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Opinion

Mishal Al-Ahmad rescued Kuwait from chaos of graft

Army chief stresses vigilance, combat readiness

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain, Chief of Staff of the Kuwaiti Army, conducted an inspection tour of several military camps and sites on Saturday.

In a press statement, he noted that during his visit, he received detailed briefings from the commanders of the crews and guards on their assigned tasks,

duties, and operational readiness. Lieutenant General Al-Muzain emphasized the importance of maintaining

high levels of vigilance and combat readiness, expressing his wishes for their continued success in fulfilling their responsibilities to ensure the security and safety of the homeland.

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

THE decisions that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah took on the evening of May 10 continue to surprise people up to this day. The changes were evident from the

start, such that traffic was regularized and the State's good reputation started to emerge; that is, after things got out of

The widespread contentment that resulted from these actions in Kuwait demonstrated the extent of the public's dissatisfaction over the policies, which had been in place for 50 years and such dissatisfaction exacerbated after the nation



Al-Jarallah

As a result, action must be taken so the citizen will immediately feel the effects and be reassured about his future through wise choices that will allow him to let go of the anxiety that has pervaded the nation.

This is the reason why we repeat that Kuwait has witnessed, in the past 50 years, the fragmentation of decisions and lack of decisiveness, because the 'thread and needle' were left to the National Assembly and the deep State to creep into the government's powers. Since then, we have lived the most difficult days, while the successive councils of ministers

Just to remind you that at that stage, ministerial decisions were issued by the lawmakers to the ministers, up to the extent that some of them were conveyed through WhatsApp message -- whether regarding concerts or preventing the entry of someone. In 2014, a lawmaker even threatened to prevent the entry of poet Jalal Al-Din Al-Roumi who died in 1273 AD.

This is in addition to the unnatural appointments witnessed by all institutions, up to the extent of appointing those who

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KUWAIT URGES CITIZENS TO LEAVE LEBANON IMMEDIATELY Hezbollah confirms Nasrallah death following Israeli attack 'Avoid Lebanon airspace until end of Oct'



Flames rise after an Israeli airstrike in the southern suburbs of Beirut, Lebanon, Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024. (AP)

Mol sheds light on nationality reform

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): The Director of the Citizenship Department at the Ministry of Interior, Colonel Abdulrahman Al-Othman, said the decree-into-law amending some provisions of the Amiri Decree (15/1959) regarding the Kuwaiti Nationality came after it was studied from all legal aspects and that it aimed at bolstering the "the citizenship principle in line with the State general

Col. Al-Othman, in a statement to KUNA on Friday, said the decree-into-law, approved by the Cabinet on Tuesday, had been drafted due to the keenness on the national identity and preserving it. Accordingly, the first two paragraphs of the provision 7 were substituted.

Articles 8 and 13 of the Amiri Decree (15/1959)

The first paragraph of Provision 7 stipulates that the wife of a foreigner who acquires the Kuwaiti citizenship is not recognized as a Kuwaiti citizen. His juvenile children are considered Kuwaitis and enjoy the option to uphold their original nationality in adulthood.

The second paragraph of the same article says that children who maintain the Kuwaiti citizenship are subject to the rules of the previous term. Provision 8: A foreign woman who marries a Kuwaiti cannot become Kuwaiti.

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Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya.

Amir's Rep urges Iraq to address 'Khor Abdullah', pending issues

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (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 and his accompanying delegation returned to Kuwait after leading the country's delegation partaking at the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), held in New York.

The accompanying delegation of His Highness the Amir's Representative comprised Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority Sheikh Dr. Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and senior officials of His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan.

Earlier, 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 and his accompanying delegation left on Friday New York, from John F. Kennedy International Airport.

His Highness the Crown Prince chaired the Kuwaiti delegation to the 79th session of the UN General Assembly held in New York.

His Highness the Crown Prince was seen off at the airport by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Minister's Office Ambassador Bader Al-Tunaib, Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Naser Al-Sabah and Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Tareq Al-Bannai.

Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah called on Iraq to take tangible steps to address all pending issues between the two countries.

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Law and order immaculate: poll

Kuwait set to emerge as global tourist hub

MADRID, Sept 28, (KUNA): Secretary General of the UN World Tourism Orga-nization (UNWTO) Zurab Pololikashvili hailed Kuwait's



tourism initiatives that contribute to peacemaking in the Gulf region, pointing out that Kuwait has a great potential to be a destination tourists from various corners of the

Pololikashvili

Speaking KUÑA on the sidelines of World Tourism Day (WTD), commemorated each year on September 27, Pololikashvili said Kuwait's initiatives highlight cultural heritage, hospitality and peacemaking in the Gulf region, inviting people of different cultures to learn about Kuwait's history and traditions.

world.

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PACI slashes 522 more addresses from record

By Mohammad Ghanem Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has reported the removal of residential addresses for 522 individuals. This action was taken based on either the property owner's declaration or the demolition of the building

associated with these addresses. **Continued on Page 5** BEIRUT, Lebanon, Sept 28, (Agencies): Lebanon's Hezbollah group confirmed on Saturday that its leader and one of its founders, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut the previous day.

A statement said Nasrallah "has joined his fellow martyrs." Hezbollah vowed to "continue the holy war against the enemy and in support of Palestine."

Nasrallah, who led Hezbollah for more than three decades, is by far the most powerful target to be killed by Israel in weeks of intensified fighting with Hezbollah. The Israeli military said it carried out a precise airstrike on Friday while Hezbollah leadership were meeting at their headquarters in Dahiyeh, south of Beirut.

The Lebanese Health Ministry said six people were killed and 91 injured in the strikes, which leveled six apartment buildings. Ali Karki, the commander of Hezbollah's Southern Front and other commanders were also killed, the Israeli military said.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an army spokesperson, said the airstrike was based on years of tracking Nasrallah along with "real time information" that made it viable. He declined to say what munitions were used in the strike or provide an estimate on civilian deaths. only saying that Israel takes measures to avoid civilians whenever possible and clears strikes ahead of t intelligence and legal experts.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas in a statement issued condolences to its ally, Hezbollah. Nasrallah frequently described launching rockets against northern Israel as a "support front" for Hamas and Palestinians in Gaza.

"History has proven that the resistance ... whenever its leaders die as martyrs, will be succeeded on the same path by a generation of leaders who are more valiant, stronger and more determined to continue the confrontation," the Hamas statement said.

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Newswatch

NEW YORK: US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said late Friday that the recent events show that the Middle East and the world are facing a precarious moment.

'The events of the past week and the past few hours underscore what a precarious moment this is for the Middle East and for the world," he told a press conference in New York. (KUNA)

WASHINGTON: The governments of the **United States** and **Iraq** agreed Friday on ending the military of mission of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS in Iraq by the end of September 2025.

In a joint statement, the two countries announced "concluding the Coalition's military mission in Iraq over the next twelve months, and no later than the end of September 2025. and transitioning to bilateral security partnerships in a manner that supports Iraqi forces and maintains pressure on ISIŚ". (KUNA)

Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad, spokesperson for the Ministry of Health, speaks to a child during the Teddy Bear Hospital Campaign at Avenues Mall, designed to ease children's anxiety about medical visits. – See Page 5

Kuwait one of safest countries globally

Gasoline, diesel rates same until December

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Subsidies Committee has announced that gasoline and diesel prices will remain fixed from October 1 until the end of December, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The committee stated that the prices for 91-octane (premium) gasoline will stay at 85 fils, 95-octane (special) gasoline at 105 fils, and 98-octane (ultra) gasoline at 205 fils. Diesel and kerosene prices have also been maintained at 115

Continued on Page 5

LONDON, Sept 28: A recent Gallup global safety survey has classified Kuwait as the safest country in the world for 2024 regarding individuals walking alone in the streets, with an impressive 99% of respondents reporting they feel safe. Singapore follows in second place with 94%, while Norway and Saudi Arabia both score 92%, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Kuwait also achieved the highest score on the Law and Order Index, receiving an impressive 98 out of 100, maintaining its position as one of the safest countries in the world since 2019.

Additionally, the insurance company Hellosafe has released a "Travel Safety Index," which rates countries on a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 indicates the safest countries and 100 the least safe, according to a report by Le Soir. This index is based on 35 criteria, including the occurrence of natural disasters, societal violence, involvement in armed conflicts (both internal and external), and health infrastructure.

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FM participates in GCC-China forum

ister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya took part in the joint ministerial meeting between GCC foreign ministers and their Chinese counterpart and state advisor Wang Yi.

During the meeting, held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 79th session in New York late Friday, the two sides discussed strategic partnership and cooperation in different fields.

They also discussed regional and international topics of mutual concern and the current develop-

Continued on Page 5

New rules to prevent building fires mulled: KFF of the number of floors, would be required to install a

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): Acting Chief of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) Lieutenant General Khaled Fahad said that there would be new requirements on investment buildings as a step to further prevent fires. In an interview with KUNA, Lieutenant General

Fahad said Saturday that KFF has been working on a project to link commercial buildings with the main KFF operations center, which is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

He explained that these new requirements came after Al-Mangaf fire, and that these include intensifying inspection operations on buildings, especially the doors of the facility's roof, basements and storage areas.

He added that all investment buildings, regardless

fire sprinkler system, whereas before it was only applied to buildings with more than 10 floors. In regards to private housing, Lieutenant General

Fahad said that the Fire Force Law exempted private housing from the safety requirements of the force, pointing out that KFF advises the owners to have smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.

He added that the simple requirements also include that the elevators used and gas extensions be approved by KFF, pointing out that these procedures don't re-

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Expected weather for next 24

By Day: Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind to southeasterly wind, with speeds

Weather By Night: Rather hot with light

to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h. **Station** Min Rec Max Exp **Kuwait City**

Kuwait Airport

Abdalv Bubyan Jahra Failaka Island Salmiyah Ahmadi Jal Aliyah Nuwaisib

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

Kuwait Amir Rep's receptions on the sidelines of 79th UNGA session

HH Amir's Representative meets with foreign officials in New York



Rep of HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince receives the President of WHO.

NEW YORK, Sept 28, (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 Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in New York late

During the meeting, held on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled conveyed His Highness the Amir's regards, several health issues, the latest world developments and ways of promoting bilateral

Limak chairman

Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince received Turkish President of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly and Advisor to Limak Holding Volkan Bozkir and Limak Board Chairman Ebru Ozdemir late Thursday, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 79th session in

His Highness conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir to them, noting that His Highness is eager to create different income resources in the country and provide more job opportunities for Ku-

The two sides also discussed investment topics and developing joint partnership.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, received Ralph Everard, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in New York late Thursday.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the close relations between Kuwait and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, ways of developing them in all areas to serve the common interests of both nations as well as the latest regional and international developments.

WEF chief

Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, received President of the World Economic Forum Borge Brende, in New York late Thursday.

During the meeting, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled conveyed His Highness the Amir's desire to diversify income sources and turn Kuwait into a global economic and investment hub.

They also discussed several economic issues, the latest world developments and ways of promoting the joint cooperation mechanism and upgrading the level of bilateral partnership.

Present during the meetings were Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs at His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Mazen Al-Isa and Kuwaiti Ambassador in the US Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Naser Al-Sa-



Dr Zubair Medammal

Falcons integral to Arab culture, heritage

Expert calls for falconry in Kuwait's school curricula

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Amid the desert winds and the rich cultural heritage of the Gulf, falcons have long been revered as symbols of strength, grace, and tradition. For Dr. Zubair Medammal, a scholar from India, this admiration has evolved into a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and conservation. The Arab Times had the privilege of interviewing Dr. Zubair during the Kuwait International Falcon and Hunting Event, held from September 24 to 28, 2024, in Subhan, Kuwait, where his insights on falconry and conservation took center stage.

As the only Indian to earn a doctorate in falcon studies, Dr. Zubair's journey with these majestic birds spans over two decades. His research includes recording 15 distinct vocalizations from various falcon species, a groundbreaking achievement in the field. "Falcons are not just birds of prey; they are integral to Arab culture and heritage. They symbolize strength, resilience, and the enduring bond between humans and nature," Dr. Zubair told the Arab Times.

Falconry has a storied history in Kuwait, where it has been practiced for more than 2,000 years. Today, falcons remain an emblem of nobility and pride. with the bird itself serving as the national symbol. Dr. Zubair praised Kuwait's dedication to preserving this legacy. "Kuwait invests millions of dollars annually to acquire falcons from across the globe, ensuring their cultural and ecological preservation," he noted. "This commitment is evident in Kuwait's 2021 decision to implement falcon passports under CITES, a measure that allows these birds to travel across borders."

Dr. Zubair, who has traveled the world for his research, shared his excitement about participating in the Kuwait International Falcon and Hunting Event. "It's always an honor to be part of events like this. They not only celebrate the art of falconry but also raise awareness about the importance of conservation," he said. This year's event featured participants from 21 countries, including newcomers like Poland, Austria, Portugal, and Russia – a testament to the growing global interest in falconry.

He regularly attends other major international falconry gatherings, such as Qatar's prestigious Katara International Hunting and Falcons Exhibition (S'hail), which he has been a part of since its inception in 2017. "The 8th edition of S'hail this year was particularly successful, with a wonderful crowd and growing international participation," he shared.

One of the most pressing issues Dr. Zubair highlighted during our conversation was the falcon's vulnerability to modern threats, particularly contaminated prey. "Falcons face serious risks, especially when they feed on birds that have ingested pesticides. It's crucial that we take extra care in their feed-



Dr Zubair Medammal with Sheikh Malek Al Humoud Al Sabah and Sheikh Abdulaziz Malek Al Humoud Al Sabah in Kuwait.

ing and handling," he said. In addition to his conservation work, Dr. Zubair is exploring new applications for falconry, suggesting that falcons could be used to reduce bird-related risks at airports, preventing potentially dangerous collisions with aircraft.

Dr. Zubair's expertise and contributions to falconry have not gone unnoticed. He has been a keynote speaker at prominent events such as the Abu Dhabi International Hunting Exhibition (ADIHEX), Qatar's S'hail, and the Saudi International Falcon Exhibitions. His deep knowledge and passion for falcons have earned him numerous accolades, both locally and internationally. He is also working on producing a falcon documentary in both Arabic and English, which he hopes to release soon, pending

One of the most exciting initiatives he hopes to spearhead is incorporating falconry into Kuwait's educational system. "Teaching the next generation about falconry and its significance in Arab culture is essential. I would like to see it included in school curricula to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for this part of Kuwait's heritage," Dr. Zubair expressed.

Currently serving as a professor in the Department of Zoology and Co-ordinator of the International Avian Research Centre (IARC) at the University of Calicut, India, Dr. Zubair continues to be a leading figure in avian conservation. His work, driven by passion and purpose, ensures that the falcon remains a symbol of both cultural heritage and ecological

As falcons soar through the skies of Kuwait, their place in history is secure, thanks in no small part to the efforts of dedicated individuals like Dr. Zubair Medammal, whose vision and scholarship ensure that these noble birds will continue to thrive for generations to

CSC clarifies job hiring process for children of Kuwaiti women

MoE preparing to reinstate flexible working hours

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has confirmed the continuation of the recruitment of children of Kuwaiti women married to non-**Kuwaitis**, provided there is no Kuwaiti candidate for the vacant post, reports Al-Qabas daily.

In a press statement, CSC clarified that the recruitment of the children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis is based on Decree No. 16/2017, stipulating that "the person appointed to a job must be of Kuwaiti nationality. If there is none, preference is given to the children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis, then to the children of other Arab nationals.

The CSC elaborated that based on the decree, the appointment of the children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis "is possible only if there is no Kuwaiti candidate for the job as stipulated in the relevant law." It also clarified that the replacement policy in government agencies is not applicable to the children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis.

It added that the Central Employment System is an automated system for the registration of Kuwaiti job seekers only, while the appointment of the children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis is done in accordance with the contract system and the applicable regulations.

MoE working hours: The Min-

istry of Education is preparing to reinstate flexible working hours for educational and administrative staff from Sunday, three weeks into the 2024/2025 academic year, reports Al-Rai daily quoting informed

They explained that relevant departments in the ministry, after consulting with the Civil Service Commission (CSC), have finalized the details of the circular regarding the official and flexible working hours for the employees of all educational stages, including public and private schools, as well as religious and special education schools.

The Ministry of Education has set specific guidelines for flexible working hours for teachers and school administrators in all educational stages, along with additional controls for those in supervisory positions.

The sources stressed the need for school administration employees, such as the principal, assistant principal, and department heads to monitor school working hours in accordance with the established systems and regulations within the school.

They explained that the ministry stressed the need for having at least one school administrator (either the principal or assistant principal) present during student hours until the end of official working hours, along with those assigned to the

The educational stage supervisor is responsible for ensuring compliance. If an administrator is absent, legal measures will be taken, and the matter will be referred for investigation. If a violation is confirmed, the findings will be presented to the undersecretary of the ministry, including recommendations from the assistant undersecretary for Public

Al-Yahya receives US official, chief of IPI

FM receives his foreign counterparts in NY

NEW YORK, Sept 28, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met late Friday with his Philippine counterpart Enrique A. Manalo on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly. They discussed ways of promot-

ing bilateral relations between both friendly countries in various fields, the latest regional and international developments and issues of mutual interest, mainly a Philippine labor agreement U.S.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya met late Friday with US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly.

During the meeting, they discussed close relations and existing strategic cooperation between Kuwait and the U.S., the serious Gaza developments and Israeli occupation forces' crimes against Palestinians as well as humanitarian reper-

FM Abdullah Al-Yahya met with his Algerian counterpart Ahmed Attaf on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 79th session in

New York late Friday. The two sides discussed developing cooperation and bilateral ties, as well as the recent regional and international developments

San Marino[°]

FM Abdullah Al-Yahya met with San Marino counterpart Luca Beccari, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 79th session in New York.

The two sides discussed developing cooperation and bilateral ties, as well as the recent regional and international developments.



Kuwaiti FM and San Marino counterpart signing memorandums of understanding

They also signed a number of agreements and memorandums of understanding, including one on promoting and protecting investments, and another on avoiding double taxation.

Montenegrin FM Abdullah Al-Yahya met with

Montenegrin counterpart Dr. Filip Ivanovic on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assem-

In a press statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said that the ministers discussed enhancing bilateral relations across all sectors, as well as addressing recent regional and international developments of concern.

Slovenia FM Abdullah Al-Yahya met with Slovenian counterpart Tanja Fajon on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in

New York. In a press statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said that the ministers discussed enhancing cooperation between the two countries across all sectors, as well as addressing recent regional and international developments of mutual concern.

President of Int'l Peace Insti-

FM Abdullah Al-Yahya met with the International Peace Institute (IPI) President Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General As-

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that both sides discussed several issues in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian cause and the recent escalation in Gaza strip.

They also touched upon enhancing cooperation between Sheikh Soud Nasser Al-Sabah Kuwait Diplomatic Institute and the IPI, particularly in training programs and expertise exchange.

KU launches its annual winter vaccination campaign

Kuwait University celebrates milestone as 46 faculty members named in '24 Stanford's top scientists list

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Kuwait University has achieved a great milestone in scientific research by including 46 distinguished faculty members in the list published by Stanford University in the United States, which identifies the "Top Two Percent of the World's Scientists" based on academic citations in

various disciplines for 2024. The list has a total of 66 scientists from the State of Kuwait, with 46 of them from Kuwait University, representing 70 percent of the participating research and educational institutions in the country.

This achievement reflects Kuwait University's commitment to improving the quality of scientific research and continuously developing its research and academic programs, as well as strengthening its presence both locally and globally. Over the past few years, Kuwait

University has sought to provide

Education, in line with Civil Service

Council's resolution No. 41/2006 regarding official work regulations. In addition, members of the educational and administrative staff

in all stages are permitted to work

specialized programs and unique initiatives as part of its strate-gic plan. These efforts support researchers in increasing international participation to achieve academic excellence and improve Kuwait University's ranking in the Global Competitiveness Index. This aligns with the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad. In another university matter, Ku-

wait University has launched its annual winter vaccination campaign for the third consecutive year. It was organized by the Security and Safety Department in collaboration with the Ministry of Health for promoting a university members and visitors.

sustainable healthy environment for The Acting Secretary-General and official spokesperson for the university Prof. Dr. Fayez Al-Dhafiri said, "Preparations have been made to launch the "Winter Vaccinations" campaign before the start of the winter season. This initiative is designed

to protect citizens, affiliates, and visi-

flexible hours, provided that offi-

cial working hours are not less than

five hours, in accordance with law

No. 21/2015 concerning children's

respiratory illnesses, and reduce the incidence of seasonal diseases such as influenza and pneumonia and to limit complications, particularly among atrisk groups. Meanwhile, the Acting Assistant

tors, especially students, from winter

Secretary-General for Facilities Management Affairs Mohammad Al-Sulaiman affirmed that the primary target group of the campaign is students. along with all affiliates and visitors to the university campus.

In addition, the Director of the Security and Safety Department Yousef Al-Khamis stated that his department has completed all necessary preparations, arrangements, and administrative and security procedures for the campaign's third consecutive year at the university colleges in coordination with the university work centers to ensure the campaign's success.

The university called on all students and employees to promptly visit the university clinics and receive their vaccinations against winter diseases.

these flexible hours at the beginning

The responsibility for organizing

and end of the workday lies with the direct supervisors and their superiors, but ensuring that the educational process remains uninterrupted during official working hours.

diwaniya 💎 چيوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Kuwait key player in advancing sustainable dev't, global peace'

"IN HIS address at the Future Summit during the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, delivered by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, key challenges facing the global system and the need for enhanced international cooperation were highlighted," Tareq Bu Resley wrote for Al-Anba daily.

"The speech underscored Kuwait's leading role in advancing interna-

tional development, as well as its dedication promoting peace global security, and emphasizing the necessity for establishing more effective foundations for cooperation on



Tareq Bu Resley

a global scale. "His Highness stressed the transnational challenges confronting developing and least developed nations, particularly those linked to development and climate change. He emphasized the importance of fairness in geographical representation, urging the international community to avoid politicization and discrimination.

"In this context, His Highness called for practical reforms to the global economic governance framework, advocating for changes in multilateral development banks and the resolution of sovereign debt issues.

"Kuwait's significant contributions to international development, especially through its support for developing nations, were positioned as central to advancing global cooperation.

"On the matter of international peace and security, His Highness emphasized adherence to international law and conventions, rejecting the application of double standards in handling global crises.

'The speech condemned the violations and atrocities in Palestine, advocating for the equitable enforcement of international law and an end to the policy of double standards. Kuwait's longstanding commitment to the Palestinian cause was reaffirmed, along with its call for justice and adherence to international regulations.

"The speech also touched on the urgent need for reform within the United Nations Security Council. His Highness underscored the importance of accelerating reform efforts to make the international security system more comprehensive, effective, transparent, and accountable.

"This position reflects Kuwait's ongoing commitment to international principles and its desire to contribute to a more balanced and just global order, particularly in conflict resolution.

"Kuwait's pioneering role in supporting the economic development of developing and least developed nations was also highlighted. His Highness referred to the establishment of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in 1961, which has provided 1,073 loans and grants to support development projects in 105 countries around the world.

"This role showcases Kuwait's unwavering commitment to fostering international cooperation, improving infrastructure, and offering economic assistance to impoverished nations, further cementing its reputation as a positive force within the global community.

"In addition, His Highness highlighted Kuwait's progress in implementing its National Development Plan and its commitment to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, as part of the "Kuwait 2035" vision.

"Kuwait has made tangible strides in several areas, including eradicating poverty, ending hunger, and ensuring quality education for all. This ambitious vision underscores Kuwait's dedication to sustainable development both domestically and internationally, positioning it as a model for balancing economic and social progress on a global stage.

"In conclusion, the speech reflects Kuwait's comprehensive vision for addressing today's global challenges, particularly in the realms of development, peace, and international security. It reaffirms Kuwait's pivotal role in supporting and actively participating in global efforts to enhance international cooperation.

"Through its development initiatives and advocacy for international reform, Kuwait continues to be a vital player in building a more sustainable, peaceful, and equitable future for all."

Also:

"In Kuwait, Twitter, now known as the X platform, has provided a wealth of news services, not all of them uphold the necessary standards of professional credibility. Many personal accounts have turned into informal news outlets, and the proliferation of fake accounts has further complicated the situation. This has created an environment flooded with news that may be either partially or entirely inaccurate," columnist Asrar Jowhar Hyatt wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"For example, we have recently seen numerous rumors circulating, particularly after the suspension of the "Afia" health insurance program for retirees.

"There was a wave of conflicting

news about contract extensions, cancellations, replacements, and even a rumor about the cancellation of endof-service bonuses for employees, among other false reports.

"Despite addressing this issue extensively in the past, what caught my attention recently was the speed with which the government, through its various authorities and the Government Communication Center, responded to

"Particularly, they have been quick to refute rumors that directly impact the public's interests, something we have long called for. It seems the government has recognized the importance of being more present and responsive, asserting itself as the primary source of reliable information.

"However, we cannot overlook the fact that such rumors still provoke reactions from the public, as people's levels of awareness and their ability to discern credible information vary.

"This was evident in the case of the end-of-service bonus rumor, where newspapers reported that thousands of employees rushed into retirement to secure their bonuses before they were allegedly canceled, as the rumor claimed.

"Here, the government faces a greater responsibility. Although it acted swiftly by issuing a statement through the Civil Service Bureau, the wording lacked strength and conviction.

"Now, the government must take further steps to hold those who spread these rumors accountable. These aren't just sensational stories designed to attract attention -- they have real consequences, affecting people's decisions and raising unnecessary fears about losing financial entitlements. It's time to cleanse the electronic media of these harmful practices.

"Beauty, a supreme value we have pursued relentlessly, has ironically distanced us from its essence, both in form and substance. Why is beauty so important? Is it merely an outer shell concealing the ugliness behind it, or is it the result of something pure and authentic?" columnist Dina Al-Rashid wrote for Al-Jarida daily.

"I believe that ugliness arises from a lack of harmony, whether in proportions, colors, or in thought and morality. This might explain why we sometimes see aesthetically pleasing faces that fail to evoke any real acceptance. If physical beauty is absent, let character be your defining feature.

"Throughout history, beauty has been linked with higher ideals like truth and justice by philosophers and thinkers. It is seen as the radiant face of truth, an embodiment of balance and harmony. Just as a flower is the natural result of a plant's health, or a beautiful piece of music is born from the harmony between its melody and musicians, so too is beauty an outcome of internal consistency.

"Now, imagine life without beauty -- a bleak, dull existence. Taste is that inner compass guiding us to discern beauty or ugliness. When our eyes and hearts grow accustomed to ugliness, we tragically begin to mistake it for

"This is why some may view corruption as "cleverness" and see artificial faces as "perfection." As a result, qualities like honesty and integrity are now often perceived as naivety, while natural spontaneity is ridiculed.

"Our aesthetic taste develops and deepens as we engage with diverse forms of art and appreciate the beauty around us. This perhaps explains the seemingly "strange" taste of artists, who find inner beauty in unexpected places and combinations. That is where creativity flourishes.

"We cannot discuss beauty without acknowledging the complex relationship women have with it. In our era, dominated by Instagram ideals, it seems the greatest tragedy for a woman

is to be born with "ordinary" beauty. "I feel sympathy for women because they are often at a disadvantage no matter what they choose. If they embrace their natural selves, some deem them "ordinary" or think they "don't care about themselves."

"If they opt for cosmetic alterations, they are labeled "fake" or "plastic" and criticized for it. Ironically, women have begun pressuring one another to conform to these standards, even though the original goal was to please men.

"This raises a fundamental question: Who are these women aspiring to resemble? What value system does this "look" represent, and is it truly something we want? When we look at old films and TV shows, we notice a sense of "humanity" in the characters -- people's beauty lay in their diversity, and there was less fixation on achieving an idealized image.

"Women, in particular, played more varied roles, allowed to age, change, and embody deeper, more complex

"Beauty is not a rigid, mathematical formula. There is a certain allure in our imperfections, a captivating depth that transcends words.

"This is what forms the foundation of profound human relationships. Let us broaden our aesthetic taste and move beyond the shallow standards dictated by platforms like Instagram. True beauty lies not in uniformity but in embracing the diversity and depth of the human experience.

Compiled by PFX Fernandes



Al-Seyassah photo Bouarki meeting with the Omani ambassador to Kuwait.

Kuwait, Oman strengthen cybersecurity ties

Major General (Retd) Engineer Mohammed Bouarki, the Head of the National Cyber Security Center, met with Dr. Saleh Al-Kharousi, the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Kuwait, along with his

delegation, reports Al-Seyassah daily. Both sides discussed cooperation and strengthening bilateral relations in the realm of digital security.

In a press statement, the center highlighted that the meeting emphasized on the importance of exchanging experi-ences and expertise between Kuwait and Oman.

They explored various avenues for collaboration that would serve the mutual interests of both countries in the rapidly evolving digital security landscape. **'4:49 am Saturday'**

Newly discovered comet appears in Kuwait's skies

Photo feature by astronomer Khalid Al-Mutairi

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28, (KUNA): Comets are celestial bodies of ice orbiting in the solar system, they can be seen with the naked eye when they are close to the sun, but otherwise telescopes are required to view them.

One such comet is C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS), which was discovered in 2023 and enters the inner solar system to orbit the sun once every 80,000 years.

Pictures of this comet were taken by Kuwaiti astrophotographer Khalid Al-Mutairi in Al-Salmi



KUNA photo comet C/2023 A (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) Comet

area west of Kuwait, at 4:49 a.m. Saturday local time, (1:49 GMT), at an altitude of five degrees above the horizon line.

Citizen stabs to death 80-year-old grandmother; one dies in accident

11 wanted persons arrested in massive security raids

By Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Security forces arrested a 30-year-old citizen, who has a criminal record, for killing his grandmother in Rumaithiva.

The citizen used a knife in stabbing to death his grandmother, who was in her 80s, and then fled from the crime scene. Within hours, he was arrested and referred to the Public Prosecution.

In a related development, the Ministry of Interior announced that the Criminal Investigations General Department in the Criminal Security Sector, with the support of the Public Security Sector, arrested a person accused of murdering a relative immediately after receiving a report about the crime that occurred in a house in Hawally Governorate.

According to the ministry, the Criminal Investigations General Department formed specialized teams upon receiving the report. These teams intensified their search and investigation efforts. Ultimately, they succeeded in locating the accused and apprehended him within a short period.

Following an investigation, it was discovered that the accused had a criminal history related to drug cases. As a result, the appropriate authorities were notified to take the necessary legal measures against him.

Moreover, the prosecution ordered the detention of the accused. The prosecution confirmed in a press statement that it has started investigation procedures by going to the scene of the incident to inspect and examine the deceased and delegated the Criminal Evidence General Department and Forensic Medicine to take the necessary steps. It also interrogated the accused about the accusation hurled at him.

A case was registered and investigations are continuing.

2,695 traffic citations issued: Two security campaigns in Jabriya and Hawally, which were supervised by First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Interior Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf during the weekend, resulted in the issuance of 2,695 traffic violation tickets, confiscation of 15 vehicles wanted by law, impounding of 27 vehicles, and arrest of 42 individuals wanted by law and four others for the possession of narcotics.

Assistant Undersecretary for Special Security

Affairs Major General Abdullah Saffah, Assistant Undersecretary for Operations and Traffic Affairs Major General Yousef Al-Khudda, and a large number of police officers including female police participated in the campaign.

In a press statement, the Interior Ministry revealed that the campaign in Hawally led to the

issuance of 1,895 traffic violation tickets, arrest of 32 people without proof identification and 24 violators of the Residency and Labor laws, impounding of 15 vehicles wanted by law, arrest of 15 individuals who were reported absconding, confiscation of nine vehicles and motorcycles, arrest of 16 people for whom arrest

Al-Khadda

warrants were issued, and arrest of two individuals for the possession of alcoholic beverages. In Jabriya, the entrances and exits were closed, along with the establishment of checkpoints, to arrest violators. This campaign resulted in the

issuance of 800 traffic violation tickets, arrest of four people for the possession of narcotics, confiscation of 18 vehicles and motorcycles, arrest of 11 people who were reported absconding, seizure of four vehicles wanted by law, arrest of two people violating the Residency Law, and referral of nine people to the traffic police; the ministry The ministry confirmed the continuation of its

security and traffic campaigns, as part of its comprehensive strategic plan to enhance and maintain security in all areas of the country; stressing its commitment to take all the necessary measures to ensure the achievement of these goals.

Two-vehicle collision kills 1: Two vehicles collided on Abdally Road, resulting in the death of one person, reports Al-Anba daily. The Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry

received a report about the accident that occurred at dawn on Abdally Road, going towards the Abdally farms. Firefighters from Abdally Fire Station were dispatched to the location. Upon their arrival at

tim, who was trapped in the damaged vehicle, already succumbed to his wounds. A case was registered and investigations are ongoing to establish the circumstances leading to

the accident scene, they discovered that the vic-

the fatal accident.

Fugitive held within 24 hrs: In less than 24 hours, detectives arrested an Egyptian who escaped while being transported to Kuwait International Airport for deportation. A security source revealed that the accused

escaped during his transfer to the airport and a security team was formed immediately to arrest him. His description and information were circulated to all the security patrols. The detectives arrested him in an abandoned hotel in Riggae, the source added. In a related context, the Ministry of Interior

issued a press statement on Saturday; confirming that the competent security services arrested the fugitive in less than 24 hours. The ministry explained that the Egyptian es-

caped while being transported with a group of inmates to the airport to implement the decision to deport him. Immediately after the incident, security teams

were formed. The search and investigation operations were intensified by circulating his data to all concerned sectors and monitoring potential hideouts. The security forces succeeded in identifying his location and arrested him in record time.

He was referred to the concerned authorities to complete the necessary legal procedures against

KD98 stolen from bank account: A 47-yearold expatriate lost about KD98 when four withdrawals were made from his bank account with-

out his consent, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to the victim, he received an offer of products at attractive prices via WhatsApp; so he contacted the number and then he was asked to buy the advertised products. He received a bank link for KD5 as down payment. "As soon as I paid through the link, I was surprised that four withdrawals were made from my account - three withdrawals of KD24.800 each and one withdrawal of KD24.900," he disclosed.

A case was registered at Jahra Police Station under the title 'Bank Document Forgery', which was classified as money felony under no.

29 shops administratively shut: Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) recently carried out a comprehensive inspection campaign in several governorates, leading to the administrative closure of 29 establishments and shops proven to have violated the fire prevention regulations, reports Al-Anba daily.

KFF revealed that the violations include failure to obtain fire licenses and non-compliance with fire safety and prevention regulations.

Drop in e-financial fraud

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The intensified efforts of the Kuwaiti banking sector, led by the Central Bank of Kuwait, in confronting financial fraud operations led to a remarkable decline in the number of such operations, reports Al-Anba daily.

Data from the Bank for International Settlements revealed that the value of fraud operations through bank cards on the Internet is estimated at 0.07 percent of the total value of online operations among customers of the Kuwaiti banking sector -about KD12.28 million out of the total KD17.55 billion spent online in 2023; compared to rates ranging from 0.1 percent to 0.2 percent in other countries such as France, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia.

In addition, the number of fraudulent operations at the level of the banking sector in Kuwait is only 0.01 percent of the total number of operations; and 79 percent of the fraudulent operations are classified as cross-border transactions.



Firefighters dealing with the fire.

No casualties in Jahra fire

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Fire broke out in shops selling carpets and sponges in Jahra Industrial Area, reports Al-Anba daily. Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) dispatched firefighting teams to the location immediately after its Operations Unit received a

report on the fire incident. They extinguished the fire in record

time. No casualties or injuries were reported.

Acting KFF Director General Major General Khaled Abdullah Fahd and Deputy Director of the Fire Control Sector Brigadier General Ahmad Haif Hamoud were present during the fire out operation. A case was registered and investigations are underway to determine the cause of fire.





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Municipal Council endorses key 'waste management' initiatives

New services enhance cleanliness, sustainability

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Sevassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Environmental Affairs Committee at the Municipal Council, in a meeting pre-



Participants of the workshop conducted by the Ministry of Finance.

Finance ministry hosts workshop to streamline government purchasing

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: In a strategic move towards financial sustainability, the Ministry of Finance, through its Warehousing Affairs and Purchasing Systems Sector, recently conducted a workshop aimed at developing collective purchasing guidelines for government agencies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative is part of the ministry's broader objective to control and rationalize government spending.

The workshop sought to refine the purchasing guides and address challenges faced by government agencies in

their preparation and implementation. Those who were present during the event were encouraged to share their insights and suggestions to enhance the effectiveness of the guidelines.

Among the notable participants were Khaled Al-Kandari, the Director of the Purchasing Systems Department, and Mohammed Al-Omar, the Group Purchasing Supervisor, along with various specialists from the min-

Representatives from a diverse range of public entities participated in the workshop, including 19 public agencies, 11 agencies with attached budgets, and 12 independent budget agencies. This broad participation highlights the collaborative effort to streamline procurement processes across government sectors.

sided over by Alia Al-Farsi, approved the proposal to provide a service for the removal of large-sized residential waste (bulky waste).

The committee returned to the executive body four out of eight items in its agenda, including the request of Green Wall of Kuwait

Association regarding its cooperation with the council and the proposal to allocate specific areas according to an integrated plan for windbreaks in the country.

It also approved the request of the Ministry of Health about health control over landfills, proposal to put garbage containers underground, and the formation of a committee headed by Kuwait Municipality to study the minutes of the first workshop of the Environmental Affairs Committee in the second session held on Sept

It deferred the response of the executive body to the proposal of council member Sherifa Al-Shalfan to maintain the cleanliness of the marine environment due to her prior approval of it, and the proposal of a female citizen to help citizens reduce their burdens and to focus

Meanwhile, the Engineering Professions Committee, in its third meeting for the third round presided over by Farah Al-Roumi on Thursday, approved the proposal of council member Abdullatif Al-Daai to add the register of construction contractors, engineering offices and consultancy firms classified and accredited by the Municipality to the latter's website.

The committee retained in its agenda the executive body's response to the proposal of council member Abdullatif Al-Daai on licensing and classifying subcontractors for construction work in private residential buildings to invite the competent authorities, and the proposal of council member Fahad Musaed Al-Abdul Jader to conduct a study on classifying engineering offices and consultancy firms until the response from the executive body is received.

On the other hand, the Farwaniya Governorate Committee, in its meeting presided over by Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi on Thursday, approved the proposal of Al-Mutairi, who also serves as chairman of the committee, to widen the entrance and exit points at Gate Two of Sabah Al-Salem University City; as well as the request of the Ministry of Social Affairs to allocate a site for the establishment of a diwaniya for the elderly in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Block 26; and the creation of an overpass as an exit for cars from Hamoud Al-Tasha Street in Abdullah Al-Mubarak to Hamoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Road.

The committee referred to the executive body the proposal of council member Nasser Al-Jadaan on the redistribution of signboards along the 6.5 Ring Road; and deferred the proposal to establish entrance and exit points on Street Nine, Block Six in Abdullah Al-Mubarak.

Automotive partnership with China urged

Ex-minister calls Kuwait to create giant industrial city

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Economic expert and former Minister of Housing, Yahya Al-Sumait, has emphasized the importance of Kuwait entering the automotive industry through strategic partnerships with China.

In a recent interview with Al-Seyassah daily, Al-Sumait urged the nation to go beyond its current cooperation with Beijing, which has largely focused on housing and infrastructure projects, and instead focus on industrial sectors, particularly car manufacturing.

He praised China's leading role in the global automotive industry and suggested that Kuwait should harness this expertise to create a thriving domestic industry.

Al-Sumait called for the establishment of a giant industrial city in Kuwait, centered on new and innovative ideas. He believes this would be key to revitalizing Kuwait's economy, attracting foreign investment, and removing barriers to development.

The industrial city, he said, should include factories for the production of cars, iron and steel, electrical devices, and building materials like cement.

He hopes Kuwait could establish both large and medium-sized factories, pushing the country toward self-sufficiency in manufacturing.

One area Al-Sumait highlighted was

petrochemicals, urging the government to tap into this highly profitable industry. He questioned why Kuwait has not yet ventured into manufacturing and assembling various devices, as many Asian countries have successfully done.

With its strategic location and financial resources, Kuwait has the potential to become a major exporter to Arab, Gulf, and Middle Eastern markets.

Al-Sumait also pointed to the advantages provided by Mina Abdullah, which could play a vital role in increasing Kuwait's export activity.

Expressing dissatisfaction with Kuwait's continued reliance on imported goods, Al-Sumait stressed that the time had come for the nation to become an industrial powerhouse in the region. He stressed the importance of fostering public-private sector partnerships in this new venture, ensuring that industrial lands are not allocated with annual fees, a practice that has led to exploitation.



Al-Seyassah photo Yahya Al-Sumait, Economic expert and former Minister of Housing.

Al-Sumait criticized the current system, where many individuals who obtained industrial lands at low fees now rent them out at exorbitant prices. He stressed that this new city should operate with transparency and fairness, free from such manipulations.

Al-Sumait also emphasized the urgent need for Kuwait to diversify its sources of income, urging the government to move away from its heavy reliance on oil. He warned that the oil industry is subject to unpredictable global political and financial fluctuations, citing the time when oil prices plummeted to just \$8 per barrel.

With developed nations actively seeking alternatives to oil, Al-Sumait underscored the importance of Kuwait implementing income diversification policies in a concrete, actionable way, rather than leaving them as mere words on paper.

He also suggested that the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training prioritize training students in trades and industries. This would not only support Kuwait's industrial ambitions but also address youth unemployment by providing graduates with skills relevant to the growing industrial and economic sectors.

To further support industrial growth, Al-Sumait called for a reform of Kuwait's outdated commercial and industrial laws. ensuring they align with modern developments, especially the rise of e-commerce.

He argued that financial laws must also be modernized to accelerate Kuwait's transformation into a global financial and commercial hub.

CAPT negotiating for lower costs

Public Works reveals 18 companies bid for road maintenance tenders

By Mohammed Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The results table for the final road maintenance contract tenders issued by the Ministry of Public Works revealed that 18 companies submitted bids, with rates ranging from 21.61 percent for the lowest bid to 26.70 percent for the highest, compared to the estimated prices set by the ministry. The total value of the contracts nted to KD 383 242 mil

According to the table, the maintenance contract costs were as follows - Salmi Road at KD 22.800 million (14 percent), Sixth Ring Road at KD 18.240 million (14 percent), Subbiya Road at KD 14.570 million (26 percent), King Fahad Road and Fahaheel Road at KD 18.147 million (19 percent), Abdali and Jahra Road at KD 27.001 million (14.50 percent), and the First Ring Road along with the intersections of the Third, Fourth, and Fifth ring roads, and King Faisal Road at KD 23.906 million (27.50 percent).

The following are the costs for road maintenance:

- Capital Roads, First Zone at KD 2.364
- million (19 percent) ■ Capital, Second Zone at KD 20.893 mil-
- lion (7.70 percent) ■ Hawally, First Zone at KD 20.438 mil-
- lion (5.90 percent) ■ Hawally, Second Zone at KD 21.473 mil-
- lion (9 percent) ■ Farwaniya, First Zone at KD 19.639 mil-
- lion (14.61 percent) ■ Farwaniya, Second Zone at KD 26.112
- million (8.80 percent).
- Jahra, First Zone at KD 19.924 million (12 percent)
- Jahra, Second Zone at KD 20.708 million
- Ahmadi, First Zone at KD 34.444 million

Scheduled maintenance to disrupt power supply

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy has announced that scheduled maintenance work will begin, Saturday, and continue until October 5, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The maintenance will affect several secondary transformer stations across the six governorates, resulting in temporary power outages in certain areas.

The power cuts will take place daily from 4:00 am to 8:00 am during this period. The ministry advises residents to prepare accordingly and apologizes for any inconvenience caused, emphasizing that the maintenance is essential to ensure the reliability of the electrical grid.

(8 percent)

■ Ahmadi, Second Zone at KD 26.368 million (21.61 percent)

■ Mubarak Al-Kabeer, First Zone at KD 23.421 million (11 percent)

■ Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Second Zone at KD 22.788 million (8 percent).

It is worth noting that the bid price percentages from the 18 qualified companies varied between seven percent and 95 percent prior to the negotiation session between the Central Authority for Public Tenders (CAPT) and the companies.

CAPT had conducted a negotiation session with 26 companies qualified to undertake the 18 road maintenance projects offered by the Ministry of Public Works with

Solutions must take precedence over delays

Municipal Council pushes for measures amidst ongoing development confusion

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council Khaled Mufleh Al-Mutairi says, "The metro project is likely to disrupt and hinder the execution of government development projects, particularly since it is still a fictitious project that is just ink on paper. We still don't know who is responsible for it or its implementation. We hope that the Council of Ministers will clearly identify and announce the entity or agency that the Municipal Council can collaborate with regarding this project", reports Al-Seyassah

He indicated that one of the key responsibilities of the Municipal Council is to support housing file, as it is the most pressing issue in Kuwait, adding, "Based on that, our efforts in the council are focused on finding suitable solutions to reolve this issue which has been stalled".

Al-Mutairi revealed that the Plots Committee has referred a proposal to the executive body to allocate land in southwest of Abdullah Al-Mubarak to the Public Authority for Housing Welfare for establishing a housing project southwest of the Fifth and Sixth ring roads, following coordination with the authority responsible for the metro station.

30 percent of retirement applications withdrawn KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: After the government denied rumors about cance-

ling or reducing end-of-service bonuses, several educators submitted requests to withdraw their retirement applications that they had submitted in the past two weeks, reports Al-Jarida daily. According to educational sources,

approximately 30 to 40 percent of those who filed retirement requests during that time have now sought to withdraw their resignations. The official denial from multiple government entities played a significant role in encouraging many individuals to reconsider their retirement decisions

The Public Education Sector has requested to limit both retirement and withdrawal requests to better assess vacancies and begin filling them.

The sources revealed that the rumors had caused huge confusion in the educational field.



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Kuwait University Faculty of Medicine and Academiya group lead initiative

'Teddy Bear Hospital Campaign' helps kids ease medical care fears

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes

Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Faculty of Medicine at the Kuwait University, through the Academiya group, took the initiative to organize the Teddy Bear Hospital Campaign, aimed at reducing children's fear of medical visits.

The Teddy Bear Hospital campaign was organized at the Avenues Mall, Phase Four, over three days - Sept 26, 27 and 28. Inspired by a similar campaign launched in Norway in 2000 and now adopted globally, this program allows children to step into the role of a doctor, helping them understand medical procedures in a fun and engaging

way. By making healthcare less intimidating, the campaign fosters a generation of health-conscious youth who are more comfortable seeking medical help when

This campaign organized by the Academiya group, made up of medical students - Sana Al-Zoubi, Yara Al-Ostad, Luluwa Al-Awadhi, Nour Al-Tanany, Kawther Al-Qallaf, Deema Al-Hubail, Daren Al-Ajmi, Hadeel Al-Jadi, Meshari Al-Shammari, Hend Al-Najar, Jood Al-Ghemlas, Dalan Al-Rashidi and Ali Al-Habeeb and headed by Dr Abdullah Al-Sanad, spokesman of the Ministry of Health -- are passionate about enhancing medical awareness in their community.

The idea of Teddy Bear Hospital was born in Norway in 2000, by a group of medical students with a similar passion as ours. Ever since, it has been adopted by medical students worldwide and recognized by the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA). Academiya were the first group to adopt this campaign in Kuwait, says Jood who is Vice-Head of Public Relations for the campaign.

In an exclusive interview with the Arab Times, she explained the Teddy Bear Hospital is a public health program that aims to disperse the fear of medical visits and procedures among young

She went on to say, "By allowing the child to assume the role of a doctor, they

have no experience in managing capi-

tal in the most important financial po-

sitions that affect the funds of future

generations, investments and others;

as if the State became a 'farm' for the

All of this resulted in graft and

profiteering that corrupted the public

administration which, today, needs

exhausting work to eliminate the nega-

crisis surfaced, the indicators have not

been promising. With 47 cabinets and

an army of ministers -- some of whom

came to office to obtain the exception-

al salary, the decline has been acceler-

ating, especially in the past three dec-

ades, which revealed a major deficit in

the decision-making system, as well as

era when the National Assembly was

tribal, and sectarian camps and areas of

influence for this and that, caused such

reforming the situation needs to start

with eliminating corrupt practices. It

will also need reevaluation of organi-

zations that were established for per-

sonal gain or as a way for a lawmaker

to defeat an opponent, rather than the

announcement of a plan to abolish or

combine some institutions, we also

think that approximately 18 institutions,

whose authority conflicts with that of

deficit and job overcrowding must be

studied with great care, not based on

the principle of 'take him and bind

him', because this causes a major cri-

ruption, but what is the fault of the

ordinary employees for whom succes-

sive governments bore responsibility?

The Council of Ministers must now

In his speech on May 10, His High-

ness the Amir clarified a roadmap for

solving most of the problems. The

roadmap can be followed if there is a

serious ministerial intention to solve

first time that Kuwait enjoyed a leader-

ship striving for the betterment of the

country and does not fear the blame of

a critic, especially since His Highness

the Amir has held various official posi-

tions and assignments, and knows their

must immediately begin amending the

laws that caused the country to close

down and open all areas to local and for-

eign investments, as it is unreasonable

for Kuwait to continue living on a single

It is true that there is tangible activ-

ity in the process of launching work in

Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, but it is not

enough, because enhancing the nation-

al product requires greater flexibility,

similar to what other countries around

the world are doing, especially the

other Gulf countries, which have made

great leaps in this regard within years.

The features of this have appeared in

Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates,

successful in this challenge, given that

the current leadership has made it clear

from the outset that he will be fight-

ing against all kinds of corruption, and

that His Highness has ordered that the

seniors be held accountable before the

Will the Council of Ministers be

Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

juniors? Time will tell.

income -- oil and foreign investments.

Therefore, the Council of Ministers

shortcomings and disappointments.

Since its independence, this is the

the problem.

find a way to alleviate this burden.

These institutions were built on cor-

other ministries, must be reconsidered. Accordingly, reducing the financial

Although we applaud the Cabinet's

greater good of the State.

However, since all of these are over,

This is what happened in the past

Since 1963 when the first ministerial

tive effects left by that stage.

the public finances.

Continued from Page 1

Mishal Al-Ahmad

lawmakers.





Photos during the Teddy Bear Hospital Campaign.

fracture site.

and plushies.

In the ophthalmology station, chil-

dren will learn the importance of un-

dergoing an eye checkup. In the surgery

stations, they will wear surgical gowns

and hats and save teddy by extracting a

foreign object. Of course, all the tools

and materials that will be used are toys

teach them the correct method of tooth-

brushing, and they will practice using a stuffed toy with teeth which was specifi-

cally designed for this purpose. Finally,

in the hygiene station, children will be

taught the correct method of hand wash-

ing and the importance of maintaining

year we are graciously sponsored by

a variety of institutions. This year, we

have been sponsored by National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), Ali Abdulwahab Al-

Mutawa, and AlMuzaini. In addition,

Jood told the Arab Times, "Every

During the dentistry station, we will

will grasp a better understanding of why doctors perform certain procedures and tests. With this method, we are not only telling them that medical professionals are their friends, but we are also demonstrating it with actions.

"In terms of the long-term goals she said the campaign hopes to promote a generation of health-awareness among children who understand the importance of reaching out to medical care when in

Children of all age groups, she said, were welcome to participate, and "our trained volunteers made sure to accommodate their explanations to the age range of our guests."

She disclosed, people are vulnerable to forming life-long fears at this early stage of life, so by participating in such an activity the campaign hopes to disperse that fear among the children and produce a proactive and aware generation of future adults.

When asked, how he campaign ensures that the information provided during the campaign is age-appropriate and engaging for young children, she added, "Every detail from the dialog and demeanor of our volunteers to the teddy bears and stations has been designed with children in mind. Our hardworking organizing committee has ensured that the activities are kid-friendly and highly engaging so that our little doctors can find no difficulty in treating their teddy bear patient."

The main aim of the campaign is to put the child in the doctor's shoes in order to teach them that every medical procedure is done for the patient's benefit. In that way, the children will be able to realize that the doctor they are visiting is there to help and heal.

It added that "assassinations will

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Ministry of

Foreign Affairs on Saturday urged all

Kuwaiti citizens currently in Lebanon

In an official statement, the ministry

emphasized, "We call on all honorable

citizens in the sisterly Lebanese Repub-

lic to depart its territories without delay."

The ministry also reiterated its re-

quest for citizens to stay in contact via

the following numbers: Beirut Embassy emergency line: 00961171171441,

Ministry emergency hotline: 00965159

the European Union Aviation Safety

Agency (EASA) issued on Saturday a

statement in which they recommended

that airline companies "not to operate

within the airspace of Lebanon at all

The affected individuals are re-

quired to visit the authority within 30

days from the date of deletion to reg-

ister their new address and provide the

necessary supporting documents. Fail-

ure to do so will result in penalties as

outlined in Article 33 of Law No. 32

Continued from Page 1

flight levels" until the end of October.

The European Commission (EU) and

or 0096522225504

PACI slashes

to leave the country immediately.

only increase the resistance in Leba-

non and Palestine in determination and

Continued from Page 1

Hezbollah confirms

She went on to say, "Our little doctors always leave the Teddy Bear Hospital with a proud smile, and many of them have expressed interest in becoming real doctors one day. As for the parents, they are always grateful to have such an interactive way of teaching their children an important lesson, and many have come back to tell of an improvement in their children's demeanor during their next visit to a medical institution be it the clinic, hospital, or dentist's office."

About particular stories or moments during the campaign that stand out in terms of children's learning or emotional responses, she disclosed, children are always ecstatic about the surgery station, as they get to put on the gown and really assume the role of a surgeon.

Over the years, "we have witnessed that children are much brighter than people realize, and the best way to bring out their brilliance is by allowing them to interact and share what they know, by posing questions instead of stating facts, and by allowing them to practice

Children, she said, play the role of doctor to take care of their teddy bears. By allowing the kids to role-play as doctors, they get an opportunity to learn and establish healthy habits, as well as understand that doctors perform tests and procedures for the benefit of their

What specific medical concepts or procedures are taught to children through the campaign, and how are these adapted to be child-friendly?

At the venue there were six stations in the hospital. In the general check up station, children will learn to check Teddy's eyes, ears, temperature, and listen to his

Continued from Page 1

Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya partook in the joint ministerial meeting of the GCC countries and Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), held on the sidelines of the 79th session of

cooperation and coordination between both sides and ways of promoting and bolstering them in political, economic and investment domains.

Both sides underlined all shared commitments, principles and goals of cooperation and strategic partnership, along with the latest regional and international developments.

Mol sheds

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, Jurist Colonel at the MoI Mohammad Al-Mazyadv told KUNA that any person who acquires the Kuwaiti citizenship is subject to the national laws and values, regardless of the duration of holding it.

Jurist Col. Al-Mazyad said according to a decree and after examination by the minister of interior, a person can be stripped of the Kuwaiti citizenship in the cases where he (she) has acquired it through fraud, counterfeiting or false claims. In such case, a relative who has acquired the citizenship through the same illegal means will be also deprived of it.

Amir's Rep

Continued from Page 1

Delivering Kuwait's speech before the 79th session of UN General Assembly on Thursday, His Highness the Crown Prince said, "I'm pleased to convey to you congratulations of His Highness the Amir on the success of this session.

His Highness the Crown Prince stressed the importance of the demarcation of maritime boundary at the 162 point with Iraq, in accordance with international laws and charters, and addressing the files of Kuwaiti Prisoners of War (POWs) and missing persons, and the national archives.

"Based on the principle of good neighborliness, Kuwait has been keen, over two decades, on helping Iraq recover and restore its regional and international status through joint action in a way that meets Iraqis' aspirations," His Highness the Crown Prince said.

"We also appeal to the Iraqi brothers to abide by bilateral agreements related to security and technical aspects of Khor Abdullah issue," he noted

Kuwait set

Continued from Page 1

Pololikashvili added that Kuwait has great capacities at the level of peacemaking through organizing cultural events and carnivals, thus facilitating interaction with foreign visitors and enhancing understanding of the Kuwaiti culture and heritage.

He pointed out that Kuwait has rich culture and history with a developed infrastructure that facilitates tourist, social and economic development.

Pololikashvili hailed the "Kuwait Vision 2035" strategy that aims to diversify the economy and sources of income, applauded the country's efforts to become a regional financial and commercial hub.

FM participates

the UN General Assembly.

The meeting focused on friendship,

New rules

Continued from Page 1

He noted that some citizens have begun to apply all security and safety measures in their facilities, and as a result of their awareness, a decrease in the number of fires has recently been observed.

Fahad also pointed out that there is no objection to work with Kuwait Municipality and Public Authority for Housing Welfare to provide them with these requirements when approving the housing plans, adding that this would be implemented

Kuwait one

Continued from Page 1

The index also reveals that Europe is the safest continent for travelers, with 30 of the 50 safest countries located there. Iceland ranks as the safest country globally, scoring 18.23 points, followed by Singapore at 19.99 points and Denmark at 20.05 points. Notably, 12 of the 15 safest countries are in Europe, including Switzerland, which ranks fifth. In the top 15, Bhutan leads with 22.98 points, while Qatar follows closely in 11th place with 23.33 points.

Gasoline, diesel

Continued from Page 1

In related news, the price of Kuwaiti oil increased by 11 cents, reaching \$76.3 per barrel in Wednesday's trading, compared to \$76.2 the previous day. Meanwhile, on global markets, Brent crude futures fell by \$1.7 to \$73.4 per barrel, and US West Texas Intermediate crude dropped by \$1.8 to \$69.6 per barrel.

heart. In the X-ray station, the children many companies kindly provide us with gifts and giveaways for both our visitors must search for the location of the broken bone on Teddy's X-ray scan. After and our volunteers. "These companies include Hassan's finding it, they will apply a cast to the

Optician, Magic Planet, Fantasy World, Dabdoob, Cherokee Medical Uniforms, and Gulf CPR Training institute, Melenzane, Can Chocolate, Chipotle, Surprise Cakes, Eilia Perfumes, and Curaprox. She added, each year, a selected doc-

tor becomes the head and representative of our campaign. This year, we have been represented by Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanad, the spokesperson for the ministry of health.

As for the students, an organizing committee is voted in, and these group of students work closely with the representative to create a successful event. Additionally, many doctors and faculty members are invited as guests of honor, and they kindly visit us with their loved ones to show support.

When asked what role do medical students play during the event, she said, the medical students are the very glue that hold everything together in this campaign. It is thoroughly planned and executed by the medical students in the organizing committee, and of course we cannot forget to mention the roughly 500 medical and dentistry students who sign up to volunteer at the event.

Nonetheless, she said, planning this event begins months in advance. Every year, we face numerous challenges including booking a location and contacting sponsors.

Additionally, volunteers must be taught and trained about escorting the children through the hospital. However, we are happy to undergo these challenges yearly because we know the impact that Teddy Bear Hospital holds.

She disclosed, the stations and tools used are designed to be very accommodating to children with fun designs and colors. "All of our simulated patients are teddy bears and stuffed animals, and this is done to prevent exposing children to realistic props which might create fear.

"Our volunteers are taught to be very patient with children, and if at any point a child expresses discomfort or fear from an activity, they are gently moved on to the next station. Importantly, our activity is open for parents to join their child and monitor them at all times," she added.

Do you have any plans to expand the Teddy Bear Hospital Campaign in the future, perhaps to more schools or communities in Kuwait?

She summed up by saying, "This campaign could be applied in schools, but we have found that the most effective way to carry out this campaign is to host it in a shopping mall during a busy weekend. In this way, we are able to reach the maximum number of children who will have a chance to visit the Teddy Bear Hospital!"

Empowering customers to secure data

Gulf Bank's 8 essential tips for banking

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: As part of its commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and its dedication to safeguarding and educating both its customers and the broader community, Gulf Bank is proactively raising awareness about the risks associated with cybercrime, particularly in relation to personal information and bank accounts. This initiative is part of Gulf Bank's active participation in the "Diraya" campaign, an awareness drive led by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in collaboration with the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA)

The "Diraya" campaign aims to educate banking customers about the critical services available to them, while also enhancing their capacity to conduct financial transactions safely. Through this initiative, the campaign seeks not only to secure financial transactions but also to promote financial inclusion and support economic stability by thoroughly educating customers about their rights and responsibilities.

Additionally, the campaign underscores the advantages of electronic financial transactions and provides essential guidance on minimizing associated risks, ultimately contributing to enhanced cybersecurity

In this regard, Gulf Bank offers the following essential tips to banking cus-

formation - such as ATM or credit card numbers and personal identification numbers (PINs) – on mobile devices. 2. Never write down your PIN on

1. Refrain from storing sensitive in-



your credit card or share one-time passwords (OTPs) with others. 3. Always log out from the bank's

app or website immediately after com-

pleting transactions. 4. Ensure that antivirus software and related programs are regularly updated to maintain robust security.

5. Avoid clicking on or opening links in unsolicited emails; instead, manually type the URL directly into vour browser.

6. Exercise caution when opening email attachments and links, especially if they appear suspicious or unexpected. 7. Only download software from

reputable and legitimate sources to reduce the risk of malware or hacking. 8. Keep all systems on your devices updated, including security systems,

applications, and operating systems. Gulf Bank further advises customers to remain vigilant when receiving unsolicited emails, text messages, or phone calls from unfamiliar sources that may attempt to impersonate bank employees. The Bank strongly empha-

sizes the importance of ignoring such

count information to prevent potential theft by international fraudsters who often target unsuspecting victims. Customers are reminded that le-

communications and protecting ac-

gitimate banks will never request personal information through email, text messages, or phone calls. As such, it is crucial not to respond to these messages, as they are typically fraudulent attempts designed to access banking information and unlawfully obtain funds or personal data. Clicking on links in such messages may inadvertently expose sensitive banking details to theft. Moreover, Gulf Bank draws atten-

tion to reports of an increase in fraudulent activities through fake donation pages, particularly following disasters. These scams exploit individuals' willingness to assist those in need, thereby deceiving them into providing funds to fraudulent causes.

The Bank stresses that customer awareness is a fundamental line of defense in protecting banking data, particularly in light of the growing reliance on electronic services. Gulf Bank advises all customers to exercise caution, ensuring that they are engaging with legitimate websites and verified, licensed institutions, especially when making donations.

By sharing these essential guidelines, Gulf Bank reaffirms its commitment to fostering a secure banking environment and empowering its customers with the knowledge necessary to protect their financial well-being.



JOINT OPERATIONS WAFRA

SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC) - KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the under-

mentioned Public Tenders for procurement of materials. Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in any of the

under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from 29 SEP 2024 up to 14 OCT 2024 for a non-refundable fee mentioned against each tender. Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tenders will be on Monday, 21 OCT 2024 @ 09:00 AM.

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	FEES (KD)
1	024487	VANE TYPE FOR GAS SCRUBBER, AKER	5
2	025172	TUBING, OCTG	5
3	025173	PRESSURE RELIEF VALVE	5
4	025174	S/F DAVID BROWN	15
5	025177	S/F FLOWAY BRACHISH WATER PUMPS	15
6	025180	S/F HOUTTUIN B.V PUMPS	15
7	025181	S/F HOWMAR DESALTER VESSEL	15
8	025183	S/F INGERSOLL DRESSER PUMPS	15
9	025184	S/F PACIFIC PUMP	5
10	025187	DRAIN SUMP PUMP	25
11	025188	MISC VALVES (BALL, GATE, CHECK AND GLOBE)	15
12	025191	VESSEL DEGASSING BOOT	25
13	022867-R1	S/F ZEECO FLARE SYSTEM	25
14	022849-R1	S/F DAVID BROWN PUMPS	5
15	023182-R1	MISCELLANEOUS CONTROL VALVES	15

Notes: Gate Passes are required for Suppliers entering JO-Wafra Administrative Offices to collect the tender document and gate pass processing time is 48 hours. Please fill request for gate pass along with legible copies of Authorization letter, Civil ID, Car Registration, Supplier Registration (KGOC or SAC) to e-mail hbjh@chevron.com and cbms@chevron.com at least 48 hours prior to arrival.

For additional information, you may contact: Telephone No.: 23983639 - Ext.: 2502 - 3477

World News Roundup

Europe

Orbán slams EU

Gas station blast in Russia kills 13

MOSCOW, Sept 28, (AP): An explosion at a gas station in Russia's southern region of Dagestan killed at least 13 people and injured 23 others, officials said

The explosion on Friday triggered a fire that tore through the service station and its cafeteria on the outskirts of the regional capital, Makhachkala, said Russia's Emergencies Ministry, adding that two children were among the dead. The fire was extin-

guished. Makhachkala is about 1,600 kilometers (990 miles) south of Moscow. Russia's president is Vladimir Putin.

Regional authorities said a criminal investigation was opened and Saturday has been declared a day of mourning in Dagestan.

Last August, a massive explosion at a gas station in Dagestan killed 35 people and injured 115 more.

Russia hospital strikes kill 9 in Sumy: Two consecutive Russian attacks on a medical center in the northeastern Ukrainian city of Sumy killed at least nine people on Saturday morning, officials said.

The first strike killed one person. Russia attacked again while patients and staff were evacuating, said Ukraine's Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko.

Local officials in Sumy said Shahed drones were used in the attack. Twelve other people were wounded, Sumy's City Military administration said.

Sumy lies some 20 miles (32 kilometers) from Russia's Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops have been deployed since Aug. 6 in a bid to divert the Kremlin's military focus away from the front line in Ukraine. Ukraine's air force said it shot down 69 of 73 Rus-

sian drones launched overnight as well as two of the four missiles. City authorities in Kyiv said around 15 drones had been shot down over the Ukrainian capital and its outskirts. In Kryvyi Rih, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's home city, local officials said Saturday that a man's body was found under the rubble of an admin-

istrative building hit by a Russian missile on Friday, bringing the death toll from that attack to four. In Russia, the Defense Ministry said Saturday that air defenses overnight had shot down four Ukrainian drones over the Belgorod region and one over the

Kursk region, both areas bordering Ukraine. One person was killed in Ukrainian shelling of the Russian border city of Shebekino on Saturday, Belgorod regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

German legislature elects speaker: Lawmakers elected a mainstream conservative as speaker of the state parliament in eastern Germany's Thuringia region on Saturday, putting aside a convention that the strongest party gets the job after the far-right Alternative for Germany won a regional election for the first

The center-right Christian Democratic Union's Thadäus König was elected in a parliamentary session tnat stretched over two days, punctuated by a court ruling against the conduct of the far-right politician who chaired the proceedings.

It underlined the prospect of a very bumpy parliamentary term after the Sept 1 election in which Alternative for Germany, or AfD, finished first with nearly one-third of the vote - the first far-right win in a state election in post-World War II Germany. However, it fell well short of a majority, and no other party wants to govern with it.

The legislature in Erfurt was supposed to elect its speaker on Thursday. In Thuringia, as in other German states, the first session after an election is chaired by the oldest lawmaker - in this case, AfD's Jürgen Treutler.

Treutler drew criticism in a turbulent and ofteninterrupted meeting for refusing to allow lawmakers to speak, put forward motions or debate allowing all parties, not just AfD, to put forward candidates for the speaker's job.

'UK to re-engage on global leadership': New British Prime Minister Keir Starmer took the international stage at the UN General Assembly on Thursday for the first time with a message: His nation is returning to "responsible global leadership."

The Labour Party leader, who won a landslide election victory in July, told the annual gathering of world leaders that with him as prime minister, "the UK will lead again tackling climate change at home and internationally, and restoring our commitment to international development.'

Working with other nations, Starmer said, Britain will also tackle conflicts from Gaza and the West Bank to Ukraine and Sudan where immediate ceasefires are urgently needed.

"We have to face some hard truths," the prime minister said. "The institutions of peace are struggling, underfunded, under pressure and outpoliticized.

He said the entire global system of arms control and combating the proliferation of weapons which has been constructed over decades "has begun to fall

away" and needs global action.
"We will also change how the UK does things," Starmer said. "Moving from the paternalism of the past towards partnership for the future - listening a lot more, speaking a lot less."

He said the UK will also be offering other countries "game-changing British expertise," and will work together with nations "in a spirit of equal respect."

Orbán slams EU officials: Hungary's right-wing prime minister on Friday accused European Union officials of denting North Macedonia's "national pride" by further delaying the country's troubled bid to join

During a visit to North Macedonia, Viktor Orbán also offered to mediate with EU member Bulgaria, whose dispute with Skopje over Balkan history and heritage triggered the new delay.

"We are here to offer the best solutions," he said, during a news conference with North Macedonia's Prime Minister Hristijan Mickoski in the lakeside re-

Orbán's comments followed reports that EU ambassadors meeting in Brussels on Wednesday decided to push ahead with neighboring Albania's EU accession process, independently of North Macedonia's. Up to now, the two had been moving together. Any such decision would require approval at a higher EU level.



Destruction to the Faraway Inn Cottages and Motel is seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, in Cedar Key, Fla. on Sept 27. Inset: A man is transported by helicopter in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. (AP)

Dozens dead, millions without power after Helene's deadly march across US

Hurricane Helene caused dozens of deaths and billions of dollars of destruction across a wide swath of the southeastern U.S. as it raced through, and more than 3 million customers went into the weekend without any power and for some a continued threat of floods.

Helene blew ashore in Florida's Big Bend region as a Category 4 hurricane late Thursday packing winds of 140 mph (225 kph) and then quickly moved

through Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee, uprooting trees, splintering homes and sending creeks and rivers over their banks and straining dams.

Western North Carolina was essentially cut off because or landslides and flooding that forced the closure of Interstate 40 and other roads. There were hundreds of water rescues, none more dramatic than in rural Unicoi County in East Tennessee, where dozens of patients and staff were plucked by

helicopter from the roof of a hospital that was surrounded by water from a flooded river.

The storm, now a post-tropical cyclone, was expected to hover over the Tennessee Valley on Saturday and Sunday, the National Hurricane Center said. Several flood and flash flood warnings remained in effect in parts of the southern and central Appalachians, while high wind warnings also covered parts of Tennessee and Ohio. (AP)



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, meets with French President's Diplomatic Counselor Emmanuel Bonne on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on Sept 24. (Xinhua)



Parker



Adams

America

NYC mayor pleads not guilty: New York City Mayor Eric Adams pleaded not guilty Friday to federal bribery charges, firmly rejecting allegations that he accepted overseas travel, campaign cash and other perks from foreign interests seeking to har-

Adams, a former police captain, entered the plea in a packed courtroom that's just a short walk from City Hall, which has been roiled in recent weeks by a cascade of investigations, searches and subpoenas. The first-term Democrat maintains he did nothing wrong and has vowed to stay in office, rebuffing growing calls for him to quit.

His appearance before US Magistrate Judge Katharine Parker came a day after prosecutors unsealed an indictment accusing him of taking \$100,000 in flights and stays in opulent hotel suites from people tied to Turkey, and fueling his run for mayor with illegal donations that helped him qualify for more than \$10 million in public campaign

Adams was released on the condition that he not contact any witnesses or people described in the indictment. The mayor is allowed to speak with relatives and staff, but not about anything pertaining to the allegations. (AP)



Utah vehicle crash kills 5: Four people from Minnesota and a Utah man were killed in a four-vehicle chain reaction crash in central Utah, the Utah Highway Patrol said.

The driver of an SUV who was pulling onto U.S. Highway 6 near Price on Thursday afternoon overshot the acceleration lane and pulled into the path of a semitractor pulling double trailers, the patrol said.

The driver of the semi tried to swerve to avoid hitting the SUV, lost control and crossed the median. The semi struck a Nissan Rogue in the opposite lanes, pushing it off the road and into a rock embankment. The semi and the Nissan also struck an allterrain vehicle that was traveling on the

shoulder of the highway.
All four people in the Nissan were killed, along with the person on the ATV, the patrol said. The semitractor and its trailers

Politics

Harris walks fence at US-Mexico border

Trump and Zelenskyy meet in New York

NEW YORK, Sept 28, (AP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met face-to-face with Donald Trump on Friday with public tensions rising between the two over Ukraine's defense against Russia's invasion and in the midst of the US presidential election.

"We both want to see this end, and we both want to see a fair deal made,' Trump told Fox News, referring to the Russia-Ukraine fighting while standing alongside Zelenskyy after meeting for 40 minutes. "The president wants it to end, and he wants it to end as quicktion to take place."

Zelenskyy said the war shouldn't have started and added that there needs to be pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin and peace for the families of those killed.

"We need to do everything to pressure him to stop this war. He is in our territory. That's most important to understand. He is in our territory."

Critical

The meeting came at a critical time in the Russia-Ukraine war as Election Day nears in the US. Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris, his Democratic opponent, have taken sharply different approaches to Ukraine. Zelenskyy has been eager to keep good relations with the United States, his country's largest provider of arms and money for the war. But the future of that support would be in doubt if Trump were to win the election.

Trump, who has touted his good relationship with Putin and called the Russian leader "pretty smart" for invading Ukraine, has for months criticized US support for Ukraine and derided Zelenskyy as a "salesman" for persuading Washington to provide weapons and funding to his military as it tries to fend off Moscow. On Friday, Trump brought up his first impeachment, which Democrats in Congress

Man convicted of shooting: Maryland

man who shot and wounded two police of-

ended up on their side. (AP)

pursued after he asked Zelenskyy for a 'favor" - that he investigate Joe Biden, now the president, and Biden's son Hunter, who served on the board of a

Ukrainian gas company.

At the time Trump asked for the "favor," he was withholding \$400 million in military aid to Ukraine as it fought Russian-backed separatists on its eastern boundary. He was later acquitted of the impeachment charges by a Republican-led Senate.
"He could have grandstanded and

played cute," Trump said. "And he didn't do that. He said. 'President Trump did absolutely nothing wrong. He said it loud and clear.'

Also:

DOUGLAS, Ariz.: US Vice President Kamala Harris walked a scrubby stretch along the U.S.-Mexico border on Friday and called for further tightening of asylum restrictions as she sought to project a tougher stance on illegal migration and address one of her biggest vulnerabilities in the November election.

Harris' push to further restrict asylum claims moves beyond President Joe Biden's policy on an issue where her rival, former president Donald Trump, has an edge with voters. She balanced tough talk on policing the border with calls for a better way to welcome immigrants legally.

"I reject the false choice that suggests we must choose either between securing our border and creating a system that is orderly, safe and humane," Harris said. "We can and we must do both."

In her first trip to the international boundary since becoming the Democratic presidential nominee, Harris chatted with local Border Patrol leaders as they strode along a rust-colored stretch of wall built during Barack **Obama**'s presidency. Temperatures in Douglas, Árizona, neared 100 degrees during a conversation that lasted about

ficers has been convicted of attempted mur-

der, armed carjacking and firearms charges.

found David Linthicum, 26, guilty Thurs-

A Baltimore County Circuit Court jury

Later, Harris received a closed-door briefing at the Douglas port of entry on efforts to combat drug trafficking and improve the legal flow of goods and people across the border. Border Patrol agents have "a tough job" and deserve support to do it, she said.

Harris' visit was designed as a re-joinder to Trump and his fellow Re-publicans, who have pounded her relentlessly over the Biden administration's record on migration and fault the vice president for spending little time the White House.

MOUNT AIRY, NC: North Carolina Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson received burns Friday night while attending a truck show as he was campaigning for governor, his campaign

Robinson was making an appearance at the Mayberry Truck Show in Mount Airy when he was injured, campaign spokesperson Mike Lonergan said in a statement.

Robinson was treated at Northern Regional Hospital in Mount Airy for second-degree burns, he added. "He is in good spirits, appreciates

the outpouring of well wishes, and is excited to return to the campaign trail as scheduled first thing" Saturday morning, Lonergan said. Lonergan didn't immediately re-

spond to texts seeking details on how and where the burns occured. Robinson had made campaign stops starting Friday morning with Moore County Republicans.

Robinson, the lieutenant governor since 2021, is running against Democratic gubernatorial nominee Josh Stein, the current attorney general. Current Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat, was barred by term limits from running this fall.

A 39-hour police chase on Feb. 8, 2023, began after Linthicum's father called police and said his son was armed and suicidal. When an officer arrived at Linthicum's home, Linthicum was lying on his bed and holding a high-powered rifle

Linthicum fired about 15 rounds toward the officer and his father, who both "fled the residence to seek cover from any further gunshots," according to police. The officer realized he had been struck and was transported to a hospital. He was treated and released later that night. (AP)



Officer kills man with dementia: An Alabama police officer is being investigated for allegedly shooting and killing a 68-yearold man with dementia after his family called for help on Sunday, according to authorities and the family's lawyer.

A Muscle Shoals police officer fatally shot Ronald Parrish at around 5 pm Sunday, according to a statement from the police department.

Tyler Mann, an attorney for Parrish's family, told The Associated Press on Friday that Parrish had dementia and was experiencing an episode of extreme paranoia. Mann said Parrish's wife called her two sons and then eventually emergency responders to help de-escalate.

A statement released Thursday from the Muscle Shoals Police Department said that three police officers encountered Parrish in his kitchen holding a steak knife after arriving at his residence. (AP)



US Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump meets with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at Trump Tower on Sept 27 in New York. Zelenskyy met face-to-face with Trump on Friday with public tensions rising between the two over Ukraine's defense against Russia's invasion and in the midst of the US presidential election. (AP)

Lat/Am

24 cameras detected

Mexican leader touts 'austerity'

MEXICO CITY, Sept 28, (Agencies): Mexico's outgoing president has always taken pride in his reputation as a penny-pincher but on Friday, three days before leaving office, **Andrés Manuel López Obrador** announced generous cash giveaways for his allies in a radical union movement.

It was part of what analysts call López Obrador's contradictory policies of cutting some government services to the bone while handing out vast amounts for his own pet projects and to political supporters.

He granted an electrical workers' union about \$95 million a year in unearned pension benefits, describing it as "an act of justice."

In 2009, some 7,000



rupt and overstaffed government power company were laid off. Still, they spent the next decade supporting López Obrador's two subsequent presidential campaigns.

At the time they were

of the unionized workers from the debt-ridden, cor-

Obrador At the time they were sacked, the workers had not accumulated enough years to retire, under policies allowing retirement after 25 years of service.

On Friday, López Obrador gave them pensions anyway.

The action was in line with his generosity to those who support him.

Last year, he gave about \$45 million to former workers of a defunct government-owned airline, Mexicana, in order to acquire the trademark rights to the airline's name, Mexicana de Aviacion.

Experts say the name had essentially no commercial value after the airline went bankrupt in 2010, but the workers - whose pensions were wiped out by the company's collapse - had been been strong supporters of López Obrador in his presidential bids. He has since spent hundreds of millions of dollars more to revive a smaller version of the government airline.

Extreme

The lavish giveaways contrast sharply with the image of extreme austerity that López Obrador has sought to project since taking office in 2018 - he sold off the presidential jet and flew around the country on commercial airline flights, in tourist class. Later, he switched to using military aircraft for trips.

He largely eliminated federal oversight and regulatory agencies, claiming they cost too much and arguing that one "cannot have a rich government with poor people."

24 drug cartel cameras uncovered: Mexican authorities said Friday they have detected and seized 24 drug cartel surveillance cameras fixed to telephone and light posts in the border city of San Luis Rio Colorado.

The city on the border with Arizona has suffered years of violence between drug cartels fighting for control of the border crossing, where they can smuggle drugs.

Prosecutors in northern Sonora state said the cameras had been placed there by "falcons," the name commonly used in Mexico for drug cartel lookouts seeking to keep tabs on the movements of soldiers and police.

Army troops removed the devices, and photos suggested they were common porch-style cameras wrapped in duct tape. They were found in three different neighborhoods, and some were even found attached to palm trees.

Mexican families demand justice: Families of the 43 students from a rural teacher's college abducted 10 years ago in southern Mexico marked the painful anniversary Thursday, disillusioned after what they say was a decade of unfulfilled government promises.

They and a merched with the families in the rain.

Thousands marched with the families in the rain through Mexico's capital, demanding the truth about what happened and justice for the missing. "The first time we came through here, who

"The first time we came through here, who could have imagined that all of this time would pass and (we're) here again without answers," said Margarito Guerrero, the father of missing student Jhosivani Guerrero de la Cruz.

Guerrero appreciated those who accompanied them, like Lourdes Silva, a homemaker, participating in her first march with her daughter, a student who has been following the families' movement for a decade.

2 dead after barge sinks in Venezuela: At least two people died and four others are missing after a service barge used in the maintenance of oil wells sank in Lake Maracaibo, in western Venezuela's Zulia state, state-run oil company Petro-

leos de Venezuela (PDVSA) said Thursday.

In a statement, the firm said the incident was caused by "bad weather conditions that affected the area at the time of the accident," and said the barge named "Chantase G" belongs to SOSCA, the firm currently providing oil well maintenance services

"Search and rescue work continues in conjunction with public safety organizations," the company said, adding a PDVSA High-Level Investigation Committee will look into the matter to definitively determine the causes of the accident and support will be provided to the relatives of the victims.

'Morales ineligible for presidential race': Former Bolivian President Evo Morales (2006-2019) is constitutionally barred from running for the 2025 presidential elections, the Bolivian government confirmed on Friday.

The restriction stems from the country's Constitution, not a decision made by the current administration, said Deputy Communication Minister Gabriela Alcon.

Alcon urged Morales' supporters to respect Bolivia's legal framework, as some have staged protests demanding his candidacy be allowed.

"The most important thing is to respect the will of the Bolivian people," Alcon said, pointing out that the country's constitution was approved by its citizens and "must be upheld."



Shigeru Ishiba (center) celebrates after he was elected as Japan's ruling party leader at Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) leadership election in Tokyo, Japan on Sept 27. (Xinhua)



Youths chant and raise their fists in unison as they take part in a demonstration marking the 10-year anniversary of the disappearance of 43 students from an Ayotzinapa rural teacher's college, in Mexico City on Sept 26. (AP)



Bilivogui

Saied

Africa

S.Africa shootings kill 17: Seventeen people were killed in two mass shootings that took place in close proximity to each other in a rural town in South Africa, police

said Saturday.

A search was underway for the suspects, national police spokesperson Brig. Athlenda Mathe said in a statement. The victims were 15 women and two men, she said. One other person was in critical condition in the hospital.

The shootings took place Friday night in the town of Lusikisiki in Eastern Cape province in southeastern South Africa. Video released by police showed that the shootings occurred at two houses in the same neighborhood.

Twelve women and a man were killed in one house and three women and a man were killed in the other house, police said. (AP)

'Army displaced people': Rwanda's army and a militia it backs shelled camps for displaced people in eastern Congo, Human Rights Watch said. It also accused

Congo of abuses against civilians.

A report by the group released Thursday said that since the beginning of the year, Rwanda's army and the M23 rebel armed group, which it supports, have "indiscriminately" shelled camps in eastern Congo where tens of thousands of people are sheltering. Congo's army, meanwhile, has put displaced people at increased risk by deploying artillery near the camps, the report said.

Eastern Congo has struggled with armed violence as more than 120 armed groups fight for power, land and valuable mineral resources while others try to defend their communities. Some armed groups have been accused of mass killings, rapes and other human rights violations. The violence has displaced some 6 million people in the east.

The March 23 Movement, or M23, is a rebel military group mainly made up of ethnic Tutsis that broke away from the Congolese army just over a decade ago. (AP)

Tunisia passes law: Tunisia's parliament amended a law on Friday, stripping power from courts over decisions made by an embattled election authority whose members are appointed by President

Asia

Myanmar opp'n rejects military appeal for talks

Ishiba chosen to lead Japan's ruling party

TOKYO, Sept 28, (AP): Japan's governing party on Friday picked former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba as its leader, setting him up to become prime minister next week.

The party leadership is a ticket to the top job because the Liberal Democratic Party's governing coalition controls parliament.

Considered a defense policy expert, Ishiba secured a come-from-behind win against Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a staunch conservative who hoped to become the country's first female prime minister.

prime minister.

The LDP, which has enjoyed nearly unbroken rule since World War II, may have seen Ishiba's more centrist views as crucial in pushing back challenges by the liberalleaning opposition and winning voter support as the party reels from corruption scandals that drove down outgoing Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's popularity.

After his victory was announced, Ishiba stood up, waved and bowed repeatedly and pledged to "devote all my body and soul" to regain public trust.

"We must be a party that allows members to discuss the truth freely, a party that is fair and impartial and a party that is humble," he told a news conference later Friday. He stressed Japan needs to reinforce its security, noting recent violations of Japanese airspace by Russian and Chinese warplanes and repeated missile launches by North Korea.

by North Korea.

He pledged to continue Kishida's economic policy aimed at pulling Japan out of deflation and achieving real salary increases, while tackling challenges such as Japan's declining birthrate and population, as well as resilience in one of the world's most disaster-prope countries.

"I will achieve a society in which women and young people can have hope, hardworking people feel rewarded, and anyone can excel," Ishiba said.

He is expected to call a general election within weeks to capitalize on his win, but it is unclear when. He only said that he would seek the public's mandate at an appropriate time after forming his new administration.

Ishiba has proposed an Asian version of the NATO military alliance, and said Friday that the idea is to form "an organic connection" of existing U.S.-led defense networks such as the ANZUS alliance with Australia and New Zealand and its alliances with South Korea and the Philippines. "We have to think how we can achieve peace and stability in this region," he said.

Myanmar opp'n rejects talks: The main group coordinating opposition to military

Nine days before the presiden-

tial election, a majority of mem-

bers of parliament voted in favor of

amending the young democracy's

first election law as the election

authority remains in conflict with

courts demanding that it returns

Kais Saied.

Landslide leaves 12 people dead at illegal gold mine in Indonesia

SUNGAI ABU, Indonesia, Sept 28, (AP): Mud, rugged terrain and lack of telecommunications hampered rescue efforts Saturday after a landslide set off by torrential rains smashed down into an unauthorized gold mining operation on Indonesia's Sumatra Island, killing at least 12 people.

Villagers had been digging for grains of gold in the remote village in the Solok district of West Sumatra province when mud plunged down the surrounding hills and buried them on Thursday.

Several people managed to escape and some were pulled out by rescuers, said local search and rescue agency chief Abdul Malik. Eleven people were injured.

Malik said rescuers recovered 12 bodies, revising an earlier death toll of 15 after officials discovered that lack of communications and the remoteness of the village had affected the counting of the victims. Two other people are believed still missing under tons of mud, he said.

still missing under tons of mud, he said.

Rescuers earlier said the devastated area could only be reached by walking for four hours from the pearest settlement.

four hours from the nearest settlement.

"Relief efforts for the dead and missing were hampered by rugged terrain and blocked roads covered by thick mud and

debris," Malik said, adding that many residents also did not want outsiders, including search and rescue officers, to enter their traditional mining areas.

Informal mining operations are com-

Informal mining operations are common in Indonesia, providing a tenuous livelihood to thousands who labor in conditions with a high risk of serious injury or death.

Landslides, flooding and collapses of

tunnels are just some of the hazards facing miners. Much of gold ore processing involves highly toxic mercury and cyanide and workers frequently use little or no protection.

The country's last major mining-related accident occurred in July when a landslide

crashed onto an illegal traditional gold mine in Gorontalo province on Sulawesi island, killing at least 23 people.

In April 2022 a landslide hit another

In April 2022 a landslide hit another gold mine in North Sumatra's Mandailing Natal district, killing 12 women.

In February 2019, a makeshift wooden structure in an illegal gold mine in North Sulawesi province collapsed partly due to shifting soil. More than 40 people were buried.

rule in Myanmar rejected on Friday a surprise offer from the ruling generals to hold talks on a political solution to the country's nationwide armed conflict.

Nay Phone Latt, a spokesperson for the opposition's shadow National Unity Government, told The Associated Press that a joint statement issued earlier this year by opposition groups has already paved the way for a negotiated political solution if the army agrees to its conditions.

Padoh Saw Kalae Say, a spokesperson of the Karen National Union, which represents the Karen ethnic minority, said it also will not accept the military's offer. The KNU has been fighting on and off for greater autonomy since Myanmar, then called Burma, won independence from Britain in 1948.

"What we see is that their inviting offers are the ideas from more than 70 years ago. We won't accept and discuss it, and looking back at the statements we have repeatedly expressed, I would like to say that there is no need to think about this," Padoh Saw Kalae Say told the AP.

The military's brief "Offer to resolve political issues in political means," dated Thursday and published Friday in the

The move sparked anger from

opposition and civil society groups,

which say the election authority

has acted in concert with Saied to

ensure he faces little competition in

Demonstrators picketed in pro-

test of the law outside of parlia-

winning a second term.

Global New Light of Myanmar and other state-run newspapers, was its most direct offer of peace talks since it seized power from the elected government of **Aung San Suu Kyi** in February 2021.

'New Chinese submarine sank': Satellite imagery showed that China's newest nuclear-powered attack submarine sank

alongside a pier while under construction, a senior U.S. defense official said Thursday.

The sinking of China's first Zhou-class

submarine represents a setback for Beijing as it continues to build out the world's largest navy. Beijing has become increasingly assertive in pursuing its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea, which is crucial to international trade.

Meanwhile, China faces longtime territorial disputes involving others in the region including Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. The United States has sought to strengthen ties to its allies in the region and regularly sails through those waters in operations it says maintains the freedom of navigation for vessels there, angering Beijing.

and evacuated it.

re, angering Beijing.

servers have judged as democratic. However, the lead-up to this year's

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Sept 28, (AP): Flooding caused by continuous rainfall has killed at least 32 people in Nepal's capital, and another 12 are missing,

coming the first country to topple

an authoritarian leader in last dec-

ade's Arab Spring, Tunisia has had

two presidential elections that ob-

vote has been tainted by quarreling

in recent weeks, between the court

and the Independent High Author-

Nepal flooding

police said Saturday.

Rains have been pounding since Friday night and are expected to continue over the weekend. Seventeen people were also injured while 1,053 were rescued across Kathmandu, according to Nepal Police spokesman Bishwo Adhikari.

ity for Elections, or ISIE. (AP)

Gunfire at Guinea palace: Shots were fired late Thursday near the presidential palace in Guinea 's capital Conakry, and the army briefly locked down the city center

Local journalist Fode Toure, who was a few hundred meters from the presidential palace, told The Associated Press he heard gunshots and saw people running away in panic. An AP reporter near the palace saw heavily armed soldiers patrolling the streets.

A diplomatic official close to Guinea's leader told the AP that 11 dissident soldiers opened fire on the special forces around the presidential palace, but they were overpowered by the special forc-

es.
The official said the soldiers were loyal to Col Celestin Bilivogui, who disappeared almost a year ago in mysterious conditions following his arrest by the special forces. Bilivogui was found dead on Wednesday, his family and lawyers said. The lockdown of the center of Conakry was later lifted.



M23 rebels stand with their weapons in Kibumba, in the eastern of Democratic Republic of Congo on Dec 23, 2022. Rwanda's army and a militia it backs shelled camps for displaced people in eastern Congo, Human Rights Watch said. It also accused Congo of abuses against civilians. (AP)



Meshari Abduljalil Shehab, General Manager.



In its latest effort to entwine banking excellence with luxury, Burgan Bank announced the launch of its most exclusive and prestigious Visa credit card to date. The invitation-only credit card, available to a group of ultra-high-net-worth (UHNW) clients, unlocks a world of high-end services, luxury experiences, and unmatched benefits. This new product comes as part of Burgan's unyielding efforts to offer its clients a banking experience that matches their lifestyles and

high standards.
"A refined lifestyle is the sum of distinguished choices made at every step of one's journey. With our new prestigious Visa card, our esteemed clients can now choose a credit card that matches their standards and suits their uncompromising lifestyle," said Mr. Meshari Abduljalil Shehab, General Manager – Private Banking and Wealth Management at Burgan Bank, commenting on the Visa credit card reveal. "Designed to match their distinguished lifestyles, the Visa credit card offers the market segment of UNHW clients exclusive access to endless deluxe offers, exquisite experiences, and world-class services, while flawlessly fulfilling their banking and financial needs and aspirations.'

"Not only does this premium card offer a rewarding proposition that caters to the affluent but it also provides them with the best that digital payments can offer. Burgan Bank's Visa cardholders will enjoy the peace of mind that comes with Visa's advanced security technology, whether at home or abroad, as well as worldwide acceptance at over 130 million merchant partners for those traveling abroad. Visa is pleased to partner with Burgan Bank to introduce this Visa credit card designed for ultra-highnet-worth individuals in Kuwait," said Mohamed Reyad, Visa's Head of Financial Institutions in Kuwait.

Market Movements 27-09-2024

JAPAN BRITAIN

Change Closing pts - Nikkei 225 +903.93 - FTSE 100 +35.85 8.320.76 5,067.45

PHILIPPINES - PSEi PAKISTAN KSE 100 Change Closing pts 7,428.30 81,299.05

-5.35

-30.44

Business

Boursa Kuwait general index surges 0.34% to 7,197 points

Market value increases by KD 148 mln in weekly gains

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Boursa Kuwait's General Index ended the week on a positive note, closing up by 0.34 percent, or approximately 24.6 points, to settle at 7,197 points.

This growth reflected a surge in trading momentum as investors engaged actively in the market. By the end of trading Thursday, the market value of shares rose to 42.555 billion dinars, marking a 0.35 percent increase, or 148 million dinars, from the previous week's total of 42.408 billion dinars.

The Main Market Index saw significant movement, rising by 2.01 percent, equivalent to 123.57 points, closing the week at 6,271.86 points.

Meanwhile, the Main Market Index 50 jumped 2.08 percent to reach 6,126.28 points, gaining 124.97 points over the week. However, the Premier Market Index experienced a slight decline, finishing at 7,789.84 points, down 0.01 percent, or 0.5 points, from its level on Sept 19.

Trading activity flourished, with the number of deals surging 44.99 percent to 106.86 thousand transactions and trading volumes rising 44.01 percent to 2.10 billion shares. The total value of

weekly trading reached 351.81 million dinars, reflecting a 15.48 percent increase.

At the sector level, nine sectors reported gains, led by healthcare with an impressive 3.71 percent rise. Conversely, four sectors saw declines, with technology taking the largest hit at 5.63 percent.

On the stock front, "United" topped the gainers with an impressive 84.02 percent increase, while "Agility" led the decliners, dropping by about 6.91 Notably, the stock of "Manazel" surged 23.71

percent, leading in trading volume with 174.77 million shares, while "EFA" generated liquidity of 35.77 million dinars, up by 2.05 percent. Market analysts noted that the overall positive

sentiment in the market could be attributed to the Central Bank of Kuwait's recent decision to cut interest rates by 25 basis points.

This decision has shifted investor focus towards smaller stocks expected to yield growth in their financial results during the latter half of 2024. While there had been some lethargy in leading stocks, particularly in the banking sector, the market momentum appears to be returning as the third quarter draws to a close.

Analysts emphasized that the outlook remains optimistic, supported by solid fundamentals of the stocks and increasing investor confidence. Expectations of further interest rate reductions in the near future are anticipated to bolster trading

There is also a keen eye on upcoming disclosures from listed companies regarding their third-quarter results, coinciding with the anticipated boost from increased government spending on projects and economic activities across the country.

In a contrasting end to the week, the Boursa Kuwait closed its trading yesterday with the General Index district. eral Index dipping slightly by 5.8 points, or 0.08 percent, reaching 7,197 points. A total of 412.9 million shares were exchanged through 20,851 transactions, amounting to 70.2 million dinars (approximately 214 million dollars).

The Main Market Index fell by 12 points, or 0.19 percent, to 6,271 points, with 306.2 million shares traded in 13,094 transactions, valued at 34.6 million dinars (around 105.5 million dol-

Similarly, the Premier Market Index saw a drop of 4.4 points, or 0.06 percent, closing at 7,789 points with 106.6 million shares changing hands through 7,757 transactions, worth 25.5 million dinars (around 108.2 million dollars).

The Main 50 index also slipped by 28.4 points, or 0.4 percent, to settle at 6,126 points, with 196 million shares traded through 7,268 transactions, valued at 21.6 million dinars (about 65.8 million

As the week concludes, the Boursa Kuwait reflects a tapestry of growth and setbacks, with market participants optimistic about future trends amid fluctuating trading dynamics.

Award recognizes KFH Capital's excellence in issuing Sukuk, says Al-Marzoog

KFH Capital wins 'Best for Fixed Income in Kuwait' award

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: KFH Capital, the investment arm of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Group, has been awarded "Best for Fixed Income in Kuwait" in the 2024 Euromoney Securities Houses Awards. This recognition underscores the company's achievements and contributions, as well as the quality of the Sukuk deals it has arranged. These include Sukuk issuances for the Republic of Türkiye, Dubai Islamic Bank, and Saudi Public Investment Fund, as well as local Sukuk issuances for Kuwait Finance House, Equate Petrochemical Company, and Warba Bank.

KFH Capital has excelled in delivering a diverse portfolio of uniquely structured investment products. These innovative offerings consistently generate strong returns, making the company a preferred investment choice for both corporate and individual investors.

The award is an extension of the Euromoney



Abdulaziz Nasser Al-Marzoog

Awards for Excellence 2024. The selection criteria are based on the input and assessment of worldclass experts and analysts in the banking and Islamic finance sector, as well as interviews and sur-

veys with market stakeholders. Additionally, the performance of leading local financial institutions in each market is considered.

KFH Capital Chief Executive Officer, Abdulaziz Nasser Al-Marzooq, said that the award affirms the company's high standards in creating, managing, and structuring issuances, as well as other services. KFH Capital is recognized as one of the leading arrangers of Sukuk in the region and

KFH Capital offers a comprehensive suite of investment services, including initial public offerings (IPOs), mergers and acquisitions, capital market solutions, asset management, advisory services, portfolio management, real estate, investment funds, trading and brokerage, and sukuk issuance. Additionally, KFH Capital boasts a team of toptier experts in the investment field, contributing to its exceptional and professional performance, thereby fostering a competitive edge.

Al-Jarrah thanks team for award celebrating Islamic banking achievements

World Finance honors KIB Chairman with 'Lifetime Achievement in Islamic Banking and Dedication to Community' award for 5th time

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is proud to announce that its esteemed Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-Sabah has for the fifth time been presented with the prestigious "Lifetime Achievement in Islamic Banking and Dedication to the Community 2024" award by World Finance magazine. This distinguished recognition, announced as part of the magazine's 2024 Islamic Finance Awards program, celebrates Al-Jarrah's visionary leadership, innovative strategies, and relentless dedication to advancing Islamic finance principles.

Al-Jarrah was awarded the prestigious honorary title for his entrepreneurial acumen, exceptional leadership, and relentless efforts to advance both the Islamic banking industry and the well-being of the communities the Bank serves. World Finance commended him for upholding the principles of Islamic finance and propelling KIB to new heights, all while profoundly impacting the broader community. According to the magazine, Al-Jarrah's dedication to social responsibility and community development reflects his deep-rooted values and vision for a better society.

The Chairman expressed his gratitude for the recognition, stating: "I am honored to receive this award yet again, and would like to thank World Finance for recognizing the significant strides we have made in promoting Islamic banking and contributing to the betterment of our community. This accolade is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire team at KIB, and I remain committed to steering this journey of excellence

Al-Jarrah has served as Chairman of KIB since 2010 and has been a driving force for the Bank's growth and its leading role in Kuwait since then. Throughout his tenure, Al-Jarrah has championed numerous initiatives aimed at fostering financial inclusion, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and promoting sustainable development. Under his guidance, KIB has achieved remarkable growth, introduced pioneering products, and consistently upheld the highest standards



KIB Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Jarrah Al-

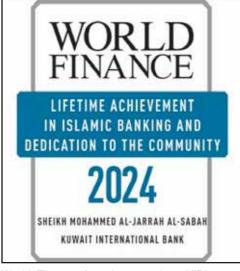
of Sharia-compliant banking.

The latest accolade further solidifies KIB's position as a leading institution in the Islamic finance landscape. The Bank remains committed to continuing its mission of providing exceptional Islamic banking services while making a positive difference in the community.

It serves to note that the London-based World Finance magazine is one of the leading and most prominent global media platforms specializing in financial and economic news coverage. It continues to present its annual Islamic Finance Awards with diverse categories to celebrate industry leaders and renowned personalities.

About KIR

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new



World Finance Awards recognizes KIB's commitment.

phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer

experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

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

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

Other Voices

'Oil market outlook gloomy'

OPEC+ halts gradual production increase amidst declining prices

By Kamel Al-Harami

Independent Oil Analyst

OIL prices continue to decline, reaching \$72 a barrel today; while crude oil price in the USA is currently at \$ 68. How low will it fall?! Oil price will probably reach \$60 per barrel if Saudi Arabia will abandon the \$100 target or close to it. With oil markets getting jittery and the lost directions at the moment, the OPEC+ decided to abandon its gradual increase in oil production starting from next month.

With such bad news for oil, international financial institutions are predicting further news; ticipating the price to reach \$60 a barrel next year or in about three



Al-Harami

months. Such level will make it very hard to bring up further with news regarding low demand for oil from China, and the ongoing increase of oil supply from outside the OPEC+ to make the situation

In the meantime, OPEC+ is left with no option but to pump the market with oil, without mercy. The organization now faces two challenges -- losing its annual income by more than 60 percent and losing its market share.

OPEC+ never got used to such a dilemma, while some of its members are not adhering to their agreed quota. Russia is trying its best, but it is also losing revenues and volumes of market shares. So, the non-OPEC+ members are also helping in keeping firm the lid on production quota; while taking advantage of Saudi Arabia's full adherence, leaving the latter alone to face the full consequence, including losing its oil income and its market share to non-OPEC+.

In the mist of such a bad week for oil, the outlook for 2050 does not look so bright as well, with the prediction that demand for oil will be in the range of 75 million barrels per day. The international energy agency is reducing its global demand figure to 55 million barrels per day, should governments around the world enforce the restrictions on the use of fossil en-

On the other hand, OPEC predicted that by 2045, the global demand for oil will be116 million barrels. This increase is due to the 15 percent growth of global population, leading to higher demand for oil than expected.

But for now, the picture is grim. We believe it is time for Saudi Arabia to take a firm stand and face the markets' reality, as there is no more room for comprises for producing countries. This is due to the fact that more oil will be pouring into all parts of the world. It is now time to have its fixed share of oil in order to keep its production and oil flow at a minimum of nine million barrels daily at whatever price it takes. This should be the stand of Saudi Arabia: I want my volume and enough of sacrifices.

OPEC+ is incurring huge losses in terms of its daily income, but losing market share and income at the same time is something unheard of. Attacking OPEC established historical markets at such ease is another disaster; hence, the need for a firm stand and action. It is now time to act. Saudi Arabia must abandon its production restriction and play the markets welll. Let us do like the US crude oil producers with 13.5 million daily output and it could go higher in no time. Saudi Aramco must do the same and free its production until the new oil producers realize that the party is over. They must be responsible producers, rather than 'eating' the legitimate long-established markets of

Thus, \$60 a barrel is becoming a more realistic figure than we thought!! Email: naftikuwaiti@yahoo.com

Banks post 26% profit surge

Kuwait's banks report strong 2023 'growth' and 'resilience'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: A recent report has unveiled a significant upswing in the profits of Kuwait's banking sector, indicating robust growth and resilience throughout 2023, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The profits attributable to shareholders, surged by 26 percent year-on-year, reaching 1.5 billion dinars (approximately \$5.9 billion) by the end of the year which can be attributed primarily to the prevailing high-interest rate environment and enhanced asset quality across the

The report highlighted several critical factors contributing to this growth:

Declining Provisions: Provisions for potential loan losses declined by 15 percent compared to 2022, signaling improved asset quality and risk management practices among banks.

Asset Growth: The total assets of the banking sector grew by 3.1 percent, reaching 110.4 billion dinars (about \$364 billion). Notably, the share of assets held by Islamic banks is approaching that of traditional banks, reflecting a shift in the sector's dynamics.

Net Interest Margin: The banking sector's net interest margin showed a noticeable increase, rising to 2.7 percent. This increase has positively impacted the overall profitability of banks.

Non-Interest Income: Non-interest profits also rose significantly, making up 32 percent of the total profits within the banking sector, driven largely by a 126 percent increase in investment income.

The improvements in profit have translated into stronger financial performance indicators such as return on average Assets which increased to 1.5 percent and return on average equity which rose to 11.1 percent compared to the end of 2022.

These metrics underscore the

financial health of the local banking sector, which has maintained a strong solvency position. The capital adequacy ratio, a critical measure of financial stability, rose to 19.9 percent, the highest level observed, reflecting the sector's ability to withstand economic shocks.

The banking sector's loan portfolio also exhibited positive growth, increasing by 2.6 percent to 69.2 billion dinars (about \$228.3 billion).

This growth was primarily fueled by increased financing extended to major companies. Additionally, local currency loans continue to dominate the portfolio, accounting for 64.2 percent of the total.

Deposits in the banking sector rose to 73.5 billion dinars (approximately \$245.5 billion), marking a 4.4 percent annual increase. A notable trend is the growth of foreign deposits, which constituted 32.5 percent of total sector deposits, reflecting the expanding operations of foreign banks in Kuwait.

The Central Bank of Kuwait reported that the non-performing loan (NPL) rate remained stable at its lowest level of 1.4 percent, consistent with the previous two years.

Furthermore, the coverage rate for non-performing loans continued to improve, reaching an impressive 312 percent by the end of 2023. This indicates that banks are wellpositioned to manage potential loan defaults.

The findings from the report reveal a resilient and growing banking sector in Kuwait, characterized by strong profitability, prudent risk management, and a favorable economic environment.

The reliance on private sector deposits as the primary source of funds, constituting 65.5 percent of the total deposit portfolio, highlights the confidence that both individuals and businesses have in the stability and reliability of the local banks.

privacy breaches cost Meta \$102m in EU fines

Meta was punished Friday with a fine worth more than \$100 million from the social media giant's European Union privacy regulator over a security lapse involving passwords for Facebook users.

The Irish Data Protection Commission said it slapped the U.S. tech company with the 91 million euro (\$101.6 million) penalty following an investigation.

The watchdog started investigating in 2019 after it was noti-

fied by Meta that some passwords had been inadvertently stored internally in plain text, which means they weren't encrypted and it was possible for

employees to search for them.
Deputy Commissioner Graham Doyle said it's "widely accepted" that user passwords should not be stored in plain text, "considering the risks of abuse." Meta said a security review found that a "subset" of Face-

book users' passwords were "temporarily logged in a reada-ble format." "We took immediate action to fix this error, and there is no evidence that these passwords were abused or accessed improperly," the company said in a statement. "We proactively flagged this issue to our lead regulator, the Irish Data Protection Commission, and have engaged constructively with them throughout this inquiry." (AP)

cryptocurrency exchange network hit with sanctions

A network of people and virtual currency exchanges associated with harboring Russian cybercrime were hit with sanctions on Thursday, in a government-wide crackdown on cybercrime that could assist Russia ahead of President Joe Biden's meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. U.S. Treasury sanctioned alleged Russian hacker Sergey Ivanov and Cryptex - a St. Vincent and Grenadines registered virtual

currency exchange operating in Russia. Virtual currency exchanges allow people and businesses to trade cryptocurrencies for other assets, such as conventional dol-

lars or other digital currencies.

Treasury alleges that Ivanov has laundered hundreds of millions of dollars worth of virtual currency for cyber criminals and darknet marketplace vendors for the last 20 years, including for Timur Shakhmametov,

who allegedly created an online marketplace for stolen credit card data and compromised IDs called Joker's Stash. Ivanov laundered the proceeds from Joker's Stash, Treasury says. The State Department is offering a \$10 million reward for information that would lead to the arrest and possible conviction of the two men and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Virginia has unsealed an indictment against them. (AP)

Institute looks to convert itself to for-profit company

OpenAl looks to shift away from nonprofit roots

NEW YORK, Sept 28, (AP): OpenAI's history as a non-profit research institute that also sells commercial products like ChatGPT may be coming to an end as the San Francisco company looks to more fully convert itself into a for-profit corporation accountable to shareholders

The artificial intelligence company's board is considering a decision that would change OpenAI into a public benefit corporation, according to a source familiar with the discussions who wasn't authorized to speak publicly about them.

While OpenAI already has a for-profit division, where most of its staff works, it is controlled by a nonprofit board of directors whose mission is to help humanity. That would change if the company converts the core of its structure to a public benefit corporation, which is a type of corporate entity that is supposed to help society as well as turn a profit.

No final decision has been made by the board and the timing of the shift hasn't been determined, the source said.

OpenAI's CEO Sam Altman acknowledged in public remarks Thursday that the company is thinking about restructuring but said the departures of key executives the day before weren't related.

Speaking at a tech conference in Italy, Altman mentioned that OpenAI has been considering an overhaul to get to the "next stage." But he said it was not connected to the Wednesday resignations of Chief Technology Officer Mira Murati and two other top leaders

"OpenAI will be stronger for it as we are for all of our transitions," Altman told the Italian Tech Week event in Turin. "I saw some stuff that this was, like, related to a restructure. That's totally not true. Most of the stuff I saw was also just totally wrong," he said without any more specificity.

"But we have been thinking about (a restructuring)," he

OpenAI said Thursday that it will still retain a nonprofit

"We remain focused on building AI that benefits everyone and as we've previously shared we're working with our board to ensure that we're best positioned to succeed in our mission," it said in a written statement. "The nonprofit is core to our mission and will continue to exist.'

OpenAI is not the first technology company to try to balance commercial and humanitarian objectives but its maneuvers drew a rebuke Thursday from Mozilla, which blends a nonprofit foundation and research hub with a company known for making the Firefox web browser.

"The principled staff exodus at OpenAI is another exam-

ple of their true long-term goal: profit," said Mozilla president Mark Surman in an emailed statement. "As far as we can tell, OpenAI no longer exists as a public interest organi-

Altman asserted Thursday that the resignations of Murati, Chief Research Officer Bob McGrew and another research leader, Barret Zoph, were "just about people being ready for new chapters of their lives and a new generation of leader-

But the exits were the latest in a string of recent high-profile departures that also include the resignations of OpenAI co-founder Ilya Sutskever and safety team leader Jan Leike in May. In a statement, Leike had leveled criticism at OpenAI for letting safety "take a backseat to shiny products."

Much of the conflict at OpenAI has been rooted in its unusual governance structure. Founded in 2015 as a nonprofit with a mission to safely build futuristic AI to help humanity, it is now a fast-growing big business still controlled by a nonprofit board bound to its original mission.

This unique structure made it possible for four OpenAI board members - Sutskever, two outside tech entrepreneurs and an academic - to briefly oust Altman last November in what was later described as a dispute over a "significant

breakdown in trust" between the board and top executives But with help from a powerful backer, Microsoft, Altman was brought back to the CEO role days later and a new board replaced the old one. OpenAI also put Altman back on the board of directors in March.

It may not be easy to change OpenAI's corporate structure, even if it's designed to make investors and employees

Tax experts have said that OpenAI's corporate structure appeared to be set up to give the tax-exempt nonprofit entity full control of the for profit entities that the organization created as its growth started to take off.

In 2016, the goal of OpenAI's founders - a group that included Altman and Tesla CEO Elon Musk - was to "advance digital intelligence in the way that is most likely to benefit humanity as a whole, unconstrained by a need to generate financial return.

A few years later, the organization realized it needed billions of dollars to finance the computing power required to develop AI technologies. "We want to increase our ability to raise capital while still serving our mission, and no pre-existing legal structure we know of strikes the right balance," wrote co-founders Sutskever and Greg Brockman in 2019.

446 new products at expo

New tech signals China's foreign trade momentum

HANGZHOU, Sept 28, (Xinhua): The third Global Digital Trade Expo, currently unfolding in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, is offering a glimpse into avant-garde technologies that are unlocking the country's burgeoning potential in for-

Over the span of five days, the exhibition is featuring 446 new products and technologies, ranging from robots performing remarkable tasks like opening bottles and sorting waste to AI-driven digital humans engaging in debate competitions.

"I was impressed most by medical AI displayed at the exhibition, such as robotic surgical arms and screening clinics," said Kgaladi Melia Thema, a consultant for innovation and technology of Small Enterprise Development Agency, South Africa.

"Nurses can use chronic disease management screening products for patients, which can be applied both at home and in clinics. This reduces costs and enables remote patient monitoring, offering great potential," she added.

Digital technologies such as big data, cloud computing and blockchain are taking center stage at the expo, underscoring how China is harnessing these innovations to propel its foreign

At the booth of iFLYTEK Co., Ltd., a front-runner in China's AI and speech technology industry, several African visitors were immersed in real-time conversations with staff through a state-of-the-art multilingual AI-powered translation screen. Despite the bustling environment, the screen, equipped with advanced voice recognition technologies, accurately captured and responded to human

"Overseas business is poised to become a significant growth engine for us in the coming years. Our aspiration is for it to constitute one-third of our business segments in the future," said Liu Qingfeng, chairman of iFLYTEK.

Chinese cultural exports are also stealing the show at the exhibition. In the digital entertainment zone, innovative exhibits such as an AI-powered representation of Su Dongpo, a celebrated poet from the Song Dynasty (960-1279), a virtual museum of traditional Chinese music, as well as a 3D display of the four bronze animal heads from the Old Summer Palace (Yuanmingyuan), are offering visitors a fascinating glimpse into the richness of Chinese culture.

"The fusion of digital technology with the splendor of traditional Chinese culture has not only expanded our export opportunities, but also invigorated the growth of China's culture industry," said Wu Shuang, a staff member of Zhejiang Kayou Animation Co., Ltd., a domestic card game creator.

Visitors are also being treated to futuristic transportation solutions, including autonomous boat taxis and the electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (eVTOL) vehicles, all being showcased for the first time at this year's

expo.
"China is rightly regarded as a global leader in digital technologies and innovations," said Zhaslan Madiyev, minister of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan, adding that China's advancement in digital trade is not only creating new avenues for cooperation, but also enhancing global trade infrastructure, fostering sustainable development worldwide.

"Chinese technologies and innovations are enhancing supply chains, making them faster and more efficient, while also improving access to goods and services," Madiyev noted.

According to the Global Digital Trade Development Report 2024 released during the event, global digital trade soared to around 7.13 trillion U.S. dollars (about 1.02 trillion yuan) in 2023, up from 6.02 trillion U.S. dollars in 2021, marking an average annual growth rate of 8.8 percent.

Fed's favored 'inflation gauge' shows cooling price pressures

Way cleared for more rate cuts

WASHINGTON, 28, (AP): The Federal Reserve's preferred inflation measure on Friday provided the latest sign that price pressures are easing. a trend that is expected to fuel further Fed interest rate cuts this year and next.

Prices rose just 0.1% from July to August, the Commerce Department said, down from the previous month's 0.2% increase. Compared with a year earlier, inflation fell to 2.2%, down from 2.5% in July and barely above the Fed's 2% inflation target

The cooling of inflation might be eroding former President Donald Trump's polling advantage on the economy. In a survey last week by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, respondents were nearly equally split on whether Trump or Vice President Kamala Harris would do a better job on the economy. That is a significant shift from when President Joe Biden was still in the race, when about six in 10 Americans disapproved of his handling of the economy. The shift suggests that Harris could be shedding some of Biden's baggage on the economy as sentiment among consumers begins to brighten.

Grocery costs barely rose last month, according to Friday's report, and energy costs dropped 0.8%, led by cheaper gasoline.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called core prices rose just 0.1% from July to August, also down from the previous month's 0.2% increase. It was the fourth straight time that monthly price increases have fallen below an annual rate of 2%. the Fed's target. Compared with 12 months earlier, core prices rose 2.7% in August, slightly higher than in July.

"Sticky inflation is yesterday's problem," ' Samuel Tombs, chief U.S. economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said in a research note.

With inflation having tumbled from its 2022 peak to barely above the Fed's 2% target, the central bank last week cut its benchmark interest rate by an unusually large half-point, a dramatic shift after more than two years of high rates. The policymakers also signaled that they expect to reduce their key rate by an additional half-point in November and in December. And they envision four more rate cuts in 2025 and two in 2026.

The ongoing decline in inflation makes it even more likely that the Fed will cut its key benchmark rate further in the coming months.

On Thursday, Tom Barkin, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, expressed support for a cautious approach to rate cuts. In an interview with The Associated Press, he said he favors reducing the Fed's key rate "somewhat." But Barkin said he wants



A shopper examines large-screen televisions on display in a Costco warehouse Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, in Lone Tree, Colo. (AP)

Russia's adaptability to US sanctions has stymied their effectiveness: Economists

WASHINGTON, Sept 28, (AP): Waves of sanctions imposed by the Biden administration after Russia's invasion of Ukraine haven't inflicted the devastating blow to Moscow's economy that some had expected. In a new report, two researchers are offering reasons why

Oleg Itskhoki of Harvard University and Elina Ribakova of the Peterson Institute for International Economics argue that the sanctions should have been imposed more forcefully immediately after the invasion rather than in a piecemeal manner.

"In retrospect, it is evident that there was no reason not to have imposed all possible decisive measures against Russia from the outset once Russia launched the full scale invasion in February 2022," the authors state in the paper. Still, "the critical takeaway is that sanctions are not a silver bullet,' Ribakova said on a call with reporters this week, to preview the study.

The researchers say Russia was able to brace for the financial penalties because of the lessons learned from sanctions imposed in 2014 after it invaded Crimea. Also, the impact was weakened by the failure to get more countries to participate in sanctions, with economic powers like China and India not included.

The report says that "while the count of sanctions is high, the tangible impact on Russia's economy is less clear," and "global cooperation is indispensable.

The question of what makes sanctions effective or not is important bevond the Russia-Ukraine war. Sanctions have become critical tools for the United States and other Western nations to pressure adversaries to reverse actions and change policies while stopping short of direct military conflict.

The limited impact of sanctions on Russia has been clear for some time. But the report provides a more detailed picture of how Russia adapted to the sanctions and what it could mean for U.S. sanctions' effectiveness in the future.

The paper will be presented at the

Since the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the U.S. has sanctioned more than 4,000 people and businesses, includ-

ing 80% of Russia's banking sector by

Brookings Institution next week.

The Biden administration acknowledges that sanctions alone cannot stop Russia's invasion - it has also sent roughly \$56 billion in military assistance to Ukraine since the 2022 invasion. And many policy experts say the sanctions are not strong enough, as evidenced by the growth of the Russian economy. U.S. officials have said Russia has turned to China for machine tools, microelectronics and other technology that Moscow is using to produce missiles, tanks, aircraft and other weaponry for use in the war.

A Treasury representative pointed to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's remarks in July during the Group of 20 finance ministers meetings, where she called actions against Russia "unprec-

for most of the 2018-through-2023 pe-The Fed tends to favor the inflation

gauge that the government issued Friday - the personal consumption expenditures price index - over the betterknown consumer price index. The PCE index tries to account for changes in how people shop when inflation jumps. It can capture, for example, when con-

Amazon's \$4b partnership with AI startup Anthropic gets UK competition clearance

LONDON, Sept 28, (AP): Britain's competition watchdog said Friday that it's clearing Amazon's partnership with artificial intelligence company Anthropic because the \$4 billion deal didn't qualify for further scrutiny.

The Competition and Markets Authority approval comes after it started looking into the deal, part of wider global scrutiny for the wave of investment from Big Tech companies into leading startups working on generative AI technology. The watchdog found that San

Francisco-based Anthropic's rev-

enue and its combined market share with Amazon in Britain were not big enough to require an in-depth investigation under the country's merger "We welcome the UK's Competition and Markets Authority decision acknowledging its lack of jurisdic-

tion regarding this collaboration,"

Amazon said in a statement. "By

investing in Anthropic, we're help-

ing to spur entry and competition in generative AI.'

Under the deal, Anthropic is using Amazon Web Services as its primary cloud provider and Amazon's custom chips to build, train and deploy

its AI models.

The British regulator has previously cleared Microsoft's partnership with French startup Mistral AI as well as its hiring of key staff from another startup, Inflection AI.

The watchdog is still scrutinizing a partnership between Anthropic and Google. Anthropic was founded in 2021 by siblings Dario and Daniela Amodei, who previously worked at ChatGPT maker OpenAI. The company has focused heavily on increasing the safety and reliability of AI

The AI deals are also facing scrutiny across the Atlantic, where the Federal Trade Commission is looking into whether they're helping tech giants gain an unfair advantage in the booming market for AI services.

to ensure that inflation keeps cooling before cutting the benchmark rate to a level that would no longer restrain the Friday's report also showed that

Americans' incomes and spending ticked up only slightly last month, with both rising just 0.2%. Still, those tepid increases coincide with upward revisions this week for income and spending figures from last year. Those revisions showed that consumers were in

better financial shape, on average, than had been previously reported. Americans also saved more of their

incomes in recent months, according to the revisions, leaving the savings rate at 4.8% in September, after previous figures had shown it falling below 3%.

The government reported Thursday that the economy expanded at a healthy 3% annual pace in the April-June quarter. And it said economic growth was higher than it had previously estimated

sumers switch from pricier national brands to cheaper store brands.

payments surpass 1 tln taka for 1st time **Dhaka's domestic, foreign loan interest** 1-trillion-taka mark for the first time resenting more than one-sixth of the

DHAKA, Sept 28, (Xinhua): The Bangladeshi government's interest payments against loans from both domestic and foreign sources surged 24.5 percent in the fiscal year 2023-24 (July 2023-June 2024), exceeding a record

According to the finance ministry's fiscal report released recently, over 114.000 crore taka was spent on interest payments in the 2024 fiscal, repnational budget. Interest payments for foreign loans increased 60.53 percent to 15,150

crore taka last year while rising 20.48

percent to 99,606 crore taka for do-

mestic loans, local English newspaper The Daily Star reported. While spending on subsidies de-

International Monetary Fund for its

creased slightly, the government missed the revenue targets set by the

ongoing 4.7 billion U.S. dollar loan

 \check{A} finance ministry official said the government's annual borrowing to finance budget deficits had led to a growing stock of outstanding loans.

As of March 2024, the govern ment's total outstanding debt stood at 1,697,415 crore taka, which is equivalent to 33.78 percent of the country's gross domestic product. (1 U.S. dollar equals about 120 taka)

Organized by NatCen Social Research-UK

NBK participates in London seminar on Transformative Education Initiatives

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: NBK participated in a seminar titled "Transformative Education Initiatives: Insights from the UK and Kuwait" held in London. The event, organized by NatCen Social Research, focused on evaluating Kuwait's financial literacy experience following the launch of the Bankee program

The seminar brought together educators, policymakers, and researchers from Kuwait and the UK to explore educational innovation and the role of public-private partnerships in driving transformative educational interventions. Discussions centered on the evaluation of Bankee, a key social initiative by NBK in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Kuwait's Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) and Creative Confidence. Since 2022, the program has been implemented in primary schools across Kuwait, and NBK was recently awarded the Bronze

In her keynote address, Manal Al Mattar, Assistant General Manager and Head of Corporate Communications at NBK, offered insights into the bank's strategic investments in corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects, particularly in education, youth development and financial literacy. Al Mattar emphasized the importance of financial literacy as a cornerstone of Kuwait's economic development strategy and highlighted Bankee's success as a model for the future.

Award for Bankee in the ESG category at the Qorus Banking

Al Mattar added: "This initiative aligns with Kuwait's Vision 2035 and the UN's SDGs through strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Education, Nazaha, and our strategic partner Creative Confidence. NBK has successfully reached more than 15,000 students and 3,000 teachers, equipping the next generation with essential financial skills.'

Al Mattar further noted, "Our goal is to build a financially aware society capable of supporting sustainable economic growth in Kuwait by adapting financial literacy into curricula and fostering public-private partnerships.'

She expressed her pride in the positive impact Bankee has had on the young Kuwaitis. "By providing students with essential financial skills, we are laying the foundation for a more inclusive and sustainable financial future.

Al Mattar also reaffirmed NBK's CSR strategy, particularly in financial education. "At NBK, we place education and financial literacy as key pillars of our social responsibility efforts. Our objective is to ensure that every young person in Kuwait is equipped with the tools needed to make informed financial decisions, contributing to the creation of a stronger society."

She highlighted that NBK's social responsibility initiatives are based on six pillars: youth and education, women empowerment, healthcare, employee well-being, community outreach, and environmental sustainability. Bankee stands as a prime example of how public-private partnerships (PPPs) can raise



Manal Al Mattar and Sumaya Al Jasem with participants from the National Bank of Kuwait and Creative Confidence at the seminar



Manal Al Mattar

financial awareness and create long-lasting positive impacts on future generations.

Evaluation of the Bankee Program

Representatives from NatCen and Creative Confidence presented evaluation findings on the development, implementation, and outcomes of the Bankee program. The results showed a 10% improvement in students' behavior, enhanced decisionmaking in financial matters, improved spending patterns, and increased charitable actions, demonstrating the program's significant impact on the educational landscape.

Sumaya Al Jasem, founder of Creative Confidence- NBK's partner in the Bankee program-, expressed her satisfaction with



Sumaya Al Jasem speaking at the seminar.

NatCen's invitation to showcase Bankee to researchers and academics in the UK.

She proudly shared how the program has evolved into Kuwait's first comprehensive financial education experience for students starting at the age of six. "By empowering students to make their own financial decisions, we are helping them build financial skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Al Jasem emphasized the importance of showcasing Bankee as a successful model of public-private collaboration in education, designed to enhance financial literacy. She noted that the program's success demonstrates the potential for strong publicprivate partnerships to deliver impactful and sustainable results.

Reviewing the program's two-year journey, Al Jasem outlined how the pilot year (2022-2023) involved 11 schools, 900 teachers, and 4,000 students. In the first full year (2023-2024), the program expanded to 30 schools, 3,400 teachers, and nearly 16,000 students. Looking ahead to the second year (2024-2025), the program aims to reach 60 schools, 6,000 teachers, and 30,000 students.

Regarding the program's expansion strategy, Al Jasem said: "To scale Bankee and ensure its sustainability, we focused on building capacity within participating schools through train-thetrainer workshops, providing tools and resources, and reducing teachers' reliance on external support by offering user-friendly data dashboards. We also created a self-sustaining system within the Ministry of Education, enabling capable teachers to join the 'Bankee Certified Trainers' network and extend vital support beyond their schools."

The NatCen study's initial findings revealed a significant increase in students' financial literacy levels, including a better understanding of key financial terms and concepts such as quality versus quantity. Furthermore, behavioral changes were observed, with students showing greater independence in managing their finance, becoming more selective in their purchases, prioritizing long-term savings, and exhibiting charitable behav-

During the event, the development of Bankee was reviewed, from its inception to its national rollout. NBK proudly shared how the program empowers students to make financial decisions in a safe educational environment, starting as early as 6

"Stories of how schools have adapted Bankee as an effective classroom management tool, making education more engaging, were also highlighted. The continuous support from NBK's executive management has been crucial to the program's success," said Al Jassem.

The seminar provided an opportunity to compare educational interventions in Kuwait, the Gulf region, and the UK, with Nat-Cen offering a platform for sharing best practices and fostering innovation in education. The event facilitated fruitful dialogue and collaboration between education specialists from Kuwait and the UK, with a focus on the opportunities and challenges posed by innovative educational interventions, especially those

driven by public-private partnerships.

Through initiatives like these, NBK reaffirms its leadership in corporate social responsibility and sustainable banking, aligned with Kuwait's Vision 2035 and global standards of excellence in social responsibility. NBK remains committed to expanding the Bankee program, with plans to reach more schools and students across Kuwait, ensuring the program's continued relevance and impact through ongoing evaluation

Warba reveals winners of 'Al Sunbula' draw

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Warba Bank - the best bank in corporate and investment banking services in Kuwait announced the winners of the weekly Al Sunbula draws. Warba Bank will continue to hold weekly draws for ten

winners of Al Sunbula account, in the presence of a representative of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

Each of the 10 lucky winners of the Sunbula weekly draw of Warba Bank received KD 1,000, and the winners are: Kuwaiti Dinars, and they are: Hanadi Ali Ismail Bugamaz, Yousef Ahmed Ali Al-Silahi, Anas Waleed Mohammed Al-Kanderi, Ibrahim Abdullah Mo-

hammed Al-Khazam, Ziyad Adel Abdul Rahman Al-Huwail, Wadha Matar Al-Harbi, Musaed Abdullah Ali Al-Halbi, Abdullah Rashid Hijab Al-Otaibi, Talal Hadi Sayer Al-Dhafiri, and Balqis Hmoud Farhan Faraaj.

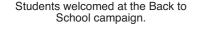
As for the Sunbula account, it is the ideal choice for all those wishing to save money and achieve appropriate financial returns on their accounts at the same time, in addition to the opportunity to win cash prizes throughout

Regarding the conditions, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Bakhait, Area Manager Retail Banking Group said: "KD 100 is now required to enter the weekly Sunbula draws and major draws, and the client still gets one chance for every KD 10 in the account, and the chances are counted according to the lowest balance in the account during the month. Therefore, a full month must have passed in the account to qualify for the weekly draw, and two full months for the major draws to count the chances. There are no restrictions or limits for withdrawal and deposit, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the client's chances to win".

Warba Bank launched its latest banking solutions service, "Customer Onboarding", in accordance with the terms of its ambitious five-year strategy, which enables non-Warba Bank clients to apply for opening a Sunbula account in an easy digital way via the Bank's website without the need to visit any of the Bank's branches, and within only five minutes - through the new and unique automated system used to enable this service - new clients will be able to complete the request to open an account at any time and any place.

Warba Bank is one of the banks that have achieved great successes in a short period of time, as it has occupied a leading position by providing innovative digital banking services in accordance with Islamic Sharia for individuals and companies, and is one of the local banks with the largest number of shareholders, and these are among the most prominent elements that make the Bank close to all members of society.







stc team with several officials and teachers at the schools.

stc launches 'Back to School' campaign

Healthy snacks and gifts distributed to students

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Kuwait Telecommunications Company - stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, launched its "Back to School" campaign in collaboration with our partners following the start of the academic school year. The initiative aims to promote health and well-being amongst students across several districts in Kuwait, witnessing the participation of partners such as the Kidia App, The 3 Beez, and Try Toot. stc launched the initiative as part of its extensive

tional "upgrade" initiative. As part of the campaign, stc and its partners distributed gifts and healthy snacks to students at various schools, including Salem Al-Husainan Boys School in the Assimah Educational District, Fahad Al-Salem Boys School in the Hawally Educational District. The purpose of this campaign was to encourage healthy eating habits and maintain ste's ongoing commitment towards supporting the younger generation in all aspects of their lives.

CSR framework under the education pillar, and its educa-

In addition to school visits, stc also collaborated with Dr. Noor Al-Awadhi, Nutrition Specialist, who provided valuable insights and tips for proper diets and regimen that will allow students to maintain healthy lifestyle habits that are likely to positively impact their academic performance. Dr. Al-Awadhi's insights and tips were featured on stc's social media channels for all followers to benefit from. The Company and its partners also organized competitions on stc's social media channels under the "Back to School" campaign, providing followers a chance to win one of the various gifts presented by the partners.

Commenting on the campaign, Danah AlJasem, General Manager of Corporate Communications at stc, said, "Education comes as one of the primary pillars under our CSR program, and more importantly serves as an integral part of progressing our community and the future careers of the younger generation. As part of stc's ongoing commitment to support the community, we are proud to have launched the "Back to School" campaign in collaboration with our partners to get students excited about the start the new academic year. By encouraging healthy habits and creating a positive environment for learning, we also aim to support the well-being and success of our future leaders.

Aside from supporting students, stc extended a warm welcome to teachers as a token of appreciation for their dedication and hard work in nurturing the next generation. The initiative aimed to recognize the important role of teachers in educating the younger generation, setting the trajectory for their future careers and accomplishments.

AlJasem added, "In line with our campaign, stc would like to extend a warm welcome to all students on the start of their academic year and wish them a year of success and prosperity. stc would also like to extend its appreciation to our partners for their collaborations and support throughout the campaign. Witnessing the excitement of the students throughout the activities under the campaign, I would like to thank our partners, Kidia App, The 3 Beez, and Try Toot, for their valuable participation and support in making this campaign a success. Looking forward, stc will continue to leverage its network and expertise to contribute its support to the education sector, especially under the educational "upgrade" initiative."

Expert trainers lead ZGI bootcamp to equip startup owners

Zain Great Idea accelerator program kicks off with successful 'bootcamp'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Zain Great Idea (ZGI) accelerator program's first phase has kicked-off. The bootcamp witnessed great turnout from idea owners and entrepreneurs to learn the most essential business and startup management skills, featuring intensive workshops, training programs, and one-onone mentoring sessions, aims to upskill entrepreneurs and startup owners, and is facilitated by a group of experts from local, regional, and international academic

The all-new Zain Great Idea accelerator program recently launched in strategic partnership with Rasameel Investment ompany and continues its decade-long mission of opening doors to sustainable growth and investment opportunities for entrepreneurs and innovators in Kuwait.

Prior to the bootcamp's kick-off, the new participants joined a special orientation session, where they were introduced to the program's plan, objectives, and stages, as well as the schedule for workshops, mentoring sessions, and discussions during the bootcamp, which is one of the program's key stages.

The bootcamp is a significant phase of ZGI, lasting three weeks and providing participants with a wealth of information and essential skills for the success of any tech company. This is done through interactive workshops, training programs, one-on-one mentoring sessions, and discussions with founders and executives, all aimed at sharing experiences and helping participants find the best opportunities for growth.

The camp's content is delivered by a group of trainers, specialists, and experts from leading local, regional, and global academic institutions, including Prof. Paris de l'Etraz, an IE Business School Professor with a PhD on elements of emotional intelligence in the workplace. He has 20 years of experience in investment banking and venture capital, and holds the position of MD of IE Venture Labs, the largest startup accelerator in Europe. Paris founded multiple startups and supported others in the field of gaming, solar power, technology, and CRM Banking software.

Also joining the bootcamp is Prof.



Zain officials with partners during the b

Mike Grandinetti, an active Professor in the fields of innovation, entrepreneurship, human-centric design and digital marketing. He has started and spent his entire career in the world's most leading innovation clusters running over 200 Hackathons and actively accelerated several hundred startups at Brown, Harvard and MIT.

In addition, the program features Gaelle Bou Abdo, a successful serial entrepreneur specializing in HR and organizational development. With expertise in consumer behavior and market research, complemented by her certification as a digital marketing professional, she brings a unique blend of skills to her work. As the Head of Innovation at Nestlé MENA, Gaelle focuses on developing new products, creating innovative business models, and streamlining processes to drive significant business outcomes. In addition, Gaelle mentors startups and scale-ups around the world. She is also an Adjunct Professor at IE Business School

Also joining the bootcamp is Noorhan Al Zann, Founder & CEO of Noor Coaching and Consultancy. She's a CFA Charter holder with an MBA focused on sustainable finance. She's been a mentor and investment advisor for over 450 startups in 6 countries and enjoys a career of over 12 years in financial services focusing on treasury & investments. Noorhan also has 8+ years of experience as a Senior Lecturer (GCC) on Banking

& Investment topics.

The bootcamp is also set to feature other experts joining from the Applied Innovation Institute, a non-profit think tank from Silicon Valley focused on accelerating innovation and empowering entrepreneurs. In addition, a number of sessions will be facilitated by experts from Architech Solutions, the Kuwait-based technology consultancy firm, helping participants with technology consulting, online business strategy, product development, digital marketing, user experience consulting, and more.

For more than 14 years, Zain Great Idea has been a unique success story, establishing itself as one of the most impactful business accelerators locally and regionally. It has provided numerous opportunities for hundreds of ambitious entrepreneurs and startups, connecting many with leading tech companies and organizations in places like Silicon Valley, to gain first-hand experience.

Through this program, Zain aims to empower Kuwait's tech startup ecosystem and foster an innovation-driven environment that creates tangible economic and social impact. This step also translates the company's strategic plans as a business that seeks promising opportunities for diversification and sustainable growth in a highly competitive market. Additionally, Zain may acquire shares in the ZGI startups to boost their potential and commercialization drive.

ABK enhances banking awareness through 'Let's Be Aware' campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) reaffirms its continued participation in the 'Let's Be Aware' banking awareness campaign, in collaboration with the Central Bank of Kuwait and the Kuwait Banking Association. This initiative underscores ABK's commitment to promoting financial inclusion and raising banking awareness across all segments of society.

As part of the campaign, ABK highlights the risks associated with loan refinancing, a practice that some customers resort to by seeking unlicensed intermediaries. These individuals often provide cash at exorbitant interest rates, allowing clients to repay existing loans while incurring new debt. ABK stresses the importance of understanding loan terms and requirements, with dedicated employees offering tailored advice based on individual financial situations and credit statuses. The goal is to prevent customers from becoming



Diraya Logo

burdened by obligations beyond their

ABK categorizes loan refinancing as a suspicious practice that can lead to significant financial instability. It emphasizes that such actions may violate regulations set forth by the Central Bank of Kuwait, and customers engaging in refinancing may risk their financial future and face potential fraud. ABK strives to consistently release educational videos on its social media platforms to shed a light on the associated dangers and how to deal with the situation.

To further support its customers, ABK provides a two-day review period for clients seeking consumer and

housing loans, enabling them to fully understand their loan contract terms before signing. The Bank is committed to transparency, outlining the potential impacts of any changes in customers' financial situations, such as job reloca-

Additionally, ABK is actively engaging with the community through various events, reaching all age groups, and providing education on banking rights and responsibilities. By promoting its diverse range of banking services and solutions, ABK caters to all customer segments in the local

ABK remains dedicated to achieving the goals of the 'Let's Be Aware' campaign, one of the largest initiatives of its kind in the Gulf Cooperation Council, ensuring that every customer is equipped with the knowledge needed to make informed financial decisions.

At the New York Film Festival, an art form at play

NEW YORK, Sept 28, (AP): When you think of blockbusters, the first thing that comes to mind might not be a 215-minute postwar epic screening for the first time at Lincoln Center.

But that was the scene last week when the New York Film Festival hosted a 70mm print of Bradley Corbet's "The Brutalist." The festival hadn't then officially begun - its 62nd edition opened Friday - but the advance press screening drew long lines - as some attendees noted, not unlike those at Ellis Island in the film - and a packed Walter Reade

Word had gotten around: "The Brutalist" is something to see. Corbet's epic, starring Adrian Brody as an architect remaking his life in Pennsylvania, is the kind of colossal cinematic construction that doesn't come around every day. Shot in VistaVision and structured like movements in a symphony (with a 15-minute intermission to boot), "The Brutalist" is indeed something to behold. It's arthouse and blockbuster in one, and, maybe, a reminder of the movies' capacity for uncompromising grandeur - and the awe that can inspire.

It's been fashionable in recent years to wonder about the fate of the movies, but it can be hard to placate those concerns at the New York Film Festival. The festival prizes itself on gathering the best cinema from around the world. And this year, the movies are filled with bold forays of form and perspective that you can feel pushing film forward.

This is also the time Oscar campaigns begin lurching into gear, with Q&As and cocktail parties. But, unlike last year when "Oppenheimer" and "Barbie" were entrenched as favorites, the best picture race is said to be wide open. In that vacuum, movies like "The Brutalist" and the NYFF opener, RaMell Ross' "Nickel Boys," not to mention Sean Baker's "Anora" and Jacques Audiard's "Emilia Perez," are poised to test arthouse boundaries. This year, those films might be the blockbusters

"Nickel Boys," the opening night selection, is Ross' fictional film debut, but it also carries over the exquisite eye he brought to his 2018 Oscar-nominated documentary "Hale County This Morning, This Evening." Ross films the adaptation of Colson Whitehead's novel from the subjective points of view of two boys - Ellwood (Ethan Herisse) and Turner (Brandon Wilson) - who are among the Black students abused at Nickel Academy, a Florida reform school. In a film sprinkled with brutality and tenderness, the first-person approach gives "Nickelboys" a radical sense of empathy.

Sections

The festival includes a number of sections and sidebars, but its main slate remains its core. This year, that's 32 films from 24 countries, including "The Seed of the Sacred Fig," by exiled Iranian director Mohammad Rasoul; "Caught by the Tides," by Chinese filmmaker Jia Zhangke; and French director Mati Diop's documentary "Dahomey."

One of the standouts is Georgian director Dea Kulumbegashvili's devastating, despairing sophomore feature "April." Like, "Nickelboys," it, too, plays with perspective. An obstetrician, Nina (Ia Sukhitashvili), is blamed for the death of a newborn, but the subsequent investigation has more to do with the illegal abortions she performs in a small Georgian village beneath the Caucasus Mountains.

Kulumbegashvili's follow-up to her debut, "Beginning," is both

bracingly real - she shot a live birth for the film - and mysteriously surreal. Occasionally we see from Nina's perspective, other times we hover just outside it; sometimes "April" seems to visualize something inside her. The effect is chilling, as if Nina's body is a moving target.

Like Ross, Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia worked in documentary before turning to fiction with her luminous "All We Imagine as Light." Despite being a prize-winner at Cannes, the film was surprisingly over-looked for India's Oscar submission. But that shouldn't detract from Kapadia's remarkable accomplishment.

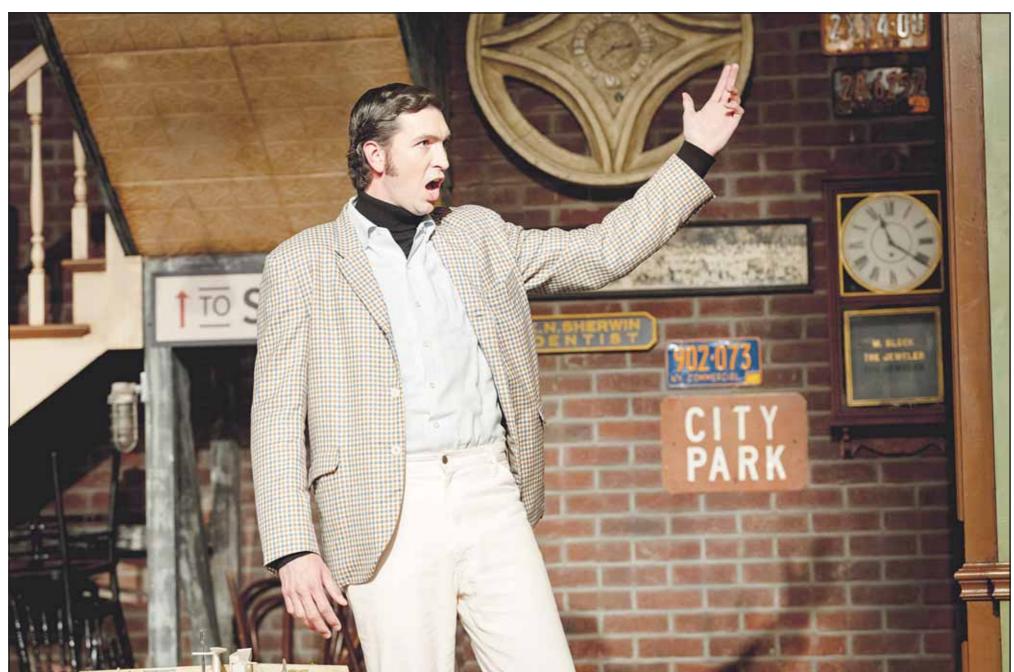
În it, three women (Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha, Chhaya Kadam) juggle dreams and reality in modern Mumbai while working at a hospital. Midway, the film shifts from city to country, allowing them a new outlook on Mumbai and the class structures that govern their private lives. "All We Imagine as Light" begins with the gritty realism of a

documentary but melts enchantingly into fable.

Like "All We Imagine as Light," another main slate entry, Carson Lund's "Eephus," reaches its conclusion at sunset with the dying out of light. In Lund's charming, wry hangout movie, a group of small-town middle-aged guys gather for a baseball game on a field that's soon to be turned into something else. With the fewest of fans and the creakiest of knees, they play one last one. There's laughter and storytelling but they're also sliding like they mean it.

There's an existentialist quality to "Eephus" that could make it a good parable for plenty of things, even the movies. But it's a lovely reminder that, whomever is watching, you play for the love of the game.

Variety



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Nicholas Braun as Andy Kaufman in a scene from 'Saturday Night.' (AP)

Film

Reitman's film is thinly sketched but satisfying

'Saturday Night' a joyful ode to 'SNL'

By Jake Coyle

We are at the apex of "Saturday Night Live" appreciation. Now entering its 50th year, "SNL" has never been more unquestioned as a bedrock American institution. The many years of cowbells, Californians, mom jeans, Totino's, unfrozen caveman lawyers and vans down by the river have more than established "SNL" as hallowed late-night ground and a comedy citadel.

So it's maybe appropriate that Jason Reitman's big-screen ode, "Saturday Night," should arrive, amid all of the tributes, to remind of the show's original revolutionary force. Reitman's film is set in the 90 minutes leading up to showtime before the first episode aired Oct. 11, 1975.

The atmosphere is hectic. The mood is anxious. And through cigarette smoke and backstage swirl rushes Lorne Michaels (Gabriel LaBelle), who's trying to launch a new kind of show that even he can't quite explain.

"Saturday Night," which opened in theaters Friday and expands in the coming weeks, isn't a realistic tick-tock of how Michaels did it. And, while it boasts a number of fine performances, I wouldn't recommend it for anyone hoping to see an illuminating portrait of the original Not Ready for Prime

No, Reitman's movie is striving for a myth of "Saturday Night Live." Michaels' quest in the film - and though he never strays farther than around the corner from 30 Rock, it is a quest - is not just to marshal together a live show on this particular night, it's to overcome a cigar-chomping old guard of network television. (Milton Berle is skulking about, even Johnny Carson phones in.) In their eyes, Michaels is, to paraphrase Ned Beatty in "Network," meddling with the primal forces of nature.

In mythologizing this generational battle, "Saturday Night" is a blistering barn-burner. In most other ways (cue the Debbie Downer trombone), it's less good. Reitman, who penned the script with Gil Kenan, is too wide-eyed about the glory days of "SNL" to bring much acute insight to what was happening 50 years ago. And his film may be too spread thin by a clown car's worth of big personalities. But in the movie's primary goal, capturing a spirit of revolution that once might have seized barricades but instead flocks to Studio 8H, "Saturday Night" at least deserves a Spartan cheer.

A clock ticking down to showtime runs as ominously as it might in "MacGruber" throughout "Saturday Night." Nothing is close to ready for air. John Belushi (Matt Wood) hasn't signed his contract. Twenty-eight gallons of fake blood are missing. And, most pressing of all, the network is poised to air a Carson rerun if things don't take shape. An executive pleading for a script is told, "It's not that kind of show.

Uncertain

What kind is it? Michaels, himself, is uncertain. He's gathered together a "circus of rejects," most of them then unknown to the public. There is Gilda Radner (Ella Hunt), Chevy Chase (Cory Michael Smith), Garrett Morris (Lamorne Morris), Jane Curtin (Kim Matula) and Dan Aykroyd (Dylan O'Brien). Also in the mix are Jim Henson (Nicholas Braun), who spends much of the movie complaining about the untoward things the cast has been doing to Big Bird, Andy Kaufman (Braun again), Billy Crystal (Nicholas Podany) and the night's host, George Carlin (Matthew Rhys).

Most of them pass too quickly to make too much of an impression, though a few are good in their moments - notably Smith, playing up Chase's braggadocio, O'Brien and Morris. Garrett Morris, the cast's lone Black member, is in a quandary over his role because of his race and because he was a playwright before being cast. Though "SNL" was revolutionary, it hardly arrived a finished product. Morris here is a reminder of the show's sometimes - and ongoing - not always easy relationship to diversity, in race and gender.

It also wasn't always such a break from what came before. When Chase faces off with Berle in a contest over Chase's fiancee, Jacqueline Carlin (Kaia Gerber) - one of the movie's few truly charged scenes -

they seem more alike than either would like to admit. It's not a great sign for "Saturday Night" how much better the old guard is than the young cast. Along with Simmons' Berle is Willem Dafoe's NBC executive David Tebet. He provides the movie its most "Network"-flavored drama, seeing "a visionary" in Michaels and, despite wavering skepticism, urging him to be "an unbending force of seismic disturbance." Also in the mix - and a reminder that the suits had newbies, too - is Dick Ebersol (a refreshingly genuine Cooper Hoffman), a believer in Michaels but only up to a point.

Ultimately, this is Michaels' show, and he's played winningly by LaBelle, the "Fabelmans" star, even if the characterization, like much of "Saturday Night," is a little thin. Sometimes by his side, as he races to get the show ready is the writer and Michaels' thenwife, Rosie Shuster (the excellent Rachel Sennott), who you want more of.

It seems to be an unfortunate truth that dramatizations of "Saturday Night Live" inevitably kill it of laughter. That's true here just as it was in Aaron Sorkin's "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip." The exception to that, of course, is Tina Fey's "30 Rock," which was smart enough to abandon all the "SNL" mythology and focus on what's funny.

This "Saturday Night" may have a legacy of its own; a lot of this cast, I suspect, will be around for a long time. And, ultimately, when the show finally comes together, it's galvanizing. The cleverest thing about Reitman's film is that it ends, rousingly, just where "SNL" starts.

"Saturday Night," a Columbia Pictures release is rated R by the Motion Picture Association for language throughout, sexual references, some drug use and brief graphic nudity. Running time: 108 minutes. Three stars out of four. (AP)

indictment.

The lawsuit was filed against Combs, his companies and several associates and seeks undisclosed damages for physical iniuries. severe emotional distress, humiliation, anxiety and other harms. A lawyer for Combs, his company and one of his representatives did not immediately return emails





unconscious from drugs, and it alleges Combs and his acquaintances recorded sexual encounters without her permission. She says that she met Combs overseas in fall 2020

seeking comment Friday.

Doe, accuses Combs of sexu-

The woman in the latest lawsuit,

identified by the pseudonym Jane

ally assaulting her while she was

and that the assaults and harassment continued through July this year.

Doe says she often was coerced and harassed into traveling to Combs' homes in New York. Los Angeles and Miami and other cities, including monthly in 2021 and 2022. (AP)



paintbrush, the Brontë sisters have got their dots back. More than eight decades after it was installed, a memorial to the three 19th-century sibling novelists in London's Westminster Abbey was amended Thursday to restore the diaereses - the two dots over the e in their surname. (AP)

LONDON: With a few daubs of a

Jr., Mike Myers, Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and Will Ferrell. (AP) **NEW YORK:** Sean "Diddy"

NEW YORK: "Saturday Night Live" is set to set off its 50th

season with host Jean Smart and musical guest Jelly Roll.

Smart, the 73-year-old "Hacks" and "Designing Women" star who just won her sixth Emmy, has

never hosted the NBC sketch com-

edy institution before in her more

Instagram that the gig is a "bucket

than 40-year career. She said on

Former cast member Mava Rudolph is reportedly returning to the

show this season to play Vice Presi-

dent Kamala Harris, and if recent

tion, she could be in the premiere's

Lorne Michaels is still at the

helm, just as he was for the first epi-

sode on Oct. 11, 1975, when **George Carlin** hosted and the nation got

its first dose of the Not Ready for

Prime Time Players: Chevy Chase,

John Belushi, Gilda Radner, Dan

There were two musical guests - Billy Preston and Janis Ian - play-

ing two songs apiece, the norm in the

early days. The country singer and

rapper Jelly Roll has the music role

to himself Saturday, and like Smart

host Nate Bargatze with musical

guest Coldplay, Ariana Grande

with Stevie Nicks, Michael Kea-

ton with Billie Eilish, and John

Mulaney with Chappell Roan.

three-hour primetime special on

Feb. 16 that will serve as the of-

ficial 50th season celebration. It's

sure to feature a wide range of the

many stars the show has spawned,

including Bill Murray, Eddie

Murphy, Billy Crystal, Julia

Louis-Dreyfus, Robert Downey

Those shows will lead up to a

Upcoming episodes will feature

he's a first-timer.

Akroyd, Jane Curtin, Laraine

Newman and Garrett Morris.

cold open at the top of the show.

politics-of-the-moment are any indica-

patterns of opening episodes with

list" achievement for her.

Combs was hit with new sexual assault allegations Friday as a woman filed a lawsuit in New York saying she was repeatedly raped and drugged at the music mogul's homes and became pregnant after one of the encounters. It's the latest of several similar lawsuits by women against Combs, who also was arrested last week on a federal sex trafficking

People & Places



British actress Dame Maggie Smith poses in London on Dec. 16, 2015. Smith, who won an Oscar for 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie' in 1969 and won new fans in the 21st century as the dowager Countess of Grantham in 'Downton Abbey,' has died at 89. (AP)

Obituary

Scene-stealing actor famed for 'Harry Potter'

Iconic actress Maggie Smith dies at 89

LONDON, Sept 28, (AP): Maggie Smith, the masterful, scene-stealing actor who won an Oscar for the 1969 film "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" and gained new fans in the 21st century as the dowager Countess of Grantham in "Downton Abbey" and Professor Minerva McGonagall in the Harry Potter films, died Friday. She was 89.

Smith's sons, Chris Larkin and Toby Stephens, said in a statement that Smith died early Friday in a London hospital.

"She leaves two sons and five loving grandchildren who are devastated by the loss of their extraordinary mother and grandmother,' they said in a statement issued through publicist Clair Dobbs.

Smith was frequently rated the preeminent British female performer of a generation that included Vanessa Redgrave and Judi Dench, with two Occars, a clutch of Δ cademy nominations and a shelf full of acting trophies.

She made her film debut in the 1950s, won Oscars for work in the 60s and 70s and had memorable roles in each subsequent decade, including an older Wendy in Peter Pan story "Hook" (1991) and a mother superior of a convent in Whoopi Goldberg's comedy "Sister Act" (1992).

A commanding stage actor, she played Shakespearean tragedy - 1965 adaptation "Othello" - and voiced Shakespeare-inspired animation in "Gnomeo & Juliet" (2011).

She remained in demand even in her later years, despite her lament that "when you get into the granny era, you're lucky to get any-

Smith drily summarized her later roles as "a gallery of grotesques," including Professor McGonagall. Asked why she took the role, she quipped: "Harry Potter is my pension."

Richard Eyre, who directed Smith in a television production of "Suddenly, Last Summer," said she was "intellectually the smartest actress I've ever worked with. You have to get up very, very early in the morning to out-

wit Maggie Smith. "Jean Brodie," in which she played a dangerously charismatic Edinburgh schoolteacher, brought her the Academy Award for best actress, and the British Academy Film Award (BAFTA) as well.

Smith added a supporting actress Oscar for "California Suite" in 1978, Golden Globes for "California Suite" and "A Room with a View," and BAFTAs for lead actress in "A

Private Function" in 1984, "A Room with a View" in 1986 and "The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne" in 1988.

She also received Academy Award nominations as a supporting actress in "Othello," "Travels with My Aunt," "A Room with a View" and "Gosford Park," and a BAFTA award for supporting actress in "Tea with Mussolini." On stage, she won a Tony in 1990 for "Lettice and Lovage."

From 2010, she was the acid-tongued Violet Crawley, Dowager Countess of Grantham, in hit TV period drama "Downton Abbey," a role that won her legions of fans, three Emmy Awards, a Golden Globe and a host of other awards nominations

Freedom

But she chafed at television fame. When the show's run ended in 2016. Smith said she was relieved. "It's freedom," she told The Associated Press

"Not until 'Downton Abbey' was I wellknown or stopped in the street and asked for one of those terrible photographs," she said.

She continued acting well into her 80s, in films including the big-screen spinoff to "Downton Abbey" in 2019, its 2022 sequel "Downton Abbey: A New Era" and 2023 release "The Miracle Club."

Smith had a reputation for being difficult, and sometimes upstaging others.

Richard Burton remarked that Smith didn't just take over a scene in "The VIPs" with him: 'She commits grand larceny." However, the director Peter Hall found that Smith wasn't "remotely difficult unless she's among idiots. She's very hard on herself, and I don't think she sees any reason why she shouldn't be hard on other people, too."

Smith conceded that she could be impatient

"It's true I don't tolerate fools, but then they don't tolerate me, so I am spiky," Smith said. "Maybe that's why I'm quite good at playing spiky elderly ladies."

Critic Frank Rich, in a New York Times review of "Lettice and Lovage," praised Smith as "the stylized classicist who can italicize a line as prosaic as 'Have you no marmalade?' until it sounds like a freshly minted epigram by Coward or Wilde.'

Smith famously drew laughs from a prosaic line - "This haddock is disgusting" - in a 1964 revival of Noel Coward's "Hay Fever." She repeated the gift for one-liners in "Downton Abbey," when the tradition-bound Violet witheringly asked, "What is a week-

King Charles III and his wife Queen Camilla paid tribute to Smith, who was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire, the equivalent of a knight, by the late Queen Elizabeth II in 1990.

"As the curtain comes down on a national treasure, we join all those around the world in remembering with the fondest admiration and affection her many great performances, and her warmth and wit that shone through both off and on the stage," they said in a statement.
Fellow actors paid tribute to her on Fri-

day. Hugh Bonneville, who played the son of Smith's character in "Downton Abbey," said "anyone who ever shared a scene with Maggie will attest to her sharp eye, sharp v formidable talent.'

"She was a true legend of her generation and thankfully will live on in so many magnificent screen performances," he said in a

Rob Lowe, who co-starred with her in "Suddenly, Last Summer," said the experience was "unforgettable ... sharing a two-shot was like being paired with a lion.

"She could eat anyone alive, and often did. But funny, and great company. And suffered no fools. We will never see another. God speed, Ms. Smith!" Lowe wrote on X.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called Smith "a true national treasure whose work will be cherished for generations to come.

Margaret Natalie Smith was born in Ilford, on the eastern edge of London, on Dec. 28, 1934. She summed up her life briefly: "One went to school, one wanted to act, one started to act, one's still acting."

Her father was assigned in 1939 to wartime duty in Oxford, where her theater studies at the Oxford Playhouse School led to a busy apprenticeship.

"I did so many things, you know, round the universities there. ... If you were kind of clever enough and I suppose quick enough, vou could almost do weekly rep because all the colleges were doing different produc-tions at different times," she said in a BBC interview.

She took Maggie as her stage name because another Margaret Smith was active in the theater.

Variety

LONDON: A pair of paintings by Dutch master Vincent van Gogh at London's National Gallery were vandalized Friday when a group of climate activists splattered what appeared to be tomato soup on them, shortly after two other activists were sentenced over a similar attack two years

ago.

The paintings from Van Gogh's "Sunflowers"

The paintings from Van Hoop and Arles in the sou series, which the artist painted in Arles in the south of France, were not damaged thanks to protective glass coverings. The gallery identified the two as its own Sunflowers (1888) and Sunflowers (1889) on loan from the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The three activists from the Just Stop Oil environmental group involved in the attack were arrested while the paintings were removed, examined, and then returned to their location. The exhibition reopened later Friday, the gallery said.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{MINNEAPOLIS:} For a short time, up to 100 \\ \end{tabular}$ Prince fans visiting the music superstar's hometown will have a place to stay when the party's over that will let them go crazy over his cultural legacy, a home featured in the film "Purple Rain."

Although the white, two-story home with brown trim in Minneapolis looks unassuming from the outside, there's plenty inside to make the late icon's devotees delirious over this new, limited-time Airbnb rental. Upstairs, a big closet with paisley wallpaper and leopard-spotted floor displays iconic outfits worn by Prince behind glass and has other outfits available to make renters the beautiful ones.

"And then what guests will be able to do themselves is actually play around with a selection of really iconic '80s outfits and looks and styles that they can kind of engage their inner rock star themselves," said Ali Killam, an Airbnb spokesperson. The rentals are within reach for fans who don't

own diamonds and pearls - just \$7 a night per person for up to four guests. The price is based on Prince's favorite number and there will be a total of 25 nightly stays available over seven weeks from Oct. 26 to Dec. 14.

The Airbnb rentals are a sign o' the times - the 40th anniversary of the movie. It starred Prince as The Kid, a musician and band leader with a rocky life in the home featured on screen.

The film, along with the hit album of the same





Young Dolph

name, made Prince a superstar through songs like the title track, "Let's Go Crazy," and "When Doves Cry." Those followed other hits, such as "1999" and "Little Red Corvette," and he sold more than 100 million records with a gender- and genre-defying blend of rock, funk and soul. He died April 21, 2016, of an accidental fentanyl overdose at age 57 at his Paisley Park estate in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

The rentals are hosted by Lisa Coleman and Wendy Melvoin, two lifelong friends and musical collaborators of Prince's, on behalf of Airbnb, the late musician's estate and global media company Warner Bros. Discovery. (AP)

MEMPHIS, Tenn.: Justin Johnson was found guilty of murder in the death of rapper **Young Dolph** on Thursday after the jury heard testimony from a co-defendant that the killing was part of a feud between rival record labels.

Jurors deliberated for just under four hours before finding Johnson guilty of murder, conspiracy to commit murder and being a felon in possession of a gun. Shelby County Criminal Court Judge Jennifer Mitchell sentenced Johnson to life in

Cornelius Smith testified that rapper Yo Gotti's brother, Anthony "Big Jook" Mims, had put out a \$100,000 hit on Young Dolph and had also put bounties on all the artists at Young Dolph's record label, Paper Route Empire. Smith said he and co-defendant Johnson set out on the morning of Nov. 17, 2021, "looking for somebody" and "didn't know who we were going to catch." (AP)

Fashion

Whimsical designs

Loewe presents bold form, floral 'creations' for spring

PARIS, Sept 28, (AP): Loewe's latest VIP-filled collection dazzled at the Paris Fashion Week runway Friday, presenting an explosion of flowers and form that captured designer Jonathan Anderson's innovative spirit. The Northern Irish designer again

showed his talent for infusing theatricality into his designs, showcasing whimsical creations like a surreal giant hoop skirt that lent the display an eccentric, circus-like feel. A stunning white



Beckham

gown adorned with vibrant floral prints radiated en-

ergy.
Here are some highlights of spring-

summer ready-to-wear shows: Unexpected lines and twists on classic silhouettes dominated the runway, with the giant hoop transforming floral patterns into eccentric spectacles. Anderson expertly wove together historical inspirations from the Renaissance with the carefree looseness of the 1920s, mixed with surreal structured skirts and peplums that evoked a rich sense of heritage. All designs had something off-kilter about them.

A standout piece, a beautiful feathered poncho featuring a Van Gogh print, dazzled with its artistic flair. It illustrated Anderson's ability to transform art into fashion and resonated deeply with camera-ready audiences. Each piece seemed to challenge the viewer's expectations, daring them to reconsider the bound-aries of traditional fashion.

Exploration

In its exploration of bold concepts and mind-bending forms, the display occasionally veered into the overly conceptual. But Anderson still delivered a wealth of wearable pieces. The collection included striking items like a black trench coat with a fashionforward midriff cut-out, which exuded rock-star magnetism and exemplified the brand's leather heritage.

The piece, along with others, showcased Anderson's mastery in

balancing creativity with practicality.

Daniel Roseberry's latest collection for Schiaparelli focuses on blending high fashion with refreshing accessibility. Though it featured less of the Surrealism associated with the late, great house founder Elsa Schiaparelli, the collection still celebrated whimsy, albeit a dialed down version.

In a fashion landscape often driven by commercial pressures, Schiaparelli's latest show carved out a dynamic space for creativity. Roseberry proved he can balance artistic whimsy with wearable elegance. Issey Miyake's latest collection unfolded like a poetic exploration into the art of simplicity and craft. Much like the house's previous offerings, this collection combined innovative techniques with tradition - a hallmark that has continued under the vision of Satoshi Kondo and the design atelier.

This time, the team explored paper as a medium and inspiration, delving into its textures, lightness, and nostalgic feel. If previous shows dabbled in geometry and fluidity, Friday's collection was about the fragility and strength of paper through airy, pleated garments and origami-inspired folds.

The Fold-to-Form pieces were nothing short of architectural brilliance, with angular, origami-inspired folds. It felt like a natural extension of the Miyake legacy: one part innovation, one part reflection on the past.

Aesthetic

As Paris Fashion Week unfolds, so too do the latest gimmicks. The newest trend and subject of front-row chatter was the introduction of Uber Fashion cars, designed in collaboration with fashion house Coperni. The vehicles feature a metallic sheen inspired by the brand's Swipe Bag.

Fashion-conscious riders could book a free ride in these cars by selecting the Uber Fashion option in the app, and each ride even comes with a custom playlist to enhance the Fashion Week experience, according to Uber. However, availability is on a first-come, first-served basis, meaning that many may be unable to secure a ride amidst the event's chaos. It's yet another example of how the fashion industry seeks to capitalize on Fashion Week's excitement.

Victoria Beckham's latest collection swept through Paris with the force of a Greek myth, evoking the Victory of Samothrace as a twisted cropped vest opened the show. It billowed like a gleaming shard of fabric, as if it were poised to take flight off the runway - setting the tone for a collection that danced between poetry and practicality.

The windswept aesthetic was unmistakable throughout, from a sheer pastel top that exposed nipples in a diagonal cascade down the torso, to loose-waisted signature trousers with a billowing slit. Beckham's recurring play with proportions was here, albeit with a softer, more sculptural touch, subtly nodding to her signature focus on elongating the body. This time, her references to Ancient Greece gave her collection a new kind of dynamism that felt almost ethereal. Gigi Hadid, draped in a gleaming green gown with a gathered skirt, moved like a sculpture come to life - a striking moment that embodied this unexpected, but highly welcome, more poetical direction for the former Spice Girl.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE **AND INDUSTRY**



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issuing the excutive bylaws of law no. (39/2014) on Consumer Protection



Students use their cellphones as they leave for the day the Ramon C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts High School in downtown Los Angeles, Aug. 13, 2024. (AP)

A guide for parents

New Instagram tools aid supervision of teen users

LONDON, Sept 28, (AP): Worried about your teen's Instagram use? Faced with growing pressure to do more to stop online harm, the social media platform has rolled out a major new update to protect young people and give parents more control.

With many teens spending almost all of their time online, parents are concerned that social media is exposing them to harmful content like cyberbullying, eating disorders and suicidal thoughts. Prominent profile figures including US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy and Prince Harry have warned about the risks.

Critics say Instagram's changes are a step in the right direction but they still put the onus on parents and children instead of the company to deal with the problem.

Here's a guide to Instagram's new teen accounts:

What limits will young users have?

Instagram already prohibits anyone under 13 from signing up.

Now, teen accounts will automatically be set to private. That means they'll have to accept or reject requests from new followers. Other users won't be able to see a teen user's posts and videos, or tag the account.

Teens will also face messaging restrictions. They can only receive direct messages from people they're following or who follow them. But they can still send messages to other

And they'll be subject to the strictest content settings, and won't be shown content involving sensitive topics like fighting videos and posts about cosmetic procedures. Instagram's anti-bullying feature will be set to the highest level to screen out offensive words and phrases in comments and direct message requests.

To cut down their screen time, teens will get a notification to stop using the app after it's been open for more than an hour — which they can ignore.

Sleep mode will kick in from 10 pm to 7 am, which mutes notifications and sends auto-replies to direct messages at a time when they're supposed to be sleeping. However, they can still scroll through Instagram and even respond to messages if they

want to.
Are there workarounds?

These limits will be turned on automatically for all teens, but 16 and 17-year-olds will have the authority to turn them off. Kids under 16 will need permission to do so and parents can make changes and approve or deny any requests in the family

center.

Teens might lie about their age, but it's getting harder to fool the platform. Instagram has previously started requiring users to verify their ages — by uploading an ID or doing a video selfie — if they try to change their birthdates to show they're over

Now, Instagram says it will start testing artificial intelligence technology early next year to detect if a user is a teen even if the account lists an adult birthday.

Of course, teens don't have to agree to be supervised in the first place. Instagram says they and their parents both have to opt in. And either side can revoke supervision at any time.

any time.

What if the parent isn't on Instagram? If you want to use the teen controls, you'll need an account even if you don't want it. A spokeswoman said it's important for parents to be familiar with the platform so they can effectively supervise their teens.

New controls for parents

If you don't think the limits on your teen's account are strict enough, you can add supervisory controls.

This feature allows parents to see who their teen has traded messages with within the past seven days, but not what's in those messages.

Not happy that your teen can ignore reminders to stop using the app? There are controls to let parents limit the amount of time their teen spends on Instagram each day. Once the limit is hit, they are cut off. You can also block your teen from using Instagram during specific times of the day, and monitor the topics of content that they're seeing.

How to set up parental controls First, you'll need your teen to set up family supervision on his or her account. On the mobile app, go to settings and scroll down to the family

center to activate this feature.

Next, the teen account will have to invite a parent. It will be in the form of a link the teen can send by text

message to the parent.

After accepting the invite, the teen user has 48 hours to review and con-

firm the parent's response.

Can I use the teen settings right

Anyone under 18 who now signs up for Instagram in the US, UK, Canada and Australia will be automatically enrolled into a restricted teen account. Existing accounts will be transferred by mid-November. Teens in the European Union's 27 countries will be migrated later this year.

The rest of the world will get teen accounts in January and they will roll out to other Meta services like Facebook next year.

Event educates families on healthy habits for kids

Kuwait hosts workshop on childhood obesity

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Al-Saqer Specialized Health Center, in collaboration with the Food and Nutrition Department of the Ministry of Health, conducted an awareness workshop on childhood obesity, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the center explained that the workshop is in line with the Ministry of Health's

commitment to combat obesity in children. Coordination between the Food and Nutrition Department and Al-Saqer Health Center focused on providing awareness workshops for parents and children with the aim of promoting healthy habits to help reduce weight.

The workshop targeted children aged 5 to 12

years and their parents. It was held from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, and it featured lectures for parents and educational sessions with games for children in a separate hall

Al-Saqer Specialized Health Center will conduct monthly workshops to combat childhood obesity, under the supervision of Dr. Hamed Hanafi Hafila.

Nutrition education lacking

Diet-related diseases are the leading cause of death in US

By Nathaniel Johnson and **Madeline Comeau**

University of North Dakota

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

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On television shows like "Grey's Anatomy," "The Resident" and "Chicago Med," physicians seem to always have the right answer.

But when it comes to nutrition and dietary advice, that may not be the case. One of us is an assistant professor of nutrition and dietetics; the other is a medical student with a master's de-

gree in nutrition.

Both of us understand the powerful effects that food has on your health and longevity. A poor diet may lead to cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity and even psychological conditions like depression and anxiety. Diet-related diseases are the leading causes of death in the US, and a poor diet is responsible for more deaths than smoking.

These health problems are not only common and debilitating, but expensive. Treating high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol costs about US\$400 billion per year. Within 25 years, those costs are expected to triple, to \$1.3 trillion.

These facts support the need for physicians to give accurate advice about diet to help prevent these diseases. But how much does a typical physician know about nutrition?

In a 2023 survey of more than 1,000 US medical students, about 58% of respondents said they received no formal nutrition education while in medical school for four years. Those who did averaged about three hours of nutrition education per year.

That is woefully short of the goals set by the US Committee on Nutrition in Medical Education back in 1985: that med students should receive a total of 25 hours of nutrition education while in school - a little more than six hours per year.

Education

But a 2015 study showed only 29% of medical schools met this goal, and a 2023 study suggests the problem has become even worse - only 7.8% of med students reported 20 or more hours of nutrition education across all four years of med school. If this is representative of medical schools throughout the country, it has happened despite efforts to bolster nutrition education through numerous government initiatives.

Not surprisingly, the lack of education has had a direct impact on physicians' nutrition knowledge. In a study of 257 first- and second-year osteopathic medical students taking a nutrition knowledge quiz, more than half flunked the test. Prior to the test, more than half the students - 55% - felt comfortable counseling patients on nutrition.

Unfortunately, this problem is not limited to US medical schools. A

2018 global study concluded that no matter the country, nutrition education of med students is insufficient throughout the world.

Even though evidence suggests that nutrition education can be effective, there are many reasons why it's lacking. Medical students and physicians are some of the busiest people in society. The amount of information taught in medical curricula is often described as overwhelming - like drinking out of a fire hose.

First- and second-year medical students focus on dense topics, including biochemistry, molecular biology and genetics, while they learn clinical skills such as interviewing patients and understanding heart and lung sounds. Third- and fourth-year students are practicing in clinics and hospitals as they learn from physicings and positions.

cians and patients.

As a result, their schedules are already jammed. There is no room for nutrition. And once they are physicians, it gets no better. Providing preventive care including nutrition counseling to patients would take them more than seven hours per week - and that's not counting the time they would have to spend on continuing education to keep up with new findings in nutrition science.

Information

On top of that, the lack of nutrition education in medical schools has been attributed to a dearth of qualified instructors for nutrition courses, as most physicians do not understand nutrition well enough to teach it.

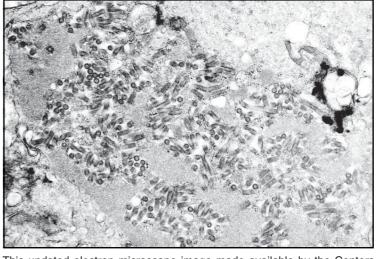
Ironically, many medical schools are part of universities that have nutrition departments with Ph.D.-trained professors; those academicians could fill this gap by teaching nutrition to medical students. But those classes are often taught by physicians who may not have adequate nutrition training - which means truly qualified instructors, within reach of most medical schools, are left out of the process.

The best source of nutrition information, whether for medical students or the general public, is a registered dietitian, certified nutrition specialist or some other type of nutrition professional with multiple degrees and certification. They study for years and record many practice hours in order to give dietary advice.

der to give dietary advice.

Although anyone can make an appointment with a nutrition professional for dietary counseling, typically a referral from a health care provider like a physician is needed for the appointment to be covered by insurance. So seeing a physician or other primary care provider is often a step before meeting with a nutrition professional.

This extra step might be one reason why many people look elsewhere, such as on their phones, for nutrition advice. However, the worst place to look for accurate nutrition information is social media. There, about 94% of posts about nutrition and diet are of low value - either inaccurate or lacking adequate data to back up the claim. (AP)



This undated electron microscope image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows rabies virions, dark and bullet-shaped, within an infected tissue sample. (AP)

Marburg virus spreads

Minnesota confirms rare human death from rabies

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept 28, (AP): A Minnesota resident who came into contact with a bat in July died of rabies, the state's department of health announced Friday.

The person's death marks a rare occurrence, as fewer than 10 people in the the US die from rabies each year, according to the US Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. The person is over the age of 65 and was exposed to a bat in western Minnesota in July, the Minnesota Department of Health said.

CDC officials confirmed the rabies diagnosis at its lab in Atlanta on Sept. 20. In a news release, the state health department said it was working to evaluate whether more people were exposed to the disease, but said there was no ongoing risk to the public Officials said the fatal case advised

Officials said the fatal case advised the public to avoid contact with bats, whose teeth are so tiny that a bite may not be felt or even leave a noticeable mark.

Rabies is caused by a virus that invades the central nervous system and is usually fatal in animals and humans. If left untreated, rabies is almost always fatal. But rabies treatment has proven to be nearly highly effective at preventing the disease after an exposure, state health officials said. Treatment must be started before symptoms of rabies appear, they added.

Meanwhile, the Philippines recorded 354 rabies cases and deaths from January to Sept. 14 this year, a 23 percent increase from the 287 cases tallied in the same period last year, according to data from the Philippines' Department of Health (DOH).

Marburg virus: Rwanda's Ministry of Health has called for heightened preventive measures following reports of confirmed cases of Marburg virus disease (MVD) in the country.

In a statement released Friday, the ministry outlined ongoing efforts to contain the spread of MVD, which has resulted in the hospitalization of a few patients.

With investigations underway to

determine the source of the infection, authorities have implemented enhanced preventive protocols across all health facilities, including rigorous contact tracing, and the affected patients have been isolated for treatment.

The health ministry explained that MVD is transmitted through contact with the blood or body fluids of visibly sick individuals, adding that the virus is not believed to spread through the air.

Marrhers of the public experience.

Members of the public experiencing symptoms such as high fever, severe headaches, vomiting, muscle pain, or stomach aches are urged to contact the Rwanda Biomedical Center or visit their nearest health facility, according to the statement.

Mpox: A total of 32,407 cases of mpox, including 6,441 confirmed cases and 840 deaths, have been reported across the African continent since the start of this year, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

During an online media briefing on the multi-country mpox outbreak in Africa Thursday evening, Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya said the continent reported 2,910 new cases in the past week alone, including 436 confirmed cases and 16 deaths, bringing the total number of cases this year to 32,407.

Kaseya warned that mpox cases in Africa are steadily increasing across all affected countries, saying that gaps and challenges are hindering the continent's response efforts, such as limited surveillance, contact tracing, follow-up, and poor data quality.

According to Africa CDC data, less than 4 percent of contact tracing is being conducted in affected countries, while more than 68 percent of cases lack an epidemiological link.

Citing gaps in case identification and clinical diagnosis, Kaseya called for an urgent need to enhance mpox surveillance, contact tracing, and laboratory testing.







Cabolli advances after a 6-4, 6-2 win over Kotov

Sinner rallies for win in Beijing as WADA appeals his steroid case

BEIJING, Sept 28, (AP): Topranked Jannik Sinner rallied to beat Roman Safiullin 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 in the second round of the China Open on Saturday and learned afterward that his steroid case is far from over.

While Sinner was on court in Beijing, the World Anti-Doping Agency announced it was seeking a ban of one to two years for the U.S. Open champion who tested positive twice for an anabolic steroid in March but was not suspended in a decision by an independent tribunal announced by the International Tennis Integrity Agency on Aug. 20 because the ITIA determined he was not to blame.

Sinner's fate will now be determined by the Switzerland-based Court of Arbitration for Sport after WADA said it filed an appeal on Thursday

"Obviously, I'm very disappointed and also surprised of this appeal, to be honest, because we had three hearings," Sinner said at a press conference after his match Saturday. "All three hearings came out very positively for me.

"You know, I was not expecting it. I knew it couple of days ago, that they were going to appeal, that today it's going to go official. But yeah, it's surprise."

On court Saturday, the two-time Grand Slam champion again found himself behind in the Chinese capital after Safiullin broke serve twice to claim the opening set.

Sinner's power and laser-like ac-

TENNIS

curacy from the baseline gradually chipped away at his Russian opponent and helped the Italian to win seven straight games from 2-2 in the second set to take the ascendancy and close out a gritty win.

Sinner, who has reached at least the quarterfinals at every tour-level event he has played in 2024, will next play Jiri Lehecka, who earlier defeated Roberto Bautista Agut 3-6,

Also Saturday, Italy's Flavio Cabolli advanced after a 6-4, 6-2 win over Pavel Kotov.

Third-seeded Daniil Medvedev played his second-round match against French veteran Adrian Mannarino later Saturday.

In the women's draw, U.S. Open champion Aryna Sabalenka advanced to the third round with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Thai qualifier Mananchaya Sawangkaew.

"In the first set, I was struggling a little bit with the rhythm," said Sabalenka, who's best run in Beijing has only been to the quarterfinals. "In the second set, seems like everything started working much better. I think that's why it was more smooth

and better quality."

The second-ranked Sabalenka is the top seed in Beijing in the absence of Iga Swiatek.

Next up for the three-time major winner is American Ashlyn Krueger, who beat New Zealand's Lulu Sun 6-1, 7-6 (4).

Third-seeded Jasmine Paolini of Italy rallied from a poor first set to beat Denmark's Clara Tauson 1-6, 7-5, 6-4. Paolini will play Poland's Magda Linette after the 31st-seeded player also needed three sets to progress past Moyuka Uchijima 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Ninth-seeded Daria Kasatkina of Russia beat Croatian Jana Fett 6-1, 6-2. She will play Amanda Anisimova, who beat Camila Osorio of Colombia 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejcikova was upset 1-6, 6-4, 7-5 by Romania's Jaqueline Cristian.

Tomas Machac upset fifth-seeded Tommy Paul 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (4) to advance to the quarterfinals and continued a disappointing week for the top-seeded players in Tokyo.

Top-seeded Taylor Fritz, third-seeded Casper Ruud and fourth-seeded Stefaos Tsitsipas were all beaten in the first round, before second-seeded Hubert Hurkacz was also eliminated as he lost to U.S. Open semifinalist Jack Draper 6-4, 6-4 in the second round.

Sixth-seeded Holger Rune is the highest-ranked seed remaining in the draw. Rune, from Denmark, beat home favorite Yoshihito Nishioka 6-2, 6-4.



Jannick Sinner of Italy returns a shot from Roman Safiullin of Russia during the China Open tennis tournament held at the National Tennis Center in

Defending champion Ben Shelton, the No. 8 seed, is the only other seeded player left in the quarterfinal

draw.

Alex Michelsen of the U.S. also advanced after a 6-1, 6-4 win over

Australian Christopher O'Connell to set up a quarterfinal match against Machac.

Kei Nishikori beat Jordan Thompson 6-2, 6-3 and will play Rune in the quarterfinals.

New Zealand finishes strong to beat Australia in 2nd Bledisloe

All Blacks sweep Cup series



New Zealand's Caleb Clarke scores a try as he is tackled by Australia's Hunter Paisami during their Rugby Championship match between the All Blacks and the Wallabies in Wellington, New Zealand. (AP)

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Sept 28, (AP): New Zealand overcame a slow start and produced a more clinical finish than in recent matches to beat Australia 33-13 on Saturday and sweep the two-test Bledisloe Cup series.

When winger Caleb Clarke scored his second and the All Blacks' fifth try in the 64th minute it was the first time in six tests New Zealand has scored points in the last quarter.

Australia had scored first and kept the game close until just before halftime when New Zealand took a 19-13 lead. The second half belonged to

RUGBY

the All Blacks, who scored two tries and 14 unanswered points to win in Wellington for the first time in six

"We didn't start too well but I'm really pleased with how we finished," All Blacks captain Scott Barrett said. "There was some real grit in defense there in the way we held out the Aussies."

The Wallabies - without a win over the All Blacks in New Zealand in 23 years - started so well they seemed a team transformed in only seven days. A slow start cost them the first test between the teams in Sydney last weekend and the chance to regain the Bledisloe Cup after 21

Australia trailed 28-7 in the first half of that match but rallied strongly before going down 31-28.

On Saturday, the Wallabies posted the first try through backrower Fraser McReight in the eighth minute.

They led 10-5, then 13-12 with a conversion and penalties to Noah Lolesio before New Zealand came back to claim a 19-13 halftime lead. The All Blacks were confined to

their own half for long periods in the first half but broke out to score tries through each member of their back

Right winger Sevu Reece scored in the 16th minute, fullback Will Jordan in the 22nd and left winger Caleb Clarke in the 41st after the All Blacks, trailing 13-12, passed up a

kickable penalty.

The Wallabies trailed at halftime despite having shaded New Zealand on territory and possession and having forced the All Blacks to make more than 90 tackles.

ore than 90 tackles.

The Wallabies out-muscled the



Australia's Len Ikitau is tackled by New Zealand's Beauden Barrett, right, during their Rugby Championship match between the All Blacks and the Wallabies in Wellington, New Zealand. (AP)

All Blacks in the first spell, most obviously in the lead-up to McReight's try. They were determined to run every piece of possession at New Zealand, even launching attacks from inside their own 22.

The All Blacks lacked discipline at times and conceded the first six penalties of the match. At the same time, the Wallabies' ball security was poor at the end of the first half and start of the second and they gave too much ball back to the All Blacks, who were typically dangerous off turnovers.

A turnover won by Ardie Savea set up Reece's try. Jordan was a constant danger with turnover possession which Australia struggled to

A break by Jordan put New Zealand in an attacking position in the 54th minute and prop Tamaiti Williams scored to make the All Blacks' lead 26-13.

Without possession, Australia began to concede penalties to hand the All Blacks better field position.

"Thet's not the result we wented."

"That's not the result we wanted," Wallabies captain Harry Wilson said. "I thought our first 40 was really good. We showed up, we started fast but we struggled with possession in the second half."

Veteran scrumhalf T.J. Perenara left the field in the 62nd after playing his last test for New Zealand and flanker Sam Kane was replaced in the 68th after becoming the 13th New Zealander to play 100 tests.

Duo has qualified for JGP Final

China's Zhang/Huang win second ISU Junior GP gold

BEIJING, Sept 28, (Xinhua): Chinese figure skating pair Zhang Jiaxuan and Huang Yihang claimed their second ISU Junior Grand Prix title on Friday night in Poland, following their triumph in Latvia in August.

FIGURE SKATING

With the two victories, the Chinese duo has qualified for the JGP

After leading the short program, Zhang and Huang delivered a modern free skate "All for one", finishing a perfect triple twist as well as a throw triple flip and a throw triple loop. Despite some errors in their single jumps, the program went smooth and earned them 104.08 points. They ranked first with a total of 161.96 points. Ukraine's Sofiia Holichenko

Artem Darenskyi came second in 136.58 points, while Canada's Julia Quattrocchi Simon Desmarais ranked third with 134.88.

In the women's competition, Japan's star Shimada Mao also won

her second JGP title with 224.68 points, landing a triple Axel and a quad Toeloop in her free skate.

China's Yu XinyiLiu Tianyi ranked 12th after the rhythm dance.

ranked 12th after the rhythm dance. The free dance and the men's free skate competitions will be held on Saturday.

Chile names four newcomers

Brazil names uncapped duo for WCup qualifiers vs Chile

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 28, (Xinhua): Uncapped pair Igor Jesus and Abner Santos were named in Brazil's squad on Friday for the FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Chile and Peru.

Center-forward Igor was rewarded for his consistent form with Brazilian Serie A leaders Botafogo while left-back Abner has impressed this season for French Ligue 1 outfit Lyon.

Manager Dorival Junior also recalled Barcelona winger Raphinha, Arsenal forward Gabriel Martinelli, Juventus center-back Bremer and Monaco full-back Vanderson.

As expected, the 23-man squad comprises Real Madrid forwards Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo and Endrick while Manchester City's

Savinho was also included.

But there was no place for veteran forward Neymar, who continues to recover from a ruptured anterior cru-

ciate ligament injury.

Brazil will meet Chile in Santiago on October 10 and Peru in Brasilia five days later.

The five-time world champions are currently fifth in the South American qualifying group with just three wins from eight games, with Chile and Peru ninth and 10th, respectively.

spectively.

Brazil squad: Goalkeepers: Alisson (Liverpool), Bento (Al-Nassr), Ederson (Manchester City).

Defenders: Danilo (Juventus), Vanderson (Monaco), Abner (Lyon), Guilherme Arana (Atletico Mineiro), Bremer (Juventus), Eder Militao (Real Madrid), Gabriel Magalhaes (Arsenal), Marquinhos (PSG).

Midfielders: Andre (Wolverhampton), Bruno Guimaraes (Newcastle), Gerson (Flamengo), Lucas Paqueta (West Ham), Rodrygo (Real Madrid).

Forwards: Endrick (Real Madrid), Igor Jesus (Botafogo), Gabriel Martinelli (Arsenal), Luiz Henrique (Botafogo), Raphinha (Barcelona), Savinho (Manchester City), Vinicius Junior (Real Madrid).

Universidad de Chile's Fabian Hormazabal and Marcelo Morales were among four uncapped players named in Chile's squad on Friday



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior gestures during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Real Madrid and VfB Stuttgart at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, in Madrid. (AP)

for the FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Brazil and Colombia.

Winger Hormazabal and left-back Morales joined Colo-Colo forward Lucas Cepeda and Leon midfielder Luciano Cabral as newcomers for the matches in Santiago on October 10 and Barranquilla five days later.

But there was no place in the squad for Southampton striker Ben Brereton Diaz or Racing Club goalkeeper Gabriel Arias, who failed to impress in Chile's defeats to Argentina and Bolivia in September.

Also absent were veterans Alexis Sanchez and Arturo Vidal. Udinese forward Sanchez continues to struggle with a calf injury while Colo-Colo midfielder Vidal has not represented the Roja since September last

Chile is currently ninth in the 10team South American qualifying zone standings with just one win from eight games.

Chile squad: Goalkeepers: Brayan Cortes, Lawrence Vigouroux, Vicente Reyes.

Defenders: Mauricio Isla, Paulo Diaz, Guillermo Maripan, Matias Zaldivia, Fabian Hormazabal, Marcelo Morales, Gabriel Suazo, Benjamin Kuscevic, Thomas Galdames, Felipe Loyola.

Midfielders: Rodrigo Echeverria, Williams Alarcon, Marcelino Nunez, Esteban Pavez, Carlos Palacios, Diego Valdes, Luciano Cabral, Dario Osorio.

Forwards: Eduardo Vargas, Maximiliano Guerrero, Gonzalo Tapia, Victor Davila, Lucas Cepeda.

FIFA suspends Argentina goalkeeper for 2 matches in WC qualifying

Beijing Guoan smashes Changchun Yatai 8-1 in Chinese Super League

BEIJING, Sept 28, (Xinhua): With Fabio Abreu's hat trick, Beijing Guoan trounced Changchun Yatai 8-1 in the 27th round of the Chinese Super League on Saturday night.

In the 8th minute, Cao Yongjing opened the scoring with

In the 8th minute, Cao Yongjing opened the scoring with a sliding strike, helping Guoan acquire a dream start. After 17 minutes, Lin Liangming doubled the lead with a tap-in in the box

Before the halftime, Abreu scored twice to help Guoan

secure a 4-0 lead, while Changchun's forward Robert Beric pulled one back in the 44th minute.

In the second half, the strong firepower of Guoan con-

In the second half, the strong firepower of Guoan continued as Abreu completed his hat trick in the 51st minute.

Only a few minutes after coming on the field from the bench, Fang Hao scored an easy tap-in goal. And another substitute Wang Ziming scored a brace, making Changchun Yatai swallow the bitter 8-1 defeat.

In the day's other matches, Qingdao Hainiu lost 1-0 to Shanghai Shenhua, Shanghai Port edged Qingdao West Coast 2-1, Nantong Zhiyun won over Zhejiang FC 3-2, and Shandong Taishan beat Shenzhen Peng City 4-1.

Meanwhile, Argentine Football Association (AFA) said on Friday that FIFA suspended goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez for two matches of South American World Cup qualifying in October.

The decision rules out the 32-year-old from official games in the round-robin competition against Venezuela and Bolivia on Oct. 10 and 15.

AFA said in a statement that FIFA's disciplinary commission sanctioned Martínez due to incidents in two World Cup qualifying matches against Chile and Colombia earlier this month. The soccer body did not describe which incidents led to the punishment.

Pulisic on target again, Milan overpowers Lecce

Barcola scores twice as PSG extends unbeaten streak

AUXERRE, France, Sept 28, (AP): Bradley Barcola scored one goal in each half and Lee Kang-in added a third as Paris Saint-Germain beat Rennes 3-1 to extend its unbeaten run in the French league.

Barcola took a pass from Ousmane Dembélé after half an hour and steered a right-foot shot inside the far post. Lee got his third goal of the season to double the home side's advantage 12 minutes into the second half and Barcola added his second with a simple tap in after 68 minutes. Arnaud Kalimuendo scored a consolation goal for Rennes from the penalty spot.

SOCCER

Rennes had a second goal chalked off by VAR with two minutes to end any hopes of a comeback.

Barcola fifth and sixth goals of the season take him to the top of the Ligue 1 scoring charts, one clear of Marseille's Mason Greenwood.

PSG has 16 points from its first six games. Marseille is also unbeaten and has 13 points from five games. The south coast club plays at Strasbourg on



PSG's Bradley Barcola, left, kicks the ball during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Rennes at the Parc des Princes in Paris. (AP)

Sunday

Rennes is in eighth place with seven points from six games.

Auxerre beat Brest 3-0 on Friday to grab its second league win of the season and put the brakes on the visitor's

recent run of form.

Brest was coming off two consecutive victories, including a 2-1 win over Sturm Graz in its first ever Champions League match.

Kuwait joins 2025 World Ice Hockey Championship

Christian Pulisic kept up his scoring form as AC Milan netted three goals in five minutes shortly before halftime in a 3-0 win over Lecce in the Italian league.

Álvaro Morata put the home side ahead with a glancing header from Theo Hernandez's free kick after 38 minutes. Hernandez then ran on to a pass from Rafael Leão and lashed the ball into the roof of the net from a tight angle two minutes later before Pulisic made it 3-0 just before halftime.

It was the American's fifth goal in seven games this season and takes his combined total of goals and assists since joining the Rossoneri in June last year to 32, higher than anyone else in the Serie A.

Davide Bartesaghi was shown a straight red card for Milan with 10 minutes remaining but it was too late to give Lecce hopes of a comeback.

Lecce remains fourth from bottom of the 20-team league, with just one win and five points from its first six games. KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: Fahid Al-Ajmi, President of the Winter Games Club, announced that the International Ice Hockey Federation has officially approved Kuwait's participation in the upcoming World Ice Hockey Championship.



Fahid Al-Ajmi

Al-Ajmi stated that Kuwait's national team will compete in the fourth tier, which will feature six Asian teams: Iran, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, and Armenia, with Armenia hosting the event in April 2025.

He highlighted that this decision, made during the International Ice Hockey Federation's Congress in Greece, represents a significant milestone for the teams in this division. The number of teams in the fourth tier has been increased from four to six, which is expected to enhance the level of competition and provide players with valuable experience.

Al-Ajmi also announced that the Bahrain Ice Hockey Club has been granted full membership in the Federation, congratulating Bahrain on this achievement, which will contribute to further growth of the sport in the region.

Sri Lanka on verge of historic 'sweep' against New Zealand

A fabulous Test match for us: Jayasuriya

GALLE, Sri Lanka, Sept 28, (AP): Sri Lanka is just five wickets away from sealing a monumental series sweep against New Zealand after reducing the visitors to 119 for five in their second innings on Saturday.

New Zealand, with a daunting 315 runs still needed to avoid an innings defeat, face an uphill battle. The match, poised to end inside three days, was only prolonged due to bad light, forcing umpires to call off play with 20 overs remaining.

Day three was nothing short of manic, with the Kiwis losing 13 wickets, including a morning collapse of nine wickets.

New Zealand's first innings imploded for a mere 88 runs - its lowest-ever total against Sri Lanka - thanks to a six-wicket haul by left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya.

"It has been a fabulous Test match for us," Jayasuriya said. "All credit to the batters. When they put on 600plus runs on the board it is really tough when the opposition know the game has slipped away from them.

"We need five more wickets and I am sure we will wrap things up quickly," he added. "In the second innings, they changed their approach and attacked us. I like when the opposition play aggressively. You will end up conceding runs but then there is a big possibility of you picking up wickets as well.

CRICKET

Having claimed nine wickets in the first test, Jayasuriya again proved unplayable on a deteriorating surface tailor-made for spinners. The Sri Lankan fielders were equally sharp, with captain Dhananjaya de Silva taking five excellent catches in the first innings.

New Zealand's attempt to stonewall Sri Lanka's disciplined spin attack in the first innings backfired. But in the second innings, they opted for a more aggressive approach, which initially paid off.

Kane Williamson and Devon Conway showcased resilience with a 97-run partnership for the second wicket

Conway's 61 off 62 balls, comprising 10 boundaries and a six, ended with a stunning catch by Dinesh Chandimal, who sprinted back from extra cover to take the difficult chance. Williamson followed soon after, dismissed for 46, courtesy of another superb catch by Ramesh Mendis at long-on.

An unbroken 78-run stand for the sixth wicket between Tom Blundell and Glenn Phillips brought some stability to New Zealand's second innings. Blundell, on 47 from 50 balls, and Phillips, unbeaten on 32 from 41, both found the boundary with two sixes each to avoid a repeat of the first innings disaster.

Sri Lanka, completely dominating the match, piled on a colossal 602 runs in their first innings, with three centurions leading the charge. Kamindu Mendis' unbeaten 182 was the standout performance, taking him to 1,000 test runs in record time

- becoming the joint-third fastest alongside the legendary Don Bradman to achieve the milestone.

"Very disappointed with the way we batted in the morning today," Blundell said. "You cannot compete after losing nine wickets in a session. It was a bitter pill to swallow. I thought we were a bit tentative in the morning. But in the second innings, we tried to be positive.

"We have a nice partnership going at the moment and tomorrow morning we need to come back and continue in the same way and put them under pressure," he added. "Try and see if we can stretch this partnership for a long period of time. The key is to play one ball at a time. Then hopefully the remaining batters to come will put some partnerships too."

If Sri Lanka completes the win on Sunday, it would mark its biggest test victory, potentially surpassing their innings and 280-run thrashing of Ireland last year. The hosts, who won the first test by 63 runs, are now on the cusp of their first series victory over New Zealand in 15 years.



The Special Olympics delegation.

Kuwait Special Oly team heads to UAE for sailing competition

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Kuwaiti Special Olympics delegation has departed for the UAE to establish a training camp and participate in the Special Olympics Middle East and North Africa 2024 Regional Sailing Competition. The event, scheduled from October 2-7, will take place at the Dubai Sailing Club.

Kuwait's delegation consists of four athletes: Suleiman Al Nasser, Nawaf Awad, Abdul Rahman Al Kandari, and Manaf Al Wahib. The team is led by Sadiqah Al Ansari, Secretary General of the Ambition Club, with Naif Al Hada serving as the administrator and Habab Al Hami as the coach.

ami as the coach. Sadigah Al Ansari emphasize that this marks the first time the Special Olympics is participating in sailing, under the framework of unified sports and inclusion, where Special Olympics athletes compete alongside their non-disabled partners.

She highlighted the significance of these competitions in fostering a positive environment that promotes social empowerment and integration for people with disabilities. Through these inclusive sports activities, athletes with intellectual disabilities, represented by Suleiman Al Nasser and Nawaf Awad, compete alongside non-disabled athletes, Abdul Rahman Al Kandari and Manaf Al Wahib, in a spirit of cooperation and

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Sri Lanka's Prabath Jayasuriya throws a ball as New Zealand's Glenn Phillips watches during day three of the second test cricket match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand in Galle, Sri Lanka. (AP)

Gillespie wants to give test players proper chances

ISLAMABAD, Sept 28, (AP): Pakistan's red-ball head coach Jason Gillespie wants to give players a chance to keep their place in the test team. But he won't wait forever.

"If performances are not at the required level over a prolonged period, we may consider making changes," Gillespie told the Pakistan Cricket Board's podcast on Saturday.

For next month's first test against

For next month's first test against England, Pakistan has retained the same squad that was beaten 2-0 at home by Bangladesh. Left-arm spinner Noman Ali, who was overlooked for the Bangladesh series, has been included as a second specialist spinner with leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed the other spin option.

"What I'm learning is that the players understand my philosophy regarding selection," Gillespie said. "We want to back and support players."

Pakistan will go into the three-test series against England on the back of six losses in the last 10 home test matches while the other four were drawn. Pakistan's run of poor results in home test matches included 3-0 white-wash against England in 2022. One of those defeats came at Multan, which will host back-to-back test matches with the first one starting from Oct. 7.

with the first one starting from Oct. 7.
Gillespie had a shocking start as a head coach when underdogs Bangladesh dominated Pakistan in the two test matches at Rawalpindi, which will host the third and final test against England from Oct. 24.

Pakistan batting had long been struggling in test matches - especially star batter Babar Azam, who has managed a top score of 41 in his last 16 test innings. Skipper Shan Masood has been retained as captain for the first test against England despite the left-

handed batter having lost five straight test matches since being elevated to captain last year.

Gillespie was well aware of Eng-

et which has seen them plundering runs at an electrifying pace against all sorts of bowling attacks.

CRICKET

"I don't particularly like the term Bazball, but they do play aggressive cricket," Gillespie said. "We've seen them evolve their game ... (but) we will play our way, striving to be a consistent and disciplined team that hangs in there and strikes at the right moment to drive the game forward and exploit gaps."

Pakistan let Bangladesh sneak into the second test match from a precarious 26-6 in the first innings as the visi-

tors completed a 2-0 rout with a sevenwicket win. Gillespie said he wanted to see Pakistan being ruthless once it gains advantage in a test match.

"Once you gain the advantage, you have to find a way to maintain it and not let the opposition back into the game," he said. "We must shut that door and stay well ahead."

Kamran Ghulam, a prolific rungetter in Pakistan's domestic cricket, wasn't picked for the first test, and fast bowler Mohammad Ali was dropped.

"Look, all players are disappointed when they miss out. I'd be surprised if they weren't," Gillespie said. "I'm relatively new to this role and I've only been involved in two test matches. That's not a big enough sample size to make long-term decisions on players. I'd rather show my support and backing for them at this stage."

Madrid derby to test Atletico and Real credentials in league

MADRID, Sept 28, (Xinhua): Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid go head-to-head in the first Madrid derby of the season, which could go a long way to showing both sides' title credentials.

Real Madrid is second in La Liga with Atletico third, although neither side has been totally convincing in their displays in the opening month and a half of the campaign, with Real Madrid criticized for a lack of control in defense and midfield, while Atletico has ridden its luck against rivals such as Athletic Bilbao and Celta.

SOCCER

Last season Real Madrid's only league defeat came in Atletico's Metropolitano Stadium and Carlo Ancelotti's side has not lost in the domestic competition since then, although it faces some injury prob-

Kylian Mbappe misses the game with a thigh injury, while Brahim Diaz and Dani Ceballos are also out, with the game coming just too soon for Eduardo Camavinga as he recovers from an ankle problem. Right back Dani Carvajal is also a doubt after missing Tuesday's win at home

Atletico Madrid is unhappy about the timing of the match, with Real Madrid playing at home on Tuesday, while its game in Vigo was on Thursday night, meaning its rival has over 48 hours more to recover from its midweek efforts and to prepare for Sunday. With La Liga cramming eight matches into the first six weeks of the campaign, that is a clear advantage for Ancelotti's men

Vinicius Jr is likely to be the center of attention in Sunday's match, with the Brazilian in the spotlight due to his continued complaints to officials, which has so far gone unpunished. The winger has also been the victim of racist abuse by a sector of Atletico's 'ultra' fans both in and around the Metropolitano Stadium, and that is likely to be a further point of tension in the

Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois is another player who will have to steel himself for a hostile reception after his spell at Atletico, but the Belgian has been Real's savior so many times.

With Barcelona playing on Saturday, both sides will know what they need to do to keep pace, and this game will show if the two teams have what it takes to challenge for



Real Madrid's head coach Carlo Ancelotti reacts during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Alaves at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain. (AP)

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A file photo of Kuwaiti players preparing for action.

Sports

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Kuwait U-20 team takes on UAE in must-win Asian Cup qualifier

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 28: The Kuwait U-20 team is aiming for another victory in the 2025 Asian Cup qualifiers in China as it faces the UAE at 8:30 pm at Abdullah Al-Khalifa Stadium, Al-Yarmouk Club. This match is part of the fifth and final round of Group 3. Earlier South Korea will play Lebanon at the same stadium.

South Korea currently leads the standings with 9 points and is almost certain to secure the top spot and direct qualification to the finals, with today's match against Lebanon expected to be relatively straightforward. Lebanon has suffered defeats to both Kuwait and the UAE, securing a lone win over Northern Mariana Islands.

Kuwait and UAE are both vying for a second-place finish, hoping that results in other groups work in their

favor to secure a qualification spot. The top teams from all ten groups will qualify for the finals, along with the best five second-place teams.

SOCCER

Kuwait's impressive performance against Lebanon in the third round, where it controlled the match, sets high expectations for today's crucial game. The team, led by Croatian coach Dario Pasic and assistant Mohammed Al-Fulaijawi, knows that while the UAE will be a tough opponent, a victory can be achieved if the players execute their strategy effectively.

In the fourth round two days ago, South Korea earned their third consecutive win by defeating the UAE 3-1, while Lebanon claimed their first victory of the tournament, beating the Northern Mariana Islands 8-1.

Dortmund edges Bochum

St. Paul routs Freiburg for first league win in 13 years

BERLIN, Sept 28, (AP): Elias Saad scored twice and set up another goal as Hamburg-based cult club St. Pauli claimed its first Bundesliga win for 13 years by 3-0 in Freiburg on Saturday.

Saad opened the scoring early, set up the next goal, then sealed the win when he surged past four Freiburg players on a counterattack in the 73rd minute, shortly after the home side had a goal ruled out through VAR for offside.

St. Pauli secured promotion as the second-division champion last season, returning to the top division for the first time since its relegation in 2011. It's still known for its supporters' left-wing stance and the pirate skull-and-crossbones emblem that was popularized by fans who identified as punks.

SOCCER

Germany forward Deniz Undav scored deep in stoppage time to salvage a 2-2 draw for 10-man Stuttgart at Wolfsburg.

Tomas Cvancara scored just as late to give Borussia Mönchengladbach a 1-0 win over Union Berlin, dealing the visitor its first defeat of the season.

Heidenheim enjoyed a 2-0 win in Mainz, where both teams finished with 10 men, and Leipzig coasted to a 4-0 win over visiting Augsburg.

Serhou Guirassy scored twice and won a penalty as Borussia Dortmund overturned a two-goal deficit to beat local rival Bochum 4-2 in the Bundesliga ahead of facing Celtic in the Champions League next week.

Dortmund had been demolished 5-1 by Stuttgart last week and the pressure on new coach Nuri Sahin seemed to be mounting when his team conceded two early goals against Bochum.

In the space of five minutes, Matus Bero scored off a smartly executed one-two through the center, then Dani de Wit made it 2-0 after teammate Myron Boadu had snatched the ball off Dortmund's goalkeeper Gregor Kobel. On the sideline, Sahin spread his arms

wide in a gesture of indignation. Dortmund clawed its way back into the game, first with a Guirassy header just before halftime to cut the deficit to 2-1, then a penalty from Emre Can leveled the score after a clumsy foul on Guirassy.

It was Dortmund's turn to slice through Bochum on the counter after that, Karim Adeyemi playing a perfect through-ball for Guirassy to make it 3-2 with a shot between goalkeeper Patrick Drewes' legs. A fumble by Drewes let Felix Nmecha's shot roll over the line

for Dortmund's fourth. Champions Last season's League runner-up continues its campaign in the revamped competition at home to Scottish club Celtic on Tuesday.

Bochum is second-to-last in the 18-team Bundesliga with a solitary point under new coach Peter

Palmer scores 4 first-half goals for Chelsea as Newcastle 'holds' City



Chelsea's Pedro Neto, right, and Brighton's goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen vie for the ball during a British Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Brighton at Stamford Bridge, London. (AP)

Arsenal leaves it very late to beat Leicester

LONDON, Sept 28, (AP): Chelsea knew it was getting a talented player by signing Cole Palmer from Manchester City last year.

But maybe not this good.

Palmer created some history on Saturday when he became the first player to score four goals in the first half of an English Premier League match. His flurry of strikes came in Chelsea's 4-2 win over Brighton that further strengthened the belief that the London team will be a force this season after spending more than \$1 billion on

players over the past two years. Palmer was one of the expensive signings - he cost at least 40 million pounds (\$50.7 million) but that looks a bargain now. His 22 league goals last season was

Martinez ends his post-Copa America slump

ROME, Sept 28, (AP): Lautaro Martinez ended his post-Copa America slump 42 days into Inter Milan's Serie A season, scoring twice in a 3-2 win for the defending champion at Udinese on Saturday.

Martinez led the league with 24 goals last season and scored a Copa-best five goals - including the winner in the final - to lead Argentina to the Copa America trophy

But he acknowledged after last weekend's derby loss to AC Milan that he hadn't been in top shape after going scoreless in Inter's opening five Serie A games - plus a 0-0 draw at Manchester City in the Champions League during which he was benched at the start for his lack of fitness.

After Davide Frattesi opened the scoring for Inter and Christian Kabasele equalized for Udinese, Martinez struck either side of halftime. First, he bundled over the line after missing an initial attempt. Then he finished off a setup from Marcus Thuram to revive the scoring tandem that powered Inter to the title last season.

Martinez scored in Serie A for the first time since March. Lorenzo Lucca pulled one back for Udinese late in the second half.

second only to Man City's Erling Haaland and also included a fourgoal haul against Everton, and he is already up to six goals in this campaign in just six games.

Palmer is also a regular in England's squad, scoring the team's goal in the 2-1 loss to Spain in the European Championship final in

How City could have done with having Palmer a few hours earlier on Saturday, when the champion drew at Newcastle 1-1 to drop points for the second straight weekend. Haaland was kept scoreless in a league game for the first time this season and stayed on 10 goals. Josko Gvardiol netted for City instead.

Arsenal took advantage of its big rival's slip-up by beating Leicester 4-2 thanks to two stoppage-time strikes, by Leandro Trossard - his second goal of the game - and Kai Havertz. Arsenal joined first-place City on 14 points.

Brentford became the first Premier League team to score inside the first minute in three straight games, but couldn't hold on after Bryan Mbeumo's striker and drew with West Ham 1-1.

Everton gained its first win of the season in beating Crystal Palace 2-1 and Fulham won at Nottingham Forest 1-0, with Mexico striker Raul Jimenez scoring in a third straight game.

The friendship between Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola and Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta could come under strain with the rivalry between their titlechasing Premier League clubs intensifying in recent days.

Arteta seems certain their relationship won't be damaged.

Guardiola, however, might have gotten irritated.

Arsenal's tactics, and use of soccer's so-called "dark arts," brought some criticism from a number of City players after the feisty 2-2 draw between the teams last weekend.

SOCCER

Arteta responded rather cryptically by saying he has "all the information" about City owing to his time there as an assistant to Guardiola from 2016-19.

"So I know, believe me," Arteta said.

Those remarks were sufficiently vague for Guardiola to wonder whether Arteta may actually be alluding to the off-the-field issues at City, which is currently defend-



don celebrates scoring the equalizing goal from the penalty spot during the Premier League match between Newcastle and Manchester City, at St James' Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, England. (AP)

ing itself against 115 charges of breaching Premier League regulations following an investigation into the club's financial affairs.

"Next time he has to be more clear exactly what does he mean," Guardiola said of Arteta. "He said he was here four years and we know exactly what happened here.

"It can be related (to) the process now with 115 charges, maybe it's about that. He knows information about that maybe, or maybe he has something like ... I don't know. OK, next time, like a good relation I have with him, hopefully this question has been asked. He can answer exactly what does it mean when he said he was here and 'I know what's happening here."

Guardiola was speaking Friday in a news conference that took place about the same time as Arteta was holding one at Arsenal's training base.

Asked about his relationship with Guardiola, Arteta said: "I love him, I respect him, I admire him and I admire his team and everything that he does. This is sport. One thing is our profession, another is our personal relationship.

"If our relationship was damaged because one draws and the other one wins or the amount of times that they've beaten us, I would not talk to him any more. So that's not our relationship, especially the relationship that I consider both of us have. In sport it will never get in my way, a personal relationship, that's for sure.'

Guardiola said he feels Arsenal might be provoking his players into a rivalry, picking up especially on post-match comments by Arsenal defender Gabriel.

"Gabriel said it perfectly after the match - so this is a war, we are here to provoke the opponent, to push them," Guardiola said. "At the end what can you do? OK, you provoke me - I'm there. You want a war? I'll do a war."

Arsenal has finished runner-up to City in the league the last two seasons.



Wolfsburg's Jonas Wind, left, and Stuttgart's Atakan Karazor challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between VfL Wolfsburg and VfB Stuttgart at the Volkswagen Arena, in Wolfsburg, Germany. (AP)

Kopecky defends road race title at cycling worlds

ZURICH, Sept 28, (AP): Lotte Kopecky successfully defended her title at the women's road race at the cycling world championships on Saturday, beating her rivals in a six-way sprint

The 28-year-old Belgian rider timed her attack to perfection in the last 100 meters to fend off American rider Chloé Dygert and Italian Elisa Longo-Borghini. She thrust her arms in the air as she savored another victory.

The 154-kilometer (96-mile) trek from Uster to Zurich featured a short but steep climb, while the rainy conditions made descents even more precarious. The top six were timed at 4 hours, 5 seconds.

Kopecky won last year's race ahead of Dutchwoman Demi Vollering, who took silver in last Sunday's women's time trial behind Australian Grace Brown, the Olympic champion.

Vollering led into the last kilometer on Saturday but couldn't muster the strength for a decisive attack. The race was held with cycling mourn-

ing the death of 18-year-old Muriel Furrer. She died on Friday, one day after sustaining a head injury in a crash at the road world championships. Furrer was competing in the junior women's event on rain-slicked roads when she crashed in a forest area south of Zurich.

The president of the International Cycling Union, David Lappartient, was asked about the circumstances surrounding Furrer's death at a news conference Saturday morning. According to quotes carried by specialist website Cycling News, he referred the matter to police authorities

"I will not comment directly about this because there are ongoing investigations from the police, that's their job, I can't answer. Everybody has their mission when it comes to an accident like this, it's up to the police to establish everything," Cyclingnews.com reported.

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