that there is no need to warn people that this is about kids from the projects. "Thirty years ago nobody knew them, so we had to make a movie to introduce them to the French culture," he said.

Diop, who plays **Hubert** in the musical and is also a rap artist, impressed the casting team with his stage presence. An essential asset in a musical show that combines dance, cinema, rap, theater and live performance, which **Denoncourt** hopes will be groundbreaking.

"We're trying to put things together in an artistic way, but not too, too cute. We like the raw material that we have with the breakdancing, with the rap," he said. "The show is pretty raw."

Also:

NEW DELHI: The Film Federation of India on Monday announced that Hindi film **Laapataa Ladies** (**Lost Ladies**) is the country's official entry for the 2025 Oscars under the Foreign Film Category.

The film has been selected from all Indian nominations of 12 Hindi films, six Tamil and four Malayalam films. The jury has been led by 13 members this year.

The film is a comedy about the misadventures of two young brides who board the same train. Due to a twist in events, the brides inadvertently get exchanged with different grooms. Both women go through a rollercoaster of comical misadventures because of this. It is a blend of mistaken identities and laugh-out-loud escapades.

The film was released in theaters in India on March 1.



Cash

Golson

Features

ARAB TIMES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

a tiny town about 60 miles (100 kilometers) south of Little Rock. He died in 2003 at age 71. His achievements include 90 million records sold worldwide spanning country, rock, blues, folk and gospel. He is among the few artists inducted into both the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. (AP)

Arkansas lawmakers debated competing statue ideas ranging from Walmart founder **Sam Walton** to a Navy SEAL from the state who was killed in Afghanistan. Each state may donate two statues representing notable figures from their history to the Capitol's National Statuary Hall Collection. Cash was born in **Kingsland**,

People & Places

Music

'Grounded' debuts

Jeanine Tesori makes history at Met Opera

NEW YORK, Sept. 24, (AP): **Jeanine Tesori** watched the world premiere run of her "Grounded" with director Michael Mayer last fall at the Kennedy Center and noticed audience fidgeting.

"It didn't need a transplant of a liver, but what it needed was maybe just a different approach," Mayer recalled.

"Some rhinoplasty," Tesori interjected. "A tracheotomy at one point."

Tesori becomes the first woman composer to open a season in the Metropolitan Opera's 141-year history when a revised "Grounded" starring mezzo-soprano Emily D'Angelo is given a gala premiere on Monday night. Thirty-five minutes have been cut since the six Kennedy Center performances, the first act trimmed from 82 to 60 and the second from 62 to 49. A Trainer character was eliminated.



Tesori

"You don't know until you know. And then you know," Tesori said.

This is the fourth opera by Tesori after "A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck" (2011), "The Lion, the Unicorn, and Me" (2013) and "Blue" (2019). She won Tony Awards for the scores of "Fun Home" and "Kimberly Akimbo," and Mayer won for directing "Spring Awakening."

They have to adjust far less stage rehearsal time for opera than theater.

"The work doesn't really start until you're in previews when we're doing musicals, whether it's out of town or Broadway," Mayer said. "It's like triage. You deal with the bleeders right away, but then you have the time to look at what the next major things are."

Based on George Brant's one-woman play, "Grounded" tells the story of Jess, a fighter pilot grounded due to her pregnancy who becomes a Las Vegas-based drone pilot and crashes her Reaper rather than kill a young girl as collateral damage to a Middle Eastern target.

Brant wrote the play in 2011 after reading about the drone program in a "Stars and Stripes" online report. It opened in 2013 and gained attention with a 2015 New York Public Theater production starring Anne Hathaway. Brant also wrote the libretto and expanded the cast to include a husband Eric (tenor Ben Bliss), Commander (bass-baritone Greer Grimsley), Sensor (baritone Kyle Miller), an alter ego character Also Jess (soprano Ellie Dehn) and a chorus.

Honor

D'Angelo spoke with fighter pilots in her preparation.

"So much care was taken in really honoring and being true to what they do," D'Angelo said. "There's no caricature at work here. It's all taken very seriously."

On the day of the final Washington National Opera performance last Nov. 13, Tesori met in an upstairs rehearsal room with Mayer, dramaturg Paul Cremona, choreographer David Neumann and Mayer assistant Marcus Shields. The meeting started at 12:30 p.m. and stretched for 9 1/2 hours, resulting in a book filled with bullet points detailing needed changes. Tesori composed in a rented house on Long Island's North Fork, taking a break for a January workshop and completing the revised score by April 1.

Met music director Yannick Nézet-Séguin was surprised Tesori made more cuts when rehearsals started in August. About 45 minutes of music was jettisoned from the world premiere version of last Oct. 28 and 10 minutes of new composition added.

"I was kind of defending the composer as we would do today if Verdi was alive or Donizetti: 'The music is perfect as it is. Let's not cut,'" Nézet-Séguin said. "It was fascinating to see that the composer herself was more like: 'No, this needs to be cut because it's detracting from what I want in the story line.'"

Ethel M. Smyth's "Der Wald (The Forest)" was the first opera by a woman composer at the Met in 1903 and Kaija Saariaho's "L'Amour de Loin (Love from Afar)" the second in 2016. After "Grounded," the Met has three works by women scheduled in 2026: Saariaho's "Innocence" (opening April 6), Gabriela Lena Frank's "El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego" (May 14) and Missy Mazzoli's "Lincoln in the Bardo" (Oct. 23).

"If we are claiming that opera needs to appeal to everyone and needs to be related and connected to the life experiences of everyone in the audience, we do have to present on the stage the vision of everyone," Nézet-Séguin said. "I'm convinced it's a very different perspective, and even the music sounds different because it's a woman composing it."

Mimi Lien's set is dominated by 224 LED tiles, 140 panels and 28 half panels manufactured by ROE and rented from 4Wall Entertainment in a video design by Jason Thompson and Kaitlyn Pietras.

"I was interested in the kind of combination between image and space or between actual physical, tangible structure and virtual imagery and how to combine those," Lien said, "colored with the overall context of drone warfare and surveillance and the kind of preponderance of imagery into our daily lives."

There will be eight Met performances through Oct. 19, with the last televised to movie theaters worldwide.

Met opening night puts a spotlight on performers, productions and composers for an audience attending the start of New York's social season, whom Nézet-Séguin termed "people who come to the opera just rarely or civic leaders or socialites and people from different industries."

"It's important to show them what our values are and who we are as an institution," he said.

Met general manager Pete Gelb has put a post-pandemic emphasis on contemporary composers.

Also:

NEW YORK: The New York Philharmonic and its musicians' union settled on a collective bargaining agreement Thursday that includes a 30% raise over three years.

The deal with Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians calls for raises of about 15% in 2024-25, and 7.5% each in 2025-26 and 2026-27. Base pay will rise to \$205,000 by the deal's final season.

Ratification of the new deal is expected to take place Friday, and the contract will run from Saturday through Sept. 20, 2027.

A four-year contract that included pandemic-related pay cuts through August 2023 was due to expire this week.

The philharmonic is in the first of two seasons without a music director. **Jaap van Zweden** left at the end of the 2023-24 season and Gustavo Dudamel starts in 2026-27. The philharmonic also is searching for a CEO following the abrupt departure of Gary Ginstling in July after one year.



Meghann Fahy, (left), and Eve Hewson pose for a portrait to promote 'The Perfect Couple' on Wednesday, Sept. 4, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Television

'The Perfect Couple' stars reflect on their careers

Fahy, Hewson's rise wasn't overnight

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 24, (AP): Meghann Fahy and Eve Hewson, two of the stars of Netflix's whodunit "The Perfect Couple," have news for you if you want to call them breakouts: They've been working in this business for more than a decade.

Fahy made her TV debut in 2009 in an episode of "Gossip Girl." Hewson's first big film role was in 2011's "This Must Be the Place." They do concede, however, that it's recent TV roles - "The White Lotus" for Fahy and "Bad Sisters" for Hewson - that have led to new frontiers of opportunity.

Susanne Bier, who directed "The Perfect Couple," says both Fahy and Hewson are "going to be big stars."

"They certainly have proper, profound star quality. Both of them in very different ways," Bier says. "Both are incredibly creative, incredibly smart, and also have an impressive insight as to who they are. You can be a great actor or actress and not necessarily really know who you are yourself. And they do."

Hewson, 33, whose dad is U2 front man Bono, may have grown up in a famous family but she's now in demand in her own right. She will next be seen in a second season of "Bad Sisters" out in November. She's in Noah Baumbach's next film, alongside Adam Sandler, George Clooney and Riley Keough. She's also been cast in Steven Spielberg's next production and is set to star opposite Murray Bartlett in a racing series for Hulu.

Fahy, 34, is in production on a limited series with Julianne Moore and Milly Alcock called "Sirens," written by Molly Smith Metzler ("Maid") for Netflix. She also has two films in the can with Josh O'Connor ("The Crown," "Challengers") and Brandon Sklenar ("It Ends With Us").

The two actors spoke candidly with

the Associated Press about this phase of their careers. This interview has been condensed for clarity and brevity.

AP: You've both had popular, zeitgeisty TV shows in recent years. TV fans are particularly passionate. Have you experienced any interesting interactions with fans?

Hewson: It's actually really fun to experience because even when we were in Cape Cod shooting "The Perfect Couple," I would go to the local shop to get my groceries and little old ladies would follow me down the aisle and be like, "Excuse me. Are you that girl from that 'Sisters' show?" Who knew that they were watching it? It doesn't change my life, so it doesn't bother me, but when someone comes up to me and says that they love the show, especially when it's someone unexpected, I'm like, "Oh, cool."

Fahy: It's not happening so much to me that it feels like a huge imposition or anything. I feel like I've been really lucky. A lot of the people that I've met who have been a fan of "The White Lotus," or whatever, they're really sweet people. And, I think, part of why we do this is because we want to tell stories that people can connect to and play out scenarios for themselves. So I think it's always really nice.

AP: What's it like to now be a part of conversations about whom to watch?

Fahy: Part of it feels really nice because you work really, really, really hard for a really long time - maybe that's not how it happens for a lot of people - but I feel like we've both been doing this for a minute. So, of course, it feels really good, but I try not to like dwell on any of it. I try to acknowledge it and be like, "Oh, that's so nice." And then just kind of keep going.

Hewson: You hear so many stories of people who were like, "I walked

into my first audition and I just became a star." Or, there's this element of being an actor where people don't want to tell you how hard they work. They want it to look like it's really easy. But we've been doing this for a long time. People just don't really tell those stories. It's usually about the one that was found on the street.

Fahy: Yeah. You took 15 years to become an overnight success.

AP: Do you notice you're now treated differently by people in the industry?

Fahy: Yeah, but I always think that nobody ever knows who I am. It's always very embarrassing. I embarrass myself in those moments. I don't always feel like I fit in those rooms.

Hewson: What's nice is, I've spent so long going into a room and people just being like, "OK," and act like they're just not getting it. I know at least like I have work that people understand, what I'm doing a little bit more so they get me as an actor.

Fahy: It's like a different level of respect.

Also:

LOS ANGELES: If "Grotesquerie" isn't your bag, there's another **Ryan Murphy** series making its debut this week. A medical drama called "Doctor Odyssey" premieres Thursday on ABC. **Joshua Jackson** plays a doctor on board a luxury cruise ship called the *Odyssey*. **Don Johnson**, **Philippa Soo** and **Sean Teale** also star. The show also boasts a number of guest stars including **John Stamos**, **Kelsea Ballerini**, **Shania Twain** and **Chord Overstreet**. A trailer for the show had nearly 78 million views within 48 hours, making it the most-watched trailer for a new broadcast TV show. Episodes also stream on Hulu.



Andie MacDowell, (left), and Alia Bhatt wear creations as part of the L'Oréal Spring/Summer 2025 collection presented Monday, Sept. 23, in Paris. (AP)



Combs



Xiao

Variety

NEW YORK: Sean "Diddy" Combs' vast music catalog has seen a jump in streams since his arrest last week and the unsealing of an indictment against him.

Under his many musical monikers - including **Diddy**, **Puff Daddy** and **P. Diddy** - the industry data and analytics company Luminate said the mogul's music saw an average 18.3% increase in on-demand streams during the week of his arrest compared to the prior week.

George Howard, a distinguished professor of music business management at Berklee College of Music, said he's not surprised by the increase. To him, streaming is akin to a Google search of the artist as a means of satisfying curiosity.

"Music just becomes another piece of information as people try to comprehend the atrocities," Howard told The Associated Press. "It's like, 'What would someone whose brain works like that, allegedly, what would their music sound like?'"

With Combs' several business ventures - from Revolt TV to Ciroc vodka, both of which he's no longer affiliated with - Howard said many people likely think of Combs as a businessman before they think of him as a musician.

"The natural curiosity that these types of charges evoke makes sense," Howard said. "It's like driving by a car crash. People want to look." (AP)

NEW YORK: Fans of Broadway, circle this date: This season's Tony Awards will take place on June 8 at its familiar home of Radio City Music Hall.

Producers of the show announced the date and location Monday. For the last few years, the telecast has bounced around the city - two years ago originating from the United Palace Theatre, in the **Washington Heights** neighborhood of **Manhattan**, and this year at the David H. Koch Theater in **Lincoln Square**.

Radio City can seat 6,000 people and has in the past been the long-time home of the awards.

The host will be revealed later. The 2025 awards will air live on CBS and stream on Paramount+. Getting buzz from appearing on the telecast can dictate a show's future, both on Broadway and on tour.

The awards are presented by The Broadway League and the American Theatre Wing. (AP)

BEIJING: Ten new films have been slated

for release during **China's** seven-day National Day holiday starting on Oct. 1, according to the film data platform Maoyan.

Among the most anticipated titles are "High Forces," a crime action film featuring **Andy Lau**, "Bureau 749," an adventure science fiction film directed by **Lu Chuan**, "The Volunteers: To the War 2," a war movie sequel by **Chen Kaige**, and "Tiger Wolf Rabbit," a crime drama starring **Xiao Yang**.

The National Day holiday, traditionally one of China's most lucrative moviegoing periods, has been a fiercely competitive "golden period" for major films.

According to **Lai Li**, a market analyst at **Maoyan**, the films for this year's National Day holiday cover a wide range of genres, including action, crime, disaster, war, sci-

ence fiction, comedy, animation, musical, and drama.

There is an increase in the number of live-action comedies, while the number of animated films has decreased.

With the absence of any particularly large-scale blockbuster film thus far, it remains to be seen whether these movies can meet viewer expectations, Lai said, noting that the market will serve as the ultimate test for their success.

According to data from the China Film Administration, the box office revenue in China for the week of Sept. 16 to 22 reached 502 million yuan (about 71.2 million U.S. dollars).

During the three-day Mid-Autumn Festival holiday, which lasted from Sept. 15 to 17, a total of 21 films graced the screens of

Chinese cinemas. However, only one film, "Stand By Me," a drama inspired by a true story of socially disadvantaged children, surpassed the 100-million-yuan mark in revenue.

China's total box office revenue for 2024 has reached 34.48 billion yuan, representing a 22 percent decrease compared to the previous year. Currently, China is the second-largest film market globally, with North America holding the top spot with approximately 6 billion US dollars in box office revenue. (Xinhua)

ULAN BATOR: A photo exhibition featuring southwest **China's Xizang Autonomous Region** opened at the Union of Mongolian Artists in Ulan Bator, the capital of **Mongolia**, on Monday.

Titled "Achievements of China's Xizang Autonomous Region," the exhibition is co-organized by the Chinese Embassy in Mongolia and the Mongolia-China Friendship Association. It is part of a series of events celebrating the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between **China** and **Mongolia**.

Key officials in attendance included **Shen Minjuan**, Chinese ambassador to Mongolia, **Galsan Batsukh**, head of the Mongolia-China Friendship Association and former Mongolian ambassador to China, and **Wang Junzheng**, secretary of the Communist Party of China Xizang Autonomous Regional Committee.

Shen described the exhibition as a representative microcosm of Chinese modernization, expressing her hope that it will deepen people's understanding of China's new development.

Batsukh said that this exhibition features 75 photographs highlighting the prosperity and development of Xizang. Visitors will also have the opportunity to appreciate cultural treasures that reflect the rich history of Tibetan medicine. The exhibition is expected to run until Sept. 30. (Xinhua)



Dustin Hoffman, (from left), Chloe Fineman, Aubrey Plaza, Francis Ford Coppola, Nathalie Emmanuel, Giancarlo Esposito, and Grace VanderWaal attend the premiere of 'Megalopolis' on Monday, Sept. 23, at AMC Lincoln Square in New York. (AP)

'Start your day and end your day without your phone'

Here's how to maintain healthy smartphone habits

By Shelia R. Cotten
Clemson University

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

□ □ □

What is the first thing you do in the morning after you awaken? Many people immediately check their phones for notifications of messages, alerts and social media updates by their social ties.

Ninety-seven percent of US adults report owning a cellphone, with 90% reporting that they own a smartphone.

While some researchers and media outlets portray phone use as detrimental, the reality is that the effects of technology use, including phones, vary depending on multiple factors. These include the amount, type, timing and purpose of that use. What is best for one group may not be best for another when thinking about technology use.

As a researcher who studies technology use and quality of life, I can offer some advice to hopefully help you thrive in a phone-saturated world. Some people may struggle with how to effectively use smartphones in their daily lives. And many people use their phones more than they think they do or more than they would like at times.

If the hours per day are increasing, think about why this is the case and whether this increased use is helping or hurting your everyday activities. An aspect of digital literacy is understanding your usage patterns.

Using a smartphone can help people access online information, schedule appointments, obtain directions, communicate through a variety of mechanisms and potentially be in constant contact with their social ties.

This availability and access to information and social ties can be beneficial and help people juggle work and family responsibilities. However, it may also be related to work intensification, information overload, decreased well-being and the blurring of work/non-work boundaries.

Detrimental

Weighing the pros and cons of use may help you understand when your phone use is beneficial versus detrimental.

Do you really need to know that an old friend from high school messaged you on Facebook at that particular moment?

Be deliberate about when you allow yourself to use your phone for social media and other activities. Knowing these times each day may help you concentrate as well as help you to use your phone in more useful and productive ways.

Don't look at your phone last thing before going to sleep or first thing when you awaken. Have you ever checked email one last time before going to sleep, only to find a message that gets your mind racing and ends up impeding your rest?

Set times and situations when you are not going to use your phone.

Some of my research has shown that using your phone when in the presence of others who are not using devices, particularly older adults, can be perceived as rude, deter communication and induce distress. My colleagues and I termed this situation the physical-digital divide.

Don't compare yourself with others in terms of amount of use but be cognizant of when your use is beneficial versus perhaps leading you to feel stressed or distracted.

Using your phone as a distraction is OK, but do it in moderation. If you find yourself constantly turning to your phone when you are bored or working on something that is hard, try to find ways to maintain your focus and overcome the challenges you are experiencing. (AP)



Student Keiran George uses her cellphone as she steps outside the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts High School in downtown Los Angeles on Aug. 13, 2024. (AP)

Minimize distractions

Calif restricts smartphone use by students at school

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Sept 24, (AP) School districts in California will have to create rules restricting student smartphone use under a new law Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Monday.

The legislation makes California the latest state to try to curb student phone access in an effort to minimize distractions in the classroom and address the mental health impacts of social media on children. Florida, Louisiana, Indiana and several other states have passed laws aimed at restricting student phone use at school.

"This new law will help students focus on academics, social development, and the world in front of them, not their screens, when they're in school," Newsom said in a statement.

But some critics of phone restriction policies say the burden should not fall on teachers to enforce them. Others worry the rules will make it harder for students to seek help if there is an emergency or argue that decisions on phone bans should be left up to individual districts or schools.

"We support those districts that have already acted independently to implement restrictions because, after a review of the needs of their stakeholders, they determined that made the most sense for their communities with regards to safety, school culture and academic achievement," said Troy Flint, a spokesperson for the California School Boards Association. "We simply oppose the mandate."

The law requires districts to pass rules by July 1, 2026, to limit or ban students from using smartphones on campus or while students are under the supervision of school staff. Districts will have to update their policies every five years after that.

The move comes after Newsom signed a law in 2019 authorizing school districts to restrict student phone access. In June, he announced plans to take on the issue again after the U.S. surgeon general called on Congress to require warning labels on social media platforms and their effects on young people.

E. coli outbreak in Egypt

India reports another case of mpox from Kerala state

NEW DELHI, Sept 24, (Xinhua): India has reported one case of mpox (monkeypox) clade 1b strain in Kerala, multiple local media reports said Monday.

The clade 1b strain was detected in a 38-year-old man from Malappuram district of Kerala.

The man recently returned from the United Arab Emirates and is currently in stable condition.

This is the second case of mpox in India. On Aug. 14, the World Health Organization declared mpox outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern following the surge of cases in several parts of Africa.

E. coli: Egyptian Minister of Health and Population Khaled Abdel-Ghaffar reported on Monday that Aswan Governorate, southern Egypt, has seen a surge in intestinal flu cases, with 480 patients having visited local hospitals.

During a press conference, Abdel-Ghaffar noted that while most of these patients have been discharged, 78 are still recovering, and 36 remain in intensive care due to pre-existing chronic conditions.

The minister identified E. coli bacteria as the primary cause of gastroenteritis in the region, attributing the outbreak to the contamination of drinking water with sewage. He indicated that the daily influx of cases at Aswan hospitals has averaged between 18 and 19.

In response to the outbreak, a collaborative task force has been established, involving the Ministry of Housing, the Drinking Water Company, and Aswan Governorate, to investigate the sources of intestinal infections.

Dengue: At least 86 new dengue fever cases were reported on Saturday in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, said a statement on Sunday.

The Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department of Punjab said in a statement that the latest cases were reported from nine different districts, including Rawalpindi, where 74 cases were reported in a single day.

vidual districts or schools.

"We support those districts that have already acted independently to implement restrictions because, after a review of the needs of their stakeholders, they determined that made the most sense for their communities with regards to safety, school culture and academic achievement," said Troy Flint, a spokesperson for the California School Boards Association. "We simply oppose the mandate."

The law requires districts to pass rules by July 1, 2026, to limit or ban students from using smartphones on campus or while students are under the supervision of school staff. Districts will have to update their policies every five years after that.

The move comes after Newsom signed a law in 2019 authorizing school districts to restrict student phone access. In June, he announced plans to take on the issue again after the U.S. surgeon general called on Congress to require warning labels on social media platforms and their effects on young people.

Experts discover new cells in world-first

Elderly cancer survivors face high stroke, heart attack risk

SYDNEY, Sept 24, (Xinhua): Older cancer survivors are more likely to experience strokes, heart attacks and hospitalization for heart failure, a new Australian study has found.

According to the study, which was published on Monday by Monash University, rates of stroke, heart attack and hospital admission for heart failure were twice as high for adults aged 70 and over who had developed cancer than for those who had not.

The research team analyzed data from the long-term Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly (ASPREE) study following 15,454 participants aged 70 and over in the U.S. and Australia.

Of the 15,454 participants, 1,392 developed cancer over an average timeframe of 4.6 years.

The study found that those with metastatic, blood and lung cancers were the most likely to experience a cardiovascular disease event such as stroke, heart attack or heart failure hospitalization.

Chemotherapy was linked to double the risk of cardiovascular disease events compared to other cancer therapies.

"It's positive that more people are surviving cancer and living a long life. But it means we have a growing cohort of older people who could be at risk of health conditions related to the illness itself as well as from its treatment," Suzanne Orchard, lead author of the research from Monash's School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said in a media release.

"This study adds to the growing body of data that shows those who have experienced cancer and cancer treatment face elevated risk of cardiovascular disease," she said. "While this is unwelcome news for cancer patients, the cardiovascular risk can be mitigated by early screening and preventative measures."

The ongoing ASPREE project aims to discover new ways to maintain health, quality of life and independence with age. It is led by Monash University and the Berman Center for Outcomes & Clinical Research in the United States and funded by the US National Institutes of Health and Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council.

Also:

CANBERRA: Australian researchers have discovered new cells in a world-first that they say could enhance future human tissue repair and regeneration.

In a study published on Monday, a team from the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute discovered the cells that can transform into two previously-known types of cells: endothelial cells that form blood vessels and macrophages, which are responsible for tissue repair and defense.

Named EndoMac progenitors, the new cells were discovered in the outer layer of aorta in adult mice.

The team said that the existence of cells with similar functions has been theorized for over a century but that they had never been found. The discovery was the result of nine years of work by the researchers.

They found that the cells are activated by injury or poor blood flow, at which point they rapidly expand to aid healing.

Ongoing research suggests that the EndoMac progenitors could be used to boost healing in conditions like diabetes where the body struggles to properly repair itself.

"When we transplanted these progenitors into diabetic wounds, we saw a dramatic improvement in healing within days," Sanuri Liyang, a member of the research team, said in a media release.



Brian Burkhardt, (left), and Trisha Brookbank, (right), pose for a picture with their son Oliver Burkhardt, 13, in the offices of the Oliver Patch Project, Wednesday, Sept. 4, in Miami. (AP)

Project connects cancer kids

Colorful patches uplift young cancer patients

MIAMI, Sept 24, (AP) When Oliver Burkhardt underwent leukemia treatment at age 9, he'd enter the hospital wearing his patch-covered denim jacket. Pokemon. Superman. NASA. Police, fire, military. Classic rock bands. About 50 patches sewn on by his parents, selected from thousands sent by well-wishers worldwide after his dad made a social media request.

The jacket became Oliver's suit of armor, deflecting his disease - and the nasty side effects of his treatment. It sparked conversations with nurses. His parents decorated their own jackets, showing they are a team. The patches made Oliver feel special.

"I knew people were looking out for me, they gave me positive vibes, that people loved me," said Oliver, now 13 and in remission.

Seeing how the jacket and its patches helped Oliver, he and his parents, Brian Burkhardt and Trisha Brookbank, thought other kids battling cancer might like one, too. The couple, who come from art backgrounds, reached out to their designer friends and within a day received 300 renderings for possible patches.

The Oliver Patch Project was born. Three years after launching, the charity has provided more than 1,600 children from infancy to 19 years with either a free denim jacket or tote bag.

They are adorned with 20 patches selected by the child or parents from the program's website, then each month they receive another patch in the mail.

On a recent afternoon at the charity's office west of Miami, a dozen boxes containing a jacket or tote awaited pickup, heading to homes in such cities as Corpus Christi, Texas; Eagle Moun-

tain, Utah; and Murietta, California. Children with cancer from all 50 states have joined.

"This program is 100% about empowering the kids and making them feel like they belong to a much bigger community, that they are not alone," said Brian, a former creative director who now runs the charity full-time. "It's not really about the patch, it's about belonging."

Parents also receive a box of 13 milestone patches to gift their child while they're undergoing a common cancer treatment or experiencing a side effect. A gorilla for starting chemo. A bald eagle for hair loss. A polar bear for fever. They help alleviate some of the trauma as the child works toward the "I Rang the Bell" patch for completing a round of treatment.

Neglected

So they don't feel neglected, siblings also get special patches - something Oliver's parents realized was important from his younger brother, Peter.

"Everything kind of shifts all your attention to being on the child who's sick," said their mom, the chief financial officer at her family's interior design firm.

The cancer program is limited to the United States, but the charity recently received funding to send patches to sick children participating in experimental drug trials in the U.S. and 18 other countries.

The charity's roots began in 2020 shortly after Oliver was diagnosed. He struggled with chemotherapy, and his dad wanted to find something that would bolster his spirits and show he had support.

"In theory, this could become a game-changer for patients suffering from chronic wounds."

She said that the discovery was a promising development for creating more effective treatments that support the body's ability to heal and maintain function over time.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health



To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For your ads on this page

Call: 24813805 E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

www.arabtimesonline.com

مركز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE
الفروانية FARWANIYA

Dr. Arshad Patel
MBBS, MD
(Ophthalmology)

Consultation Hours:
Daily (Except Sundays)
9am to 1pm & 5pm to 9pm
Sunday Holiday

Phone : 24 734 000

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex
& Opp. Police station - Farwaniya

www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

SPORTS

'Mountain West pushes back'

Pac-12 in talks with Gonzaga, targeting Utah St., UNLV

WASHINGTON, Sept 24, (AP): The Pac-12 is adding Utah State as its seventh member and is in discussions with basketball powerhouse Gonzaga to join the rebuilding conference in 2026, multiple people with knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press on Monday.

Utah State and UNLV were the main targets for the Pac-12 after a group of American Athletic Conference schools decided to stay put, following a pitch to join the rebuilding Conference of Champions. But the Mountain West was working to keep its remaining eight schools together and UNLV's decision remained uncertain, according to two of the people.

The Mountain West received commitments from Air Force and San Jose State on Monday, according to two other people with knowledge of that conference's situation. Air Force had been drawing interest from the AAC to join Army and Navy in that conference.

The other Mountain West schools include New Mexico, Wyoming, Nevada and Hawaii for football only.

The people all spoke on condition of anonymity because both Pac-12's and Mountain West's strategy and internal discussions were not being made public.

The Pac-12's moves came after four American Athletic Conference schools, who had been pitched on joining the reconstructed league, announced they remained committed to the AAC.

BASKETBALL

Memphis, Tulane, South Florida, UTSA and the American Athletic Conference released a statement that made no mention of the Pac-12, but several people with knowledge of those talks told AP the conference had targeted those schools as potential new members.

"While we acknowledge receiving interest in our institutions from other

conferences, we firmly believe that it is in our individual and collective best interests to uphold our commitment to each other," the schools said. "Together, we will continue to modernize the conference, elevate the student-athlete experience, achieve championship-winning successes, and build the future."

The Pac-12 began to restock for a 2026 relaunch two weeks ago by landing Boise State, Fresno State, San Diego State and Colorado State from the Mountain West to join Washington State and Oregon State, the only two Pac-12 schools left after a dramatic round of realignment took effect this summer.

The Pac-12 needed at least two more members in all sports to reach the eight required to be a recognized conference with access to NCAA championships and the College Football Playoff in 2026.

With Utah State on board, that's down to one though the conference

is exploring several options beyond UNLV.

Adding Gonzaga would give the Pac-12 one of the best men's basketball programs in the country. The Bulldogs have thrived in the West Coast Conference, reaching the NCAA Tournament every year it has been played since 1998, with two Final Four appearances and eight seasons of at least 30 victories. Gonzaga does not have a football program.

The school has in the past talked to the Big East about conference affiliation, and the Big 12 has discussed potentially adding Gonzaga to its strong men's basketball lineup, as it did with UConn earlier this year. The Zags have also become a perennial tournament team in women's basketball.

Adding Gonzaga would still leave the Pac-12 in need of another football-playing member for CFP purposes.

One person with knowledge of the discussions between the Pac-12 and AAC schools said the conference's

pitch included a projected \$12 million to \$15 million annual media-rights distribution to each school. The schools were also presented with options to join solely in football and basketball to alleviate travel costs associated with other sports programs making trips across one or two times zones.

All the Pac-12 schools are in the Mountain and Pacific time zones. The Pac-12 was targeting new members in the Central time zone as a way to potentially increase value for possible television partners.

Leaving the AAC would have been costly for the schools. The conference's bylaws require a 27-month notification for departing schools and a \$10 million exit fee. An early departure, which would be necessary, would cost more. When UConn left the AAC to return to the Big East it cost the school \$17 million. The AAC received \$25 million from SMU for an expedited move to the ACC this year.

The Pac-12 and its four newest

members are already on the hook for about \$110 million in exit fees and penalties to the Mountain West, a potential windfall for that conference to share with schools that choose to stay or join.

Pac-12 Commissioner Teresa Gould has declined to detail how that cost will be shared by the incoming schools and conference, which is sitting on about \$250 million in revenue the previous iteration of the Pac-12 was in line to receive this year and next.

A football scheduling agreement between Oregon State, Washington State and the Mountain West, which was not renewed for next year, includes a poaching penalty of more than \$10 million per school that increases as the number of schools the Pac-12 takes increases.

The penalty would be \$12 million if the Pac-12 takes one more Mountain West school, and increases to \$12.5 million for the next one. That's on top of a \$17 million exit fee.



Australia's Mitchell Marsh bats during the third one day international cricket match between England and Australia in County Durham, England. (AP)

South Africa denies Afghanistan sweep

Afghans bowled out for 169 in 34 overs

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Sept 24, (AP): South Africa denied Afghanistan a series sweep with a seven-wicket win in the third and final cricket ODI.

Aiden Markram's unbeaten 69 led South Africa to 170-3 with 17 overs to spare in the one-day international after Afghanistan collapsed for the first time in the series and was bowled out for 169 in 34 overs.

Afghanistan won the series 2-1. An inexperienced South Africa was dismissed for 106 and 134 in the first two games, but Markram paced the chase well at yet another slow wicket at Sharjah Cricket Stadium with a gritty 67-ball innings.

CRICKET

"Feeling very happy with the series win," Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi said. "I would be more happy if we would have won this match." He called the three run-outs of his team's batters "a big reason why we didn't finish on top."

Afghanistan was missing its ace leg-spinner Rashid Khan because of a hamstring injury.

Earlier, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who made a century in the last game, held the innings together by contributing 89 runs in 94 balls after Afghanistan chose to bat first. But none of the other top eight Afghan batters could score more than 10 with three of them run out.

No. 9 batter AM Ghazanfar made a whirlwind 31 not out off 15 but South Africa always looked in control through the disciplined bowling of Lungi Ngidi, Ngqabayomi Peter and Andile Phehlukwayo, who all picked up two wickets each.

Nadal and Alcaraz on Spain's roster for the Davis Cup Finals

MALAGA, Spain, Sept 24, (AP): Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz were named to Spain's roster for the Davis Cup Finals on Monday, raising the possibility of a renewal of their "Nadalcaraz" doubles partnership from the Paris Olympics.

Nadal, a 22-time Grand Slam champion who is 38, hasn't competed anywhere since the Paris Games, where he lost in the second round of singles to longtime rival Novak Djokovic and paired with Alcaraz to get to the quarterfinals of men's doubles before exiting against Americans Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram.

Nadal then withdrew from the U.S. Open and the Laver Cup while still dealing with health issues that have limited him to competing only sparingly over the past two seasons.

Alcaraz earned the men's singles titles at the French Open in June and Wimbledon in July to raise his career total to four at the age of 21.

Spain will take on the Netherlands in the quarterfinal round of the Davis Cup

South Africa finally got used to the conditions in the United Arab Emirates as their pace bowlers Ngidi and Phehlukwayo were well supported by some superb fielding. Ngidi tested the batters upfront through his cutters and slow balls and pinned debutant opener Abdul Malik leg before wicket inside the power play.

Ngidi then had Rahmat Shah run out when Gurbaz's drive clipped his fingers in the follow through and hit the stumps at the non-striker's end. Shahidi was run out while going for a second run and Ikram Alikhil met a similar

Finals, an eight-team event Nov. 19-24 in Malaga, Spain.

The other opening matchups are: defending champion Italy vs. Argentina; the United States vs. Australia; and Germany vs. Canada.

Italy will be led by No. 1-ranked Jannik Sinner, who won the Australian Open in January and the U.S. Open this month. The Italian roster also includes Lorenzo Musetti, a semifinalist at Wimbledon and bronze medalist at the Olympics.

The U.S. roster features Taylor Fritz, the runner-up to Sinner at Flushing Meadows, along with past major semifinalists Tommy Paul and Ben Shelton, plus doubles specialists Krajicek and Ram.

The Italy-Argentina winner will face the U.S.-Australia winner in the semifinals, with the winners of Germany-Canada and Netherlands-Spain meeting in the other semifinal.

Italy won its first Davis Cup title since 1976 a year ago in Malaga.

fate when he went too far down the wicket before Gurbaz sent him back as Afghanistan slipped to 113-5 in the 22nd over.

South Africa should have dismissed Mohammad Nabi on 5 but captain Temba Bavuma didn't go for the television referral against Bjorn Fortuin's arm ball before the spinner had Nabi caught behind in his next over.

Gurbaz tried to accelerate in search of his second successive century before he holed out to Reeza Hendricks at extra cover but Ghazanfar's late flurry ensured Afghanistan crossed the 160-run mark.

Liverpool sets target for Alisson's return from hamstring injury

Ten Hag warns of more injuries to player

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 24, (AP): Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag has warned of more injuries to top soccer players because of a growing number of games on their schedule.

Man City midfielder Rodri limped out of Sunday's English Premier League clash with Arsenal because of a knee injury, while other top players Kevin De Bruyne and Martin Odegaard have been sidelined in the early weeks of the season.

Rodri's injury came days after he voiced concerns about an increasingly congested schedule and said players were close to taking strike action.

SOCCER

Ten Hag, speaking ahead of United's Europa League match against FC Twente, said too much is being asked of players.

"There are too many games. It's clear. Too many competitions," he said on Tuesday. "For the top players, they are overloaded and this is not good for football. In the end of the day it's maybe good for commercial but there is a limit."

"It's almost unavoidable that players get injured because of the overload from so many games."

City is still to confirm the full extent of Rodri's injury after he was photographed in Spain, where he was reportedly undergoing tests.

British media reported there were fears the Spain international has sustained an ACL injury and is set for a long-term absence.

City has not publicly commented on the reports.

Last week, City manager Pep Guardiola said it was up to players to force a change following the growing dispute over the congested schedule.

The Champions League has been expanded this season with two more games in the new-look group stage. Next year's expanded Club World Cup will be a 32-team event for the first time, up from seven. It is slated for the offseason for many major leagues in June-July.

The new Club World Cup format has prompted a legal challenge from players' unions.

World players union FIFPRO has raised concerns about the increasing physical and mental demands on players, but the competition has been welcomed by the European Club Association, which represents the continent's top clubs, including United and City.

Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson is aiming to return to action this weekend, manager Arne Slot said on Tuesday.

The Brazil international is recovering from a hamstring injury and has been ruled out of Liverpool's English League Cup third round match against West Ham on Wednesday.

Backup keeper Caoimhin Kelleher replaced Alisson for the 3-0 win against Bournemouth on Saturday and is set to retain his place against West Ham.

"Alisson is getting there but I think this game is coming just a bit too early and we are looking at the weekend against Wolves, but it's going to be tight," Slot said. "But he will not be there tomorrow so Caoimhin will be in goal."

Italian forward Federico Chiesa could make his first start for Liverpool against West Ham. Slot said the offseason signing is still working his way to full fitness.



Udinese's Christian Kabasele, top, and AS Roma's Lorenzo Pellegrini vie for the ball during the Serie A soccer match between AS Roma and Udinese at the Olympic stadium in Rome. (AP)

'We love the beautiful game'

Owners of Roma reassure fans after turbulent week

ROME, Sept 24, (AP): Roma's normally silent American owner has issued a statement to reassure fans after a turbulent week for the Italian club.

Monday's statement came shortly after the Texas-based Friedkin Group - fronted by Dan Friedkin and his son, Ryan - reached an agreement to purchase a majority stake in English Premier League outfit Everton.

The deal is subject to approval from English soccer authorities.

"We love the beautiful game. The potential addition of Everton to our portfolio does not alter our focus on AS Roma," the Friedkins said on the Roma website. "If anything, the multi-club symbiosis will only help Roma."

"Each club in our portfolio operates independently and AS Roma remains at the heart of our football ambitions. Rest assured, our commitment of time, resources, and energy

to Roma will not be diminished." Roma coach and former captain Daniele De Rossi was surprisingly fired on Wednesday, leading to outrage among fans.

There were protests on Sunday before and during Roma's first match under new coach Ivan Juric. Roma beat Udinese 3-0 for its first win of the season.

SOCCER

"Let us say this; we have the utmost respect for Daniele and believe he will have a great career as a coach. Maybe even one day back at Roma," the statement added.

"The decision to part ways with him was incredibly difficult, but we made it with the belief that it gives us the best opportunity to compete for trophies this season."

Robinson not ready to start the season after ankle injury

NEW YORK, Sept 24, (AP): New York Knicks center Mitchell Robinson could miss the first two months of the season as he recovers from offseason left ankle surgery, a person with knowledge of the details said Monday.

Robinson, 26, had surgery in May after reinjuring his ankle in the play-offs and won't be ready to get on the court when NBA training camps open next week. Instead, a December or January return is being targeted, the person told The Associated Press.

BASKETBALL

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because there was no announcement about Robinson's status.

Robinson started the first 21 games of the 2023-24 season before originally hurting the ankle. He missed the next 49 games before returning late in the regular season. He helped the Knicks get by Joel Embiid and the Philadelphia 76ers in the first round, but hurt the ankle again during that series and played in just one game of the Eastern Conference semifinals before the Knicks said he was done for the season.

The 7-footer won't play this season until he has completed the rehab process and is 100% healthy, the person said.

Fox Sports first reported that Robinson would miss the start of the season.

Robinson's absence will leave a major hole at center for the Knicks. Isaiah Hartenstein, who became the starter last season, signed with Oklahoma City in the offseason.

Mallorca beat Real Betis 2-1

SEVILLE, Spain, Sept 24, (AP): Mallorca won in Andalusia for the first time in 11 years after a comeback 2-1 victory over Real Betis in La Liga.

Just as in Friday night's match between Alaves and Sevilla, some home fans refused to take their seats for the start of the match in protest at what they said were inconvenient kickoff times.

Football has traditionally been played at weekends and mid-week but more and more games have been added on Friday and Monday nights to satisfy TV audiences and cope with increasing fixture congestion.

Giovani Lo Celso scored both of Betis' goals in a 2-1 win over Getafe last week and he lashed in a cracking drive from 25 meters out after seven minutes.

Dani Rodriguez equalized a minute later with a poised finish although much of the credit should go to Canadian striker Cyle Larin, whose superb control and clever reverse pass set him up.

Both sides came up against inspired goalkeeping in the second half but the visitor won in the third minute of stoppage time with a low shot from Valery Fernandez after Betis failed to clear a corner kick.

Mallorca rose into fifth place with 11 points, three above Betis, although it has played a game more.

Diniz takes charge of Cruzeiro

Romero nets brace as Velez confirm title credentials

BUENOS AIRES, Sept 24, (Xinhua): Braian Romero scored twice as Velez Sarsfield moved six points clear at the top of Argentina's Primera Division standings with a 2-0 home victory over Estudiantes.

Romero struck from close range in the 12th minute before doubling his tally with a cool finish following Francisco Pizzini's through ball three minutes from time.

The result at El Fortin leaves Velez with 33 points from 15 outings, 16 points ahead of 20th-placed Estu-

antes. "We are showing the benefit of working together as a team," Romero said after the match. "Without my teammates, nothing would be possible."

"At times this season we've struggled to close out matches, but that wasn't the case tonight. We aren't getting too far ahead of ourselves. We're taking it game by game and hoping that we can maintain our lead." Elsewhere in Argentina's top flight, Banfield won 2-0 at home to Independiente Rivadavia, and Central Cordoba prevailed 3-1

at Sarmiento.

Cruzeiro has appointed former Brazil national team boss Fernando Diniz as its new manager, the Belo Horizonte club said.

In a brief statement, Cruzeiro said Diniz agreed to a deal that runs until the end of 2025.

The 50-year-old replaces Fernando Seabra, who was sacked after a goalless draw at Cuiaba in Brazil's Serie A championship on Sunday.

SPORTS

Kuwait Club triumphs over Al-Ahli Bank of Egypt

Egypt's Ambassador to Kuwait commends high standards at Championship

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Osama Shaltout, the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Kuwait, commended the high technical prowess displayed by teams in the 39th edition of the Arab Handball Clubs Championship, currently taking place at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex

HANDBALL

Hall, with the final set to conclude Wednesday.

In a statement to Al-Seyassah, Shaltout expressed his delight in attending this significant sporting event, highlighting the presence of Arab teams with a rich history in handball, competing in a spirit of camaraderie and friendship.

He remarked, "I have witnessed the excellent organization of the tournament by the Kuwait Club and the management of matches by the Arab Handball Federation. The strength of the participating teams and the intense



Ambassador Osama Shaltout enjoying the proceedings.

competition among them indicate that we will see the emergence of top talents in future international tournaments, representing Arab handball honorably."

Shaltout also extended his gratitude to the Kuwait Handball Federation and the organizing Kuwait Club for their warm welcome to the Arab teams

and their efforts in organizing a distinguished tournament. He noted the exceptional sportsmanship displayed among the teams and the collaborative spirit between the Supreme Organizing Committee and all participants, creating an ideal environment for matches and fair competition.

He wished success for Kuwaiti

sports in general, and handball in particular, in upcoming events.

In the quarter-finals held recently, Kuwait Club triumphed over Al-Ahli Bank of Egypt 28-22, while Al-Qadisiya narrowly defeated Al-Ahly of Qatar 26-25 with a last-second goal by Vladan. Al-Salmiya overcame Al-Hashd of Iraq 35-31, and Al-Gharafa of Qatar defeated Al-Karkh of Iraq 28-22. The tournament will conclude tomorrow with the final for the Arab title, alongside a match for third and fourth place.

Sheikh Turki Al-Yousef, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Salmiya Club, expressed his satisfaction with the "Sky Blue" handball team's performance throughout the championship. He noted that the team, which began preparations a month ago, has represented Al-Salmiya well on the Arab stage. "We aim to build a strong team with a mix of foreign and local professionals, along with youth players, under the guidance of our national coach Yaqoub Al-Moussawi. His leadership has proven successful, as we have reached the semi-finals, highlighting his promising future in coaching."

Exhibition between Gulf & Kuwait Legends eyed

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation announced that the inaugural committee of veteran players has proposed an exhibition match featuring "Gulf Legends vs. Kuwait Legends" during the Arabian Gulf Cup (Gulf 26), set to take place in Kuwait next December.

In a statement, the federation revealed that the committee convened in Doha, Qatar, alongside the draw for the Gulf Champions League for f clubs. The meeting included

numerous Gulf football stars who have made significant contributions to Gulf Cup tournaments over the years.

The statement also noted the official formation of the first committee for veteran players who participated in Gulf Cup tournaments, underscoring the federation's appreciation for these stars who have thrilled fans with their achievements. Qatari star Hassan Matar Al-Suwaidi has been appointed as the committee's head.

Injury woes continue

Barca looks to continue winning record in league

MADRID, Sept 24, (Xinhua): FC Barcelona aims to make it seven wins from its first seven La Liga matches of the season when it hosts struggling Getafe at Montjuic on Wednesday night.

Barcelona showed few ill effects from its UEFA Champions League defeat in Monaco with a 5-1 victory over Villarreal on Sunday. However, Hansi Flick's side suffered a significant setback as goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen sustained a season-ending knee injury after a bad fall late in the first half.

SOCCER

Ter Stegen underwent successful surgery on his torn ligament Monday afternoon. Inaki Pena will step in as his replacement, while the club considers signing an experienced backup goalkeeper.

Flick continues to deal with a lengthy injury list ahead of Wednesday's match, with Fermin Lopez, Andreas Christensen, Ronald Araujo, Dani Olmo, Marc Bernal, Frenkie de Jong, and Gavi all sidelined for various reasons. De Jong and Gavi, however, have resumed training and are close to returning after their extended absences.

The injury situation limits Flick's options for squad rotation during a congested fixture schedule. As a result, Inigo Martinez, Pedri, Robert Lewandowski, and Lamine Yamal are all expected to start again.

Yamal has been outstanding this season, providing a superb assist in Villarreal to help Raphinha score. However, concerns remain about the workload on the young player, who only recently turned 17. Flick will likely hope his team can secure a quick result to give Yamal some well-deserved rest.

Getafe travels to Barcelona still



Barcelona's Lamine Yamal, center, falls challenged by Villarreal's Eric Bailly during a Spanish La Liga soccer match at the La Cerámica stadium in Villarreal, Spain. (AP)

searching for its first win of the season but has been boosted by the return of striker Borja Mayoral from injury. Jose Bordalas' side has struggled offensively, scoring just three goals so far, but it remains defensively solid, conceding only five goals in six games.

Wednesday's other La Liga match sees Girona looking to bounce back after its 2-0 defeat to Valencia over the weekend. The loss highlighted the additional strain of competing in the Champions League.

Coach Michel Sanchez will be hoping for a response at home against Rayo Vallecano, who impressed in its match against Atletico Madrid on Sunday. Rayo's pressing style caused Girona to make key defensive errors in its loss to Valencia.



Kuwait Club lines up a defensive wall against Al-Ahli Bank of Egypt.

Al-Nassr edges Al-Hazm as Al-Jandal stuns Al-Ahli in King's Cup round of 32

Al-Ettifaq advances to the round of 16

Best of the Rest

San Siro can't host final: The storied San Siro stadium cannot host the Champions League final in 2027, UEFA decided Tuesday, opening the search for a new venue.

UEFA had given extended time for the city of Milan to show the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza would be available during planned renovation work between staging ceremonies for the 2026 Winter Olympics and hosting games at the 2032 European Championship. (AP)

Phone deal for visiting fans: Soccer fans arriving in North America for the 2026 World Cup have been promised help with their cell phone coverage from Verizon as part of a sponsor deal with FIFA announced on Tuesday.

The New York-based technology provider said FIFA expected three million international visitors to the United States, Canada and Mexico for the 48-team tournament from June 11-July 19, 2026.

"We will have a seamless handover to the phones coming in with what we call a 'soft SIM,'" Verizon chief executive Hans Vestberg said in an online interview. "You don't need a hard SIM card." Fans also should expect fast data service in World Cup stadiums, tailgate areas and fan zones, Vestberg said. The 104 games will be played in 16 cities, including 11 stadiums in the U.S. where Verizon operates with NFL franchises. (AP)

RIYADH, Sept 24: Al-Nassr secured a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Al-Hazm in the round of 32 of the King's Cup at King Abdullah Stadium in Buraidah. Senegalese star Sadio Mane opened the scoring for Al-Nassr in the sixth minute of stoppage time at the end of the first half. Al-Hazm equalized in the 62nd minute through Basil Al-Siyali. However, in the second minute of stoppage time, Nawaf Bushel

SOCCER

capitalized on a goalkeeping error to score the decisive goal into an empty net, securing Al-Nassr's win.

In a stunning upset, Al-Jandal knocked out Al-Ahli with a 2-1 win at Prince Abdullah Al-Faisal Sports City Stadium in Jeddah. Abdullah Mutaqaw gave Al-Jandal the lead in the 24th minute, and Yassin Amri added a second with a penalty in the

30th minute. Al-Ahli managed to pull one back through English player Ivan Toney in the 82nd minute, but it wasn't enough to turn the match around.

Meanwhile, Al-Ettifaq advanced to the round of 16 with a 2-0 victory over Al-Adalah at Al-Ettifaq Club Stadium in Dammam, securing their place in the next round of the competition.



Players in action during the King's Cup.

Burgan Club's ready for season, says coach

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The technical director of the volleyball teams at Burgan Club and assistant coach, Ahmed, has announced the club's readiness for the upcoming 2024-2025 season. He emphasized the importance of the first team, which excelled last season by securing second place and a silver medal in the

VOLLEYBALL

Federation Championship, along with a third-place finish and bronze in the Cup.

Al-Hawli shared that the team's preparations commenced in mid-August, with most players in attendance. The club has welcomed Argentine coach Alejandro Grossi and signed two professional players: Brazilian Anthony Gabriel ("Center 4") and Belgian Bram van der Rees ("Cross Center"). Additionally, local signings include Abdulrahman Muhammad Kamel on loan from Kuwait Club and Ali Ramadan free transfer, along with the renewal of Youssef Mandeel's contract, with another local deal in the pipeline.

"We aspire to perform better and secure a top-three finish in every local championship we participate in," Al-Hawli stated. The team is also set

to compete in the Arab Championship next February in Bahrain and may participate in the friendly Bani Yas Championship in the Emirates before the season begins.

Al-Hawli expressed his gratitude to Burgan Club's Board of Directors and President Anwar Al-Otaibi for their exceptional support and commitment to volleyball.

In another development, Iranian volleyball player Mohammad Reza Beik has joined the "Yellow" team from Al-Qadisiya, alongside Dutch player Ter Horst. The club has also renewed the contract of its Bahraini coach, Reda Ali, after clinching the Federation Cup last season.

Arteta responds to dark arts taunts by Man City as injuries mount for Arsenal

LONDON, Sept 24, (AP): Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta bristled at suggestions his team used "dark arts" in the feisty English Premier League match at Manchester City, saying he preferred to look at "facts" rather than opinions.

Arteta said there were "a few players" who will be unavailable for the League Cup third-round match against Bolton on Wednesday, one of whom could have a serious injury. He didn't disclose any names.

This development came after Arsenal players were accused of play-acting and feigning injuries by some of their Man City counterparts during the 2-2 draw on Sunday at Etihad Stadium.

City captain Kyle Walker even described Arsenal's perceived tactics as "dark arts," a phrase Arteta used sarcastically in a news conference on Tuesday ahead of the game against Bolton.

"I always prefer the facts than words, or supposing things," Arteta said. "Let's see who is available tomorrow. Then we can talk about 'dark arts' or these things. This is the reality."

"Unfortunately there will be a few players unavailable. Tomorrow, you will find out."

SOCCER

Pressed further about his "dark arts" reference, Arteta added: "If a player was feigning, then that means he will carry on and he will be involved in the squad (against Bolton)."

The incendiary nature of the draw on Sunday showed that a bitter rivalry might be developing between the best two teams in the Premier League over the past two years.

Arsenal appears closer than ever to winning a first league title since 2004, with Arteta - in his fifth full season as its manager - having made the team tougher to beat and more streetwise.

"All the managers want a team that is happy and able to compete in any context that has been thrown (at them)," he said. "That is what we want to achieve as a team."

Arteta said it will be a "matter of weeks" before captain Martin Odegaard returns from ankle ligament damage sustained in the recent international break while playing for Norway.



Arsenal's Jurrien Timber, left, clears the ball from Manchester City's Jeremy Doku during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Arsenal at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)



Kuwaitis protest to the Filipino referee during Kuwait-South Korea match.

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Kuwait continues good run at Asian Shooting Championship



Kuwaiti shooters celebrate on the podium.

Al-Rashidi wins silver in 'trap'

ASTANA, Sept 24: The Kuwaiti shooting team secured a silver medal at the ongoing Asian Shooting Championship in Kazakhstan, with Salah Al-Rashidi taking second place in the "Trap" competition.

Kuwait now leads the championship standings with a total of four medals: three gold and one silver ahead of the Kazakhstan and China teams, who are in second and third places, re-

spectively.

Earlier, Nasser Al-Muqallad claimed the gold medal in the men's individual category. Alongside his teammates Talal Al-Rashidi and Abdulrahman Al-Faihan, he also secured the gold medal in the

SHOOTING

men's team competition. Meanwhile, the women's team, consisting of Shahad Al-Hawal, Sarah Al-Hawal, and Reem Al-Zamanan, triumphed to win the gold medal in their respective team event.

Man City 'likely' to lose Rodri for rest of season

LONDON, Sept 24, (Xinhua): It is looking increasingly likely that Manchester City will be without Spain international midfielder Rodri for the rest of the season after he suffered a knee injury in Sunday's 2-2 draw at home to Arsenal.

Although Rodri will have further tests on his right knee, initial tests are reported to have shown damage to his anterior cruciate ligament, which if confirmed means an operation and about nine months out of action.

It is a huge blow to City and coach Pep Guardiola, who described Rodri as "irreplaceable" back in March, with the problem

made worse by the fact that apart from Mateo Kovacic, the club doesn't have a replacement.

Just how important Rodri is to Manchester City was highlighted a year ago when he was suspended for three games - and City lost them all, while the only match they lost in 90 minutes last season when he was in the side, was the FA Cup final against Manchester United.

Stats provided by Opta show that when Rodri plays, Manchester City collect 2.36 points per game, with that average dropping to 2.04 without him. That translates to a difference of 11 points over a season with and without him.

Kuwait stumbles against South Korea in qualifiers

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: Kuwaiti U-20 team set to clash with the Lebanon at 8:30 PM at Abdullah Al Khalifa Stadium. This match marks the third round of Group Three competitions in the qualifiers for the 2025 Asian Cup finals in China.

A win is crucial for Kuwait to keep its hopes alive for a direct qualification spot as the top team from the ten groups, or at least to compete for one of the five best second-place slots. A draw or loss would significantly diminish its chances in the tournament.

Today's matchup poses a challenge for Kuwait against a moti-

SOCCER

vated Lebanese side, which is also pursuing victory after narrowly losing 2-3 to UAE in its first match.

Head coach Dario Bacic and assistant coach Mohammed Al-Fulajawi emphasize the need for intense focus, especially following its recent defeat against South Korea, where individual errors led to a 3-0 loss.

In their previous qualifying round, the Blue Team faced their first defeat, while the UAE triumphed over the Northern Mariana Islands with a staggering score of 13-0. The UAE currently leads the

Kuwaiti padel teams kick off WC qualifiers with strong wins



KUNA photos

Left-right: Kuwaiti players in action during the padel World Cup qualifiers.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 24: The Kuwait men's and women's padel teams started their journey in the Asian and African qualifiers for the World Cup (Doha 2024), scheduled for next October on winning note against Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, respectively.

In the men's event, Kuwait secured a well-deserved 3-0 win over Lebanon, while the women's team also achieved a dominant 3-0 victory over

Saudi Arabia.

Elsewhere in the men's competition, Saudi Arabia edged past Senegal 2-1, while Bahrain triumphed over the Philippines, Japan defeated Oman, Iran overcame China, and Australia won against Thailand, all with 3-0 scores. In the women's competition, Oman beat Lebanon 2-1, Senegal defeated Thailand 2-1, Iran secured a 3-0 victory over Bahrain, and Australia dominated the Philippines with a 3-0 scoreline.

Best of the Rest

Shang reaches 1st Tour final:

Chinese tennis player Shang Juncheng reached his first ATP Tour final after a hard-fought victory over Yannick Hanfmann of Germany at the ATP Chengdu Open on Monday.

The 19-year-old Shang clinched a 6-4, 6-4 victory at the Sichuan International Tennis Center, showcasing a 78% first-serve win rate and never allowing a break point.

Shang's achievement marks a historic week for Chinese tennis following Zhang Zhizhen's final appearance in Hangzhou. They became the second and third mainland Chinese male player to reach the ATP Tour finals, succeeding Wu Yibing's win in Dallas last year.

In the other semifinal, top-seeded Lorenzo Musetti of Italy defeated Alibek Kachmazov 6-4, 6-2 to reach his fifth ATP Tour final.

In the doubles, the third-seeded pair Yuki Bhambhani of India and

Albano Olivetti of France continued their strong season, defeating second-seeded Ivan Dodig and Rafael Matos 6-3, 7-6 (9) to advance to their fourth final this year. (Xinhua)

Angel City draws with Thorns:

Claire Emslie's goal in the 76th minute pulled Angel City into a 2-2 draw with the Portland Thorns.

Alyssa Thompson also scored for Angel City, which avoided a third straight loss with the tie in front of a sellout crowd of 22,000 at BMO Stadium.

Morgan Weaver and Olivia Moultrie both scored for the Thorns, who had lost their previous four matches. Portland (8-9-4) fell to seventh place in the standings but still remains above the playoff line.

Angel City (6-11-4) is in 10th place and currently out of the playoff picture with five games remaining. (AP)



KUNA photo

Kuwait and South Korean players fight for the ball during the U-20 Asian Cup qualifiers in Kuwait.