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Amiri Diwan photos

Left: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Right: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

HH Amir receives Crown Prince, Prime Minister, First Deputy PM

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, after heading Kuwait's delegation in the high-level week of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, which was held in New York City.

Further, His Highness the Amir received First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Sunday His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Opinion

Minister of Commerce, improve investment and industry laws

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

THE region is headed towards a bright economic future, as the world is changing. Neighboring nations have long since developed significant and cutting-edge infrastructure in preparation for this, particularly in terms of updated and developed laws. Without a doubt, Kuwait should not be exempted from any of this.

Has it done that? This question is for the Minister of Commerce if he wants foreign and Arab investors to come to us and even to enhance local investments.

He must also answer others questions: How can investors approach us when we create unattainable requirements? How can an investor continue to be dependent on a BOT system that is based on naiveté? Rather, it repels everyone who seeks to invest his capital in Kuwait -- whether a citizen or a foreigner.

How can someone build his factory or workshop or engage in any activity, and be reassured about his money, while there is a sword hanging over his neck in terms of a different investment law?

In other words, all over the world the 'Build, Operate and Transfer' Law has been implemented for 49 years or more, except in Kuwait, where the Ministry of Commerce has set it at two years, as if it is telling people: "We do not want you to invest with us."

This is in addition to the judicial police on factories -- we all know the game of jealousy and self-interest in this regard. How can the investor ensure that his plant will not close, because a worker did not like how the manager treated him?

It is common knowledge that industrial investment is the foundation of a successful economy, but in our case, the opposite is true. Entrepreneurs, industrialists and all companies demand that their activities be allowed to increase. In response to this, they are permitted to construct housing for workers close to the factory, but the Municipality, Commerce and several ministries prevent this from happening.

Everyone is aware of the problems that arose during the Corona pandemic and the disruption of manufacturing and supply chains, the costly import crisis and corruption in this regard.

Without a doubt, this is due to the lack of awareness of what serves Kuwait and its strategic interests and how to enhance the national product that is increasingly shrinking due to the improvised laws and decisions that have closed the country for about 20 years.

Therefore, the investor will not be reassured by this situation. This does not enhance the economic movement in the country or put us on par with neighboring countries.

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated on a phone call Algerian President Abdelmajid Tebboune on his re-election as president of the brotherly country.

His Highness the Amir wished progress and prosperity for Algeria and its people.

The bilateral ties between the two countries were also touched on during the phone call. (KUNA)

JEDDAH: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) signed on Sunday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with World Health Organization (WHO) to face urgent health challenges.

This took place during the during the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: In Syria, 37 militants affiliated to the extremist Islamic State group and an al-Qaeda-linked group were killed in two strikes, the United States military said Sunday.

Two of the dead were senior militants, it said. U.S. Central Command said it struck northwestern Syria on Tuesday, targeting a senior militant from the al-Qaeda-linked Hurras al-Deen group and eight others. They say he was responsible for overseeing military operations. (AP)

Kuwait keen to improve health system, up global ties

NEW YORK, Sept 29, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi affirmed Kuwait's keenness to improve health system and enhance global cooperation in medical field, ensuring the delivery of quality health service.

This came in a press release following high-level meeting - which was on Thursday - on antimicrobial resistance between Dr. Al-Awadhi and Director-General of World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, on the sidelines of the high-level week of the 79th session of the United Nations

General Assembly.

The meeting focused on discussing ways to enhance international cooperation towards the delivery of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (GAP) also, discussed the humanitarian health challenges some countries of the Eastern Mediterranean are facing as well as the current humanitarian situations in the Gaza Strip.

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Expat driving license valid for three years in new rule

No more print, all details on 'Kuwait Mobile ID' app



Photo by Ihab Qurtal

Back to the traffic rush on roads as schools open after the weekend. Flexible work hours have been implemented in all Kuwaiti schools as of Sunday, Sept 29th.

9 Palestinians dead, 41 hurt in Gaza

'7th top leader killed in Israeli strikes'

JERUSALEM, Sept 29, (Agencies): The Israeli military said Sunday it has killed another high-ranking Hezbollah official in an airstrike as the Lebanese militant group was reeling from a string of devastating blows and the killing of its overall leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

The military said Nabil Kaouk, the deputy head of Hezbollah's Central Council, was killed on Saturday. Hezbollah confirmed his death, making him the seventh senior Hezbollah leader slain in Israeli strikes in a little over a week. They include founding members who had evaded death or detention for decades. The Israeli military said it carried out another targeted strike on Beirut later on Sunday, with details to follow.

Hezbollah had earlier confirmed that Ali Karaki, another senior commander, died in Friday's strike that killed Nasrallah. The Israeli military had earlier said that Karaki was killed in the airstrike, which targeted an underground compound in Beirut where Nasrallah and other senior Hezbollah figures were meeting.

The military said at least 20 other Hezbollah

militants were killed in the strike, including two close associates of Nasrallah, one of whom was in charge of his security detail.

Hezbollah has also been targeted by a sophisticated attack on its pagers and walkie-talkies that was widely blamed on Israel. A wave of Israeli airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon has killed at least 1,030 people - including 156 women and 87 children - in less than two weeks, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been driven from their homes in Lebanon by the latest strikes. The government estimates that around 250,000 are in shelters, with three to four times as many staying with friends or relatives, or camping out on the streets, Environment Minister Nasser Yassin told The Associated Press.

Elsewhere, nine Palestinians are dead while 41 others injured in Israeli occupation airstrike on several areas and homes in the Gaza Strip, affirmed Health Authorities in Gaza affirmed on Sunday.

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Minister commends PAMA project result

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Justice Dr. Mohammad Al-Wasmi announced on Saturday the success of the "Bader Weyana" project, implemented by the Public Authority for Minors Affairs (PAMA).

The initiative aims to enhance skills and capabilities of those under its care through a summer work program.

During a ceremony honoring outstanding students, Dr. Al-Wasmi praised their excellence and highlighted the success of the "Bader Weyana" project in fostering dedication, perseverance, and self-reliance.

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Kuwait, Saudi need to upgrade economic ties

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works, Eid Al-Rashidi, has emphasized the priority of strengthening Kuwaiti-Saudi economic relations and expanding them to broader, more comprehensive levels. This aligns with the directives of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and the follow-up efforts of the Minister of Public Works, Dr. Noura Al-Mishaan.

Al-Rashidi made these remarks to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Sunday, following his meeting with Saud Al-Qablan, Deputy CEO for Services Exports at the Saudi Export Development Authority, along with his delegation, during their current visit to Kuwait.

The purpose of the meeting was to present the plans of the Ministry of Public Works and the General Authority for Roads and Land Transport for upcoming projects.

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Kuwait internet traffic back to normal: CITRA

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): The Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) has announced the restoration of normal internet traffic in Kuwait, following the implementation of an emergency plan and the redirection of data through alternative cables.

This update was shared via CITRA's official account on the social media platform (X) on Sunday.

On September 25, CITRA had reported that the international marine cable, Falcon, owned by GCX, was severed in the link connecting Kuwait and Al-Khobar in Saudi Arabia, outside of Kuwaiti territorial waters. This disruption had led to a decline in the quality of internet services across Kuwait.

At the time, CITRA coordinated with GCX to implement the necessary technical solutions to repair the cut. Additionally, internet service providers were instructed to redirect data traffic through alternative international cables to maintain service continuity.

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By Munif Naif
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The General Traffic Department (GTD) in the Interior Ministry has announced that driving licenses for expatriates will now be valid for three years, instead of one year, upon issuance or renewal in accordance with the legal conditions.

However, the license must be used only through the 'Kuwait Mobile ID' application, which eliminates the need to print the license.

The department also confirmed that the first technical inspection of newly purchased vehicles and motorcycles will be carried out three years after the date of purchase, then three years after the first inspection, and two years after the date of the second inspection for a total of eight years.

It added that private transport vehicles are subject to technical inspection three years after the first inspection, instead of two years.

Meanwhile, the General Traffic Department in the Interior Ministry continued its campaigns in all governorates over the past week; which resulted in the issuance of 49,659 violation citations, impounding of 88 vehicles and arrest of 39 juveniles who were referred to the Juvenile Prosecution for driving without a license.

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Kuwait, GCC seek sharing of IT skills

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): Acting Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) Najat Ibrahim affirmed on Sunday the importance of exchanging experience in fields of information technology (IT) between the GCC countries.

This came in a statement by Ibrahim during the Saudi Exports Development Authority's visit to CAIT, to explore the services provided, and other topics related to IT.

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KUNA photo
Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works Eid Al-Rashidi with the Deputy CEO of the Saudi Export Development Authority Saud Al-Qablan during the meeting.

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:21	Asr	15:03
Sunrise ..	05:40	Maghrib ..	17:37
Zohr	11:38	Isha	18:54

Local

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

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Hot and humid especially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 08-38 km/h.

By Night: Rather hot and relatively humid especially over

Weather

coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h.

Station

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	40	27
Kuwait Airport	40	22
Abdaly	41	24

Bubyan	41	21
Jahra	42	26
Faialaka Island	39	21
Salmiyah	39	31
Ahmadi	39	21
Jal Aliyah	40	24
Nuwaisib	39	23

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad helped propel nation to upper echelons of int'l community

Kuwaitis recall late Amir's immense contributions on death 'versary



KUNA photos
File photo of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad opens the Kuwait International Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq.



The United Nations honored the late Amir by naming His Highness (Leader of Humanitarian Work) in September 2014.

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): Some four years after his death, Kuwaitis on Sunday reminisced about the notable achievements of the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, which helped propel the nation to the upper echelons of the international community.

On this day in 2020, Kuwait lost with great anguish Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, with flags lowered to half-mast as a mark of respect for the late Kuwaiti leader, christened by the United Nations as a "Humanitarian Leader," in recognition, whose leadership helped usher in an unprecedented trajectory of national development.

With his passing, the wider Arab region lost an astute leader who made it a mission to forge a united regional stand through efforts to iron out any differences between Arab countries, subsequently keeping ties within the region on an upward trajectory.

Assuming power in January of 2006, the late Kuwaiti Amir demonstrated from day-one his uncanny prowess to lead by example, despite growing challenges around the region and beyond, which were not a deterrent for him to push forward his mission of bringing Kuwait to the apex of development and prosperity.

Overseeing broad growth over various realms, his decision to involve the private sector in national development plans was

among his key contributions, which were largely instrumental in transforming Kuwait into a regional trade and financial hub.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad's efforts were highly regarded across the Arab world, with a widespread recognition for his constant work, as he was a part of ending the Yemeni civil war in August 1966 and contributed to the peace agreement between South Yemen and North Yemen in October 1962, as well as successfully establishing diplomatic relations between Oman and Yemen.

Foundation

The late Amir also laid foundation of balancing foreign policies and addressing complex issues, most notably the Iran-Iraq war and its repercussions on Kuwait's internal and external security.

He also made great efforts to strengthen Kuwait's foreign relations with various countries, particularly with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Kuwait's unique foreign policy stood out on August 2, 1990, when the entire world stood in support of Kuwait against the Iraqi invasion. The Security Council then issued Resolution 678, which authorized the use of all means, including military force, against Iraq unless it withdrew its forces from Kuwait.

During his earlier career, the late Amir also held the position of acting minister of

information from February 2, 1971, to February 3, 1975. He was appointed Deputy Prime Minister on February 16, 1978, and on March 14, 1981, he was acting minister of information in addition to his role as Minister of Foreign Affairs until February 9, 1982.

The late Amir continued his service as Prime Minister until January 2006 and during his 14-year reign, Kuwait witnessed a comprehensive developmental renaissance, full of major projects in economic, health, developmental, and service sectors, as well as attaining a prestigious position among nations.

Sheikh Sabah was the fourth son of late ruler Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. HH enrolled in Al-Mubarakiya School and later sent abroad to study and acquire the experiences and skills that shaped him on various levels and helped him assume official roles.

He continued to cement Kuwait's commitment to the Palestinian cause, which he regarded as a top priority, and Kuwait has consistently advocated for Palestinian rights in political and humanitarian arenas.

Throughout his career, the late Amir received numerous medals and honors, the latest being the US' Distinguished Service Medal awarded in September 2020, which is the highest military honor granted to a non-American leader, acknowledging his remarkable achievements and contributions.

Bid to enhance educational interactions

PAAET launches AI Avatar technology

By Abdulrahman Al-Shimmari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Information Systems Center at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) has launched a groundbreaking Artificial Intelligence technology known as "Avatar."

This initiative marks a significant advancement in enhancing user interaction with digital technologies, blending modern design with advanced capabilities to offer a unique, interactive experience tailored to the needs of educational and administrative personnel.

Masouma Boushehri, the Director of the Information Systems Center, stated that the introduction of this innovative service aligns with the directives of the Director General, Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam, and represents a continuation of the authority's commitment to

successfully integrating information technology within the educational and academic sectors.

She emphasized that the avatar is designed to communicate in a natural and flexible manner, which greatly facilitates users' access to various artificial intelligence services across domains such as education, training, and technical support.

By effectively feeding the avatar with relevant information and academic concepts, it can accurately interpret users' inquiries and provide swift, precise responses.

Boushehri expressed her belief that AI avatars will transform the way individuals interact with technology, striving to create an experience that is not only unique but also straightforward and adaptable.

This evolution in communication aims to enhance the effectiveness of interactions and better address the diverse needs of all members within the authority.

The introduction of AI avatars is poised to revolutionize the educational landscape, making technology more accessible and user-friendly for all stakeholders involved.



Boushehri

Other Voices

The art of camouflage in friendly article

By Ahmed alsarraf

Colleague Mohammed Al-Dallal recently penned an article in Al-Qabas where he respectfully refuted our claims against the Student Union, without explicitly mentioning my name.

In the spirit of directness, I would like to personally address him and extend my gratitude to him and the rest of the "Brothers" for their support and articles defending the union.

Their stance, no doubt, reflects their commitment to the constitution, democracy, and student and union work.

However, I can't help but wonder why we haven't seen the same fervor from them when it comes to the dissolution of the National Assembly or the suspension of certain constitutional articles.

Is it because the union holds more significance for them than the constitution and the Assembly? Or perhaps it's because, for over 40 years, the union served as a training ground for their future cadres, an institution they likely invested considerable resources into -- investments that have now been jeopardized by the union's dissolution?

In his article, my colleague Mohammed reaffirmed what I've come to understand over decades: that while the Muslim Brotherhood is strong in terms of financial resources, military capability, and ideological influence, it remains weak structurally and intellectually.

Mohammed accused me of defaming the Kuwait University Student Union, yet he likely knows this accusation is unfounded.

Neither he nor those who came before or after him have ever provided evidence disproving my statements, which I've made in many articles over the years. The absolute silence from all members of the "Executive Body of the Union" in refuting the claims made in our articles serves as undeniable proof of their validity.

It's no surprise, then, that the Brotherhood and the union turned to Mohammed's column in Al-Qabas to respond to me. They chose to do so through a carefully crafted question to the head of the Kuwait University Student Union's branch.

From the wording of both the question and the response, it's clear that a third party was involved in drafting the reply to counter my accusations. How can we take seriously the odd exchange between a university student and his professor -- the "doctor" at the university, former Brotherhood representative, and well-known writer?

This dialogue reads more like a conversation between comrades in ideology or party, based on an unusually high level of "trustworthiness," even though age, rank, and position would suggest otherwise.

Moreover, it's not characteristic of Brother Mohammed, based on his writing style and previous articles, to engage in investigative journalism or contact officials for fact-finding. So, why did he feel compelled this time to reach out to

a student in order to refute the story of the million dinars?

What you mentioned about the Student Union spending one million dinars on its activities clearly wasn't limited to just its branch in Kuwait, but encompassed all its branches, which serve nearly 60,000 students.

For example, during the union's student elections in the United States, around 2,000 students are required to travel from one city to another just to participate. So, who was covering the costs of their tickets, accommodation, and food?

When the union organized its large semi-annual conferences with high-profile attendees, along with student delegates from various branches in different cities, who financed these events?

And who paid for the preparations for the last elections, which were ultimately canceled? These elections, driven by tribal momentum and by-elections, were the most expensive in the union's history, and the most fragmented, with numerous groups participating.

Is it believable that 70,000 dinars could cover all these enormous expenses? These expenses include not only providing services and assistance to students but also managing election campaigns for over 22 student lists, 26 additional lists for tribal committees and offices, and an organizational structure that involves many costs.

This is not to mention the expenses of the union offices, both in Kuwait and abroad, which require salaries for employees like accountants, correspondents, janitors, and others.

For context, the union initially had a nationalist orientation, and its leaders requested a government license.

However, Sheikh Saad's governments hesitated to grant one. When the Muslim Brotherhood eventually took control of the union, the government seemed more open to licensing their activities.

But it appears the Brotherhood preferred to maintain the status quo, likely to avoid any oversight. This lack of oversight led to an increase in violations.

It's no surprise, then, that representatives from one of the union's branches in a European city filed a report with the public prosecutor regarding irregularities in the branch's bank account.

Similarly, in Egypt, a competing student list spent significant sums to cover the registration fees for new students, securing victory for their list. Yet no one questioned where the money for those fees came from!

Thus, in my view, the amount of one million dinars is relatively small. We have documented estimates of the amounts -- of unknown origin -- that were spent on the last student election project before it was canceled, and, unsurprisingly, none of these amounts appear in the union's official bank accounts.

So, I ask again: why did the Muslim Brotherhood's writers, leaders, and followers become so outraged over the dissolution of the Student Union, while they remained silent about the dissolution of the National Assembly?

□ □ □

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KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Bassam Al-Shammari, an expert in domestic labor affairs and owner of a recruitment company, confirmed the arrival of about 50 Filipino domestic workers on Sunday, reports Al-Jarida daily.

He pointed out this is the beginning of the arrival of successive batches of domestic workers from the Philippines.

He said the new workers will be referred to the Embassy of the Philippines upon completion of the entry procedures. He affirmed that Labor Attaché at the embassy, Atty. Manuel Dimaano will welcome the workers, brief them on the nature of their work, as well as their rights and duties guaranteed by Domestic Labor Law No. 68/2015.

Al-Shammari told the daily that the successive arrival of new batches of Filipino workers is considered a breakthrough in the local domestic labor market, which has been suffering for years from the shortage of countries exporting these workers due to the absence of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with new countries and the inability of any other nationality to fill the large gap left by Filipino workers since the decision to ban their recruitment.

He disclosed the current number of Filipino domestic workers in the country is estimated at about 200,000 or 50 percent of the entire domestic workforce. He said this confirms the importance of Filipino domestic workers for most Kuwaiti and expatriate families that prefer to hire them for several reasons, most notably ease of communication, good educational level, and knowledge of the customs and traditions of society.

Al-Shammari added: "There has been a decline in the number of complaints among local recruitment offices about the slow approval and completion of their transactions at the Philippine Embassy, in views of the embassy officials' commitment to expedite approval of the initial work contract known as 'job order'."

He explained a number of applications are affected due to the decision of the Philippines to send only the experienced workers who have previously worked in Kuwait or other Gulf states or any other country.

Embassy's attorney to brief workers on nature of their work

Digital citizenship with smart card plans eyed

Colonel Al-Othman reveals cancellation of pending citizenship applications in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: A major announcement issued by the Nationality and Passports Department sent ripples through the Kuwaiti society as Colonel Abdulrahman Al-Othman, the Director General of the department, revealed a significant change in the country's naturalization policies, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a televised interview, Colonel Al-Othman announced that all pending applications for Kuwaiti citizenship from individuals listed in the 1965 census have been permanently canceled, following the issuance of a new Law, 9710.

This marked a decisive end to the process of naturalization, a move that had long been anticipated but never fully realized until now.

One of the most impactful changes was the cancellation of naturalization rights for children of Kuwaiti women married to foreigners. However, Al-Othman reassured the public that children of widowed and divorced Kuwaiti women would continue to be treated as Kuwaitis, ensuring their access to rights and services.

Moreover, all requests to declare intent for naturalization were permanently revoked, signaling a complete halt to new citizenship applications.

Digitize

During the interview, Colonel Al-Othman also revealed an ambitious plan to digitize the citizenship process. He shared that the government was studying the possibility of converting the traditional citizenship certificate into a smart card, aligning with Kuwait's broader push toward digital transformation.

Meanwhile, Colonel Mohammed Al-Mazid, Director of the Technical Office Department at the Ministry of Interior, a prominent human rights lawyer, also weighed in on the new policies. He clarified that individuals whose Kuwaiti nationality had been revoked would be restored to their original nationality, if known.

However, for those whose previous nationality could not be determined, a special card would be issued by the Central Agency for the Bedoun to regulate their legal status and ensure they were not left in a legal limbo.

This announcement marked a new era in Kuwait's approach to citizenship, with a clear shift toward stricter policies and a commitment to modernization. As the country moves forward, the impact of these changes will continue to unfold, affecting thousands of lives and reshaping the national landscape.

Meanwhile, the Al-Seyassah daily quoting Col Al-Mazid, that individuals who acquire Kuwaiti citizenship must adhere to the nation's laws and uphold the values



KUNA photo
Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the KRCS Anwar Al-Hasawi during the reception of the Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Lebanon in the State of Kuwait Ahmed Arafa.

Arafa receives KRCS' vice chairman

'Kuwait has always stood by Lebanon'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Chargé d'Affaires at the Lebanese Embassy in Kuwait, Ahmed Arafa, emphasized Kuwait's prominent role in supporting the Lebanese people, both at the leadership and grassroots levels, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

After meeting with the Vice Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), Anwar Al-Hasawi, Arafa expressed his appreciation for Kuwait's consistent support, stating that the country's assistance to Lebanon has always been timely and significant; especially during crises such as the displacement caused by the Zionist entity's bombing of Lebanon.

Arafa highlighted the longstanding and historic relations between Kuwait and Lebanon, noting that Kuwaiti aid is deeply appreciated by the Lebanese people, who continue to recognize Kuwait's unwavering support.

of the nation, regardless of how long they have held citizenship.

He outlined several circumstances in which Kuwaiti citizenship may be revoked by decree, based on the recommendation of the minister of interior such as:

Fraudulent Acquisition -- Citizenship may be revoked if it was obtained through fraud, forgery, or false statements. In such cases, citizenship can also be withdrawn from dependents who gained it based on the original fraudulent acquisition.

Criminal Convictions -- If an individual is convicted by a final judgment after acquiring Kuwaiti citizenship for a crime that violates the honor or trust, endangers the state's internal or external security, or offends the Divine, Prophets, or the Amir, citizenship can be revoked.

Dismissal from Government Employment -- Citizenship may be withdrawn if an individual is

During the meeting, Arafa and Al-Hasawi discussed the urgent humanitarian needs of Lebanese refugees who are enduring difficult conditions. Arafa commended KRCS for its swift response and efforts in launching an urgent relief campaign for Lebanon.

In response, Al-Hasawi reaffirmed Kuwait's solidarity with Lebanon, expressing the KRCS's readiness to provide continuous relief support, especially in light of the current Zionist aggression against Lebanon.

He conveyed deep condolences to the Lebanese people, expressing sorrow over the devastating consequences, which have resulted in numerous casualties and injuries. KRCS stands prepared to assist in these challenging times, offering both material and moral support to the Lebanese brothers and their families.

dismissed from a government position for reasons related to honor or trust within ten years of obtaining citizenship.

State Interests -- If the supreme interests of the state or its external security are at risk, citizenship may be revoked from individuals and their dependents.

Subversive Activities -- Citizenship may be revoked if authorities have evidence that the individual promotes principles that undermine Kuwait's economic or social system, or if they belong to a foreign political body. Dependents who acquired citizenship through such individuals may also lose their status.

These measures highlight the government's commitment to maintaining national integrity and security, ensuring that all citizens, whether native-born or naturalized, align with the country's core values and laws.

diwaniya

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Kuwait a beacon of kindness and generosity in Arab world'

"I SOUGHT out the people of goodness and kindness, and I discovered that they are abundant in my small country, Kuwait," columnist **Yaqoub Youssef Al-Omar** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Despite its modest size and population, Kuwait is home to a remarkable number of individuals and institutions dedicated to acts of charity and kindness.

"In fact, Kuwait is considered one of the Arab nations most known for its generosity, with its charitable efforts reaching across the world, especially to impoverished Islamic countries.



Yaqoub Al-Omar

"Our Palestinian brothers in Gaza affirm that Kuwait is the Arab country from which they receive the most aid. These charitable works served as a protective shield for Kuwait and its people during Saddam's invasion.

"Indeed, 'good deeds protect against bad endings.' The doers of good in this country are many, as we have seen, both in their domestic and international charitable efforts.

"This is evident in the numerous charitable construction projects across the country, including specialized hospitals, clinics, and health centers that have been built with the generous contributions of Kuwaiti philanthropists.

"Among the many doers of good, we must highlight two well-known figures: Uncle Ali Muhammad Al-Ghanim (Abu Marzouq) and his esteemed wife, Dr. Faiza Muhammad Al-Kharafi. Their charitable works are both visible and unseen, the latter known only to God, in keeping with the noble hadith: 'A man gives charity and hides it so that his left hand does not know what his right hand has done.'

"Their visible works, however, are clear for all to see, including medical centers and other facilities that serve both Kuwaitis and residents alike.

"One such example is the large mosque built at the entrance to the Sulaibikhat Cemetery. In the past, this was a small mosque, and during times of large gatherings, many worshippers were forced to pray outside due to lack of space.

"Today, however, the newly constructed, air-conditioned mosque allows worshippers to pray in comfort. During Ramadan, it is filled to capacity with worshippers attending the Tarawih and Qiyam prayers, led by imams from outside Kuwait.

"The people who gather there often pray for the health and well-being of Uncle Boumarzouq and his honorable wife, Umm Marzouq, who funded the mosque's construction.

"This magnificent mosque, with its beautiful architecture, stands as a great Islamic edifice, visible even from Jahra Road in both directions.

"Every person who has prayed in this mosque and experienced the comfort it provides compared to the previous one, offers prayers for the health and well-being of its benefactors.

"In conclusion, I ask God to bless Uncle Boumarzouq, his wife, and all the generous people like them. May they be granted long life, and for those who have passed, may God grant them the highest place in paradise. May all their good deeds be weighed heavily in their favor on the Day of Judgment. Amen."

Also:

"The individuals you mentioned, Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Muslim Brotherhood, and Bernard Lewis, each played significant roles in shaping ideas and policies that have influenced the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, particularly with respect to the Arab world," columnist **Abdullah Khalaf** wrote for **Al-Rai** daily.

"Zbigniew Brzezinski was one of the most influential figures in American foreign policy, especially during his tenure as National Security Advisor under President Jimmy Carter from 1977 to 1981.

"He was known for his strategic thinking and geopolitical foresight. According to your account, Brzezinski is portrayed as a key architect of efforts to reshape the Middle East, particularly through what is described as a 'second Sykes-Picot' agreement -- a reference to the division of the Arab world based on ethnic and sectarian lines, undermining Arab unity.

"His ideas, as noted in his book *Between Two Ages* and other writings, are seen as laying the groundwork for the fragmentation of the region into smaller, ethnically and religiously divided entities.

"His emphasis on the breakdown of Arab nationalism, following the decline of leaders like Gamal Abdel Nasser, is central to this narrative.

"The Muslim Brotherhood is described as another major player in this context, allegedly cooperating with Western powers, especially the US, to influence the political dynamics in the Arab world.

"The Egyptian researcher Ahmed Abdel Fattah has documented numerous meetings between the Brotherhood and the US administration, suggesting a long-term relationship between the group and American policymakers.

"The Brotherhood, according to this narrative, sought to gain power by aligning with external forces, such as the US and European nations like France and the UK.

"These interactions, it is claimed, were part of a broader strategy to help the Brotherhood gain political control in countries like Egypt while maintaining Western interests, such as the peace agreement with Israel.

"Bernard Lewis, a renowned historian and orientalist specializing in Islamic studies, is also portrayed as a key figure in the division of the Arab and Islamic worlds.

"He was an advocate of reshaping the Middle East under the guise of spreading democracy but with the ultimate aim of breaking up Arab states into smaller, more manageable units.

"Lewis argued that Arabs and Muslims were inherently chaotic and prone to extremism, making them unfit to govern themselves without external control.

"This idea of a 'new Sykes-Picot' under his framework was about the strategic division of the region, a view that resonates with ongoing conflicts and divisions in countries like Sudan, Iraq, Libya, and Somalia, where internal strife and foreign intervention have fractured societies.

"The combined influence of these figures -- according to your interpretation -- contributed to the unraveling of Arab unity, sowing discord and division based on ethnic, sectarian, and tribal lines.

"The broader implication is that these strategies were part of a Western agenda to weaken the Arab world and ensure continued control over the region's political and economic future."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes

Prison terms, recovery of KD 308K from defendants in exam leak case

New traffic law mulls harsher penalties for serious violations

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Court of Cassation announced its ruling on the secondary school exams leakage case; sentencing the main defendants — a male citizen and a female citizen — to two years in prison with hard labor, while an expatriate and another male citizen were sentenced to six months in prison for leaking the secrets of the Ministry of Education; and ordered the recovery of KD308,000 that the accused obtained from selling the exams, in addition to the acquittal of seven defendants.

Earlier, the Criminal Court sentenced the male citizen and female citizen to 10 years and seven years in prison respectively with hard labor, while another male citizen and an expatriate was sentenced to one year in prison with hard labor, and deportation of the expatriate after serving prison time.

Prior to the court sentencing, the Public Prosecution detained the defendants for 21 days to complete investigations, and then referred them to the Central Prison for involvement in money laundering by obtaining money through illegal means.

Results of investigations revealed that the defendants sold the corrected exams for amounts ranging from KD25 to KD50 per subject.

Harsher penalties for violators: First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and Defense Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf confirmed that the new traffic law will be announced in the next few days; indicating this law stipulates harsher penalties for serious traffic violations that endanger the lives of road users, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

In an exclusive statement to the daily on the sidelines of the security campaign that he supervised in Hawalli on Saturday, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousuf explained that the main goal of enacting the new traffic law is to protect the lives of road users from reckless drivers. He stressed that anyone who abides by the law will not be subjected to severe penalties.

Regarding the security campaigns that he supervised for two consecutive days, he affirmed these campaigns are conducted round the clock by the field security agencies in all governorates. He disclosed their goals include closely monitoring the security situation and to arrest violators of the Residency and Traffic laws, reckless drivers and anyone who violates the laws of the country.

Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic and Operations Affairs at the Ministry of Interior Major General Yousef Al-Khadda reiterated that the new traffic law stipulates penalties for serious traffic violations like speeding, beating the red light, parking on the space allotted for the disabled, reckless driving, not wearing the seat belt, and using a mobile phone by hand while driving.

Al-Khadda added the General Traffic Department (GTD) has started installing and operating 252 cameras for recording serious violations like not wearing the seat belt and using a mobile phone by hand while driving. He revealed all of these cameras will be fully operational within the next two months. He also affirmed that the traffic control cameras and traffic surveillance cameras linked to the traffic control room are operating efficiently round the clock.

He explained that the new traffic law is primarily directed at anyone who does not respect the law and endangers the lives of other road users by committing serious traffic violations.

He said the Public Relations and Security Media General Department at the ministry will conduct a comprehensive awareness campaign to clarify all the provisions of the new law and amendments to the fines for serious traffic violations.

2 die in separate road accidents: The Doha intersection, opposite Qairawan, witnessed a horrific accident Sunday morning, resulting in the death of an unidentified person whose body was referred to the Forensic Medicine Department.

On the other hand, an Asian died when a vehicle ran over him in Manqaf. His body was referred



Mol photo

One of the female security officers during the security campaign.

Female police officers take part in Hawalli 'security campaign'

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Ministry of Interior recently announced the successful completion of a comprehensive security campaign in Hawalli, conducted under the direct supervision of Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This initiative involved the coordinated efforts of various units, including the General Traffic Department, the General Department of Rescue Police, and the Public Security Sector, alongside the Special Security Forces and a dedicated team of female police officers.

The operation proved highly effective, resulting in the issuance of 1,895 traffic violations. Authorities arrested 32 individuals without proper

identification and detained 24 violators of residency and work laws.

The campaign also led to the seizure of 15 wanted vehicles, the apprehension of 15 individuals sought for absenteeism, and the impounding of 9 vehicles and motorcycles. Notably, officers executed arrest warrants for 16 people and made two arrests for possession of intoxicating substances.

Officials highlighted the significant role of female police officers in enhancing the efficiency of the campaign, particularly in addressing violations involving women. This reflects the Ministry's commitment to fostering a secure environment that caters to the diverse needs of the community, ensuring comprehensive safety for all citizens.



KUNA photo

Army Chief-of-Staff, Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzayen chairs Defense Council meeting.

Army chief stresses significance of preparedness efforts

Kuwaiti Army Chief-of-Staff, Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzayen stressed on Sunday the importance of taking all necessary measures to enable army units to fully execute their tasks and duties.

He highlighted the need to address and overcome any obstacles that may hinder the implementation of military plans, programs, and strategies, while also focusing on ways to develop them.

According to a General Staff press release,

to the Forensic Medicine Department.

Investigations are underway to establish the circumstances leading to these tragic accidents.

2 expats held for drug trafficking: Two expatriates were arrested for selling drugs in Andalus, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

Farwaniya support patrols referred two expatriates to the Drug Control General Department after they were arrested in Andalus for drug trafficking with an undisclosed quantity of narcotics in their

possession.

A security source revealed the securitymen patrolling the area got suspicious of the erratic movement of a car, so they signaled for the driver to pull over. When they approached the car, the officers got more suspicious as the two expatriates, who were inside the car, looked afraid and confused. One of them even tried to escape on foot, but the securitymen controlled him.

A precautionary search ensued, leading to the discovery of some shabu, chemical substances, marijuana and Lyrica pills.

Illegal exhausts targeted

Gang robbing expats busted

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Capital Investigation Department arrested a gang of four expatriates who robbed other expatriates in Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Murgab, Sharq and Salhiya, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the department received information about multiple robbery crimes in several areas in the Capital Governorate; so it immediately formed a team tasked to conduct investigations and deployed a number of detectives in places where crimes are most likely to occur.

In one of such operations, the detectives spotted an expatriate being robbed by the members of the gang who were arrested. It turned out that they are expatriates who relied on their physical strength in robbing others. They grabbed the victim, pushed him to the ground and robbed him of his money and mobile phones. When they were interrogated, they confessed that they targeted Asians whom they usually rob during weekends, the source narrated.

The source stated that the members of the gang revealed they are residing in Mahboula, but decided to commit crimes in the Capital Governorate; believing they would not be arrested if they do so in areas far from their residence. They committed their crimes after midnight and chose expatriates who seem weak, then one of them would restrain the victim and rob him of the money and mobile devices, while the others would serve as lookouts. They committed seven of such crimes in the last few weeks.

The department summoned a number of victims who recognized the perpetrators in a police lineup and the four expatriates were referred to the Public Prosecution.

Workshops targeted: A team from the Technical Inspection Department, in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Kuwait Municipality, carried out a surprise inspection campaign in a number of workshops in Shuwaikh Industrial Area recently; resulting in the issuance of violation citations and confiscation of illegal exhausts that make annoying sounds, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A security source revealed the campaign was aimed at eliminating negative phenomena and to strictly implement the law, indicating that inspectors from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry coordinated with the traffic officers in this campaign. He said six violations were recorded, a large number of unlicensed exhausts were confiscated, and workshops were shut-down for installing devices that make annoying sounds.

Al-Arabout raises questions on co-ops operations

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: At a recent conference, Mubarak Ahmed Al-Arabout, the Chairman of the Sulaibikhat and Doha Cooperative Society, voiced his concerns regarding ongoing issues affecting the cooperative's operations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He called on Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah and the Undersecretary of the Ministry and the Undersecretary of the Cooperative Sector, to refer the findings of the investigation committee in the Fatwa and Legislation Department.

Al-Arabout expressed his apprehensions about the committee's impartiality, suggesting that certain members may not be acting neutrally.

He highlighted several pressing issues that remain unresolved, particularly those concerning shareholders and the cooperative itself.

Among the key issues, he cited, delays in approving prizes for the Holy Quran Memorization Competition, the Baloot Competition, and providing umbrellas for individuals with disabilities.

Al-Arabout noted that there has also been a significant hold-up in the approval process for purchasing new gas vehicles, which has disrupted gas delivery services to the homes of shareholders and local residents.

Furthermore, he pointed out that requests for cashiers, salesmen, and drivers have gone unanswered, despite explicit instructions from the Minister and Undersecretary of the Cooperative Sector aimed at streamlining procedures with the Administrative



Al-Arabout during the conference.

Control Authority.

The requests for the appointment of technicians for tire repair branches and the need for a security and guarding company have also been ignored.

Al-Arabout mentioned that the cooperative had sought approval to tender the sale of old cars and initiate investment activities within central markets and branches, yet received no responses from the ministry.

Despite these challenges, Al-Arabout concluded the conference on a positive note, reporting that the cooperative has seen profitable results in the sales of vegetables and fruits, with revenues increasing month by month -- from 39,000 dinars in June to 44,000 dinars in August.

Additionally, he highlighted an increase of 285,000 dinars in miscellaneous revenues, alongside a reduction in expenses by 45,000 dinars, signaling a step in the right direction for the cooperative's financial health.



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KUNA photo
Minister Al-Mashaan and her delegation during their visit at Yangshan Port near Shanghai.

'Partnership constitutes cornerstone for sustainable development'

Kuwait strengthens strategic ties with China

BEIJING, Sept 29, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan affirmed on Friday that Kuwaiti-Chinese partnership is a basis to achieve sustainable development and deepen integration of visions between the two countries' leaderships.

Speaking to KUNA in a statement, the minister stressed the importance of enhancing the standing strategic partnership between Kuwait and China in a manner that contributes to achieving sustainable development goals.

Developing partnership and cooperation with China is the basis for reciprocal benefits, and commercial and economic collaboration in a manner that contributes to upgrading reciprocal ties to wider horizons in all fields, she said. Kuwait has historic and deep-rooted relations with China in all fields, and it was the first Gulf State that has diplomatic ties with China, and signed a cooperation agreement in the Belt and Road Initiative, Al-Mashaan noted.

Her visit to China with a high-profile delegation aims at boosting these ties and deepening strategic partnership between the two sides, she pointed out.

She affirmed keenness on implementing the deals and memoranda of understanding signed between the two governments during the official visit of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to China last September.

At the end of the visit, Al-Mashaan and her delegation visited Yangshan Port near Shanghai, in response to an invitation from the Chinese government and the company tasked with completing and carrying out the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project.

Al-Mashaan and her delegation took part in the Global Transport Sustainable Forum in Beijing, in the presence of China's Transport Minister, and a number of Arab and foreign ministers, as well as representatives of international organizations.

Urban development under review

Minister's rejections spark council debates

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: In the upcoming fourth regular session of the Municipal Council, set for Monday, Abdullah Al-Mahri will lead discussions on several critical matters, including a key letter from the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This letter addresses the minutes from a regular Municipal Council meeting held on July 22, during which the Minister approved most decisions made, with two notable exceptions.

The first item of contention involves a request from Al-Salhiya Real Estate Company regarding the development of their property, identified as plot No. 72, the JW Marriott Hotel (formerly known as the Meridian) located in Kuwait City.

The request sought to convert three floors above the service level from hotel rooms into commercial offices, each with separate commercial licenses.

The proposal includes a stipulation that these conversions would not require any additional percentage beyond the 620 percent commercial allowance for the property, contingent on a revision of the building regulations to accommodate mixed-use licensing before any licenses were issued.

However, the Minister rejected this request, citing a violation of the regulations specified in Table No. 12 concerning the requirements and specifications for hotels and motels in various areas of Kuwait, which are part of the construction regulations set forth in Ministerial Resolution No. 206 of 2009 and its amendments.

The Minister noted that while the fourth structural plan adopted the recommendation to classify mixed uses within a single commercial property, it has yet to be officially issued, leaving the proposed amendments without legal backing.

The second matter discussed is a citizen's complaint regarding Chalet No. (31129/H) located in the Nuwaiseeb area.

The complaint prompted the Council to consider taking administrative and legal action. The Minister confirmed that the construction of this chalet complies with the established chalet construction system and has been properly licensed according to the required specifications.

As the session approaches, council members are expected to delve deeper into these discussions, weighing the implications of the Minister's decisions on urban development and community needs.



Al-Seyassah photo
Dr. Mohammed Al-Wasmi, during a meeting with the Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait.

Sudan envoy calls on Dr Al-Wasmi

Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Dr. Mohammed Al-Wasmi, held a meeting with the Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait, Awad Al-Karim Al-Rayeh Balla, to discuss enhancing cooperation between Kuwait and Sudan in the field of religious endowments, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

A key focus of the meeting was the activation of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) previously signed between the Ministries of Awqaf of both countries. This MoU aims to rebuild mosques and religious educational institutions in Sudan that were destroyed due to recent conflicts and natural disasters such as floods.

The Sudanese ambassador expressed gratitude for Kuwait's continuous support, particularly during Sudan's recent hardships.

In addition to this meeting, Minister Al-Wasmi also received Dr. Abdel Salam Ab, the advisor to the President of the Mauritanian Red Crescent, to discuss challenges faced by the Mauritanian Red Crescent and explore opportunities for support and assistance in addressing those obstacles.

'Boost local crops for food security'

Call for giant fodder factory

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: With the increasing importance of food security locally and globally after the unprecedented experience of the entire world during the Corona pandemic, food security expert and consultant Mohammad Al-Furaih confirmed that the country needs a giant fodder factory to meet the growing needs of livestock and poultry; indicating the factory should have a production capacity of 100 tons per hour to cover the fodder needs for poultry, cattle and cows.

In a statement to the newspaper, Al-Furaih stressed the necessity for high quality production with the best mixtures at a low cost, especially since the only feeds factory in the country covers 20 percent of the local market. He pointed out that the country has been behind in developing the production of livestock and poultry due to the lack of fodder factories.

He emphasized the importance of establishing a company, institution or association that includes egg producers in Kuwait; indicating it is financed through the agricultural financing portfolio at Kuwait Industrial Bank and the loan is repaid directly from sales proceeds.

He urged the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to allocate a site near the 'Wafer' wholesale market with an area of 20,000 square meters, to be equipped with refrigerated warehouses and an automated egg receiving system; in addition to devices for examining, sorting and packaging them according to market needs.

He also underscored the need to establish a poultry processing plant and hatcheries in separating eggs to identify hens from roosters. He said the equipment for hatching eggs can be purchased anywhere in the world, ensuring huge savings and better productivity.

He called for the establishment of an entity that brings together egg producers in Kuwait under one umbrella; with the aim of unifying marketing and promotion efforts for eggs, similar to what is done in various parts of the world.

He stated that Kuwait currently produces about one billion eggs annually and there are nine major egg production companies, each of which has its own sorting center; in addition to a fleet of cars, which causes high costs for the farmers, not to mention the increasing number of workers, thus, an increase in the price of eggs for the consumers.

In light of this operational reality, Al-Furaih demanded for coordination between farmers to transfer farm production to one center, which would lead to a reduction in prices and the number of workers; taking into consideration



Al-Seyassah photo
Mohammad Al-Furaih

the global experience showing that egg production globally is done in small and large farms.

He added that the eggs are transferred to one collection center with modern equipment and a production capacity of not less than 180,000 eggs per hour; which are inspected and sorted, then packed according to size. He said the packages usually vary between 6, 12, 18, 24 and 30 eggs in each pack.

He also pointed out the necessity of adding a device for receiving broken eggs and converting them into liquid products to be sterilized and packaged before sending them to the markets, as these eggs can be used in the manufacturing of sweets.

He said devices must be provided to process liquid eggs to receive, sterilize and package them according to demand, with the necessity of distributing them by refrigerated cars covering all areas of Kuwait, which makes it unnecessary to have fleets of cars for each farm.

In this context, the concept of collective purchasing can also be applied to all farmer needs for raw materials, such as feeds, cleaning and sterilization equipment, maintenance tools; and the establishment of a feeds testing laboratory and a veterinary center to monitor production, with the aim of reducing costs and increasing efficiency, he explained.

On food security, he thinks the current political conditions in the region, especially in Gaza and Lebanon, and the risks of expanding the conflict, may lead to a decline in imports in the country, especially food products; hence, the need to expand agriculture in general and pay attention to livestock and poultry.

Referring to recent government statements about the sufficiency of the strategic food stock for the next six months, he stressed the need to expand the agricultural sector and to pay attention to crops that are compatible with the hot weather in summer and the cold weather in winter.

He indicated that although Kuwait imports food from various countries, the most important step is for the State to focus on agricultural sufficiency to ensure the continuation of food stocks permanently -- whether on normal days or in light of the political crises sweeping the whole world.

He also emphasized need to support the Kuwaiti products and prioritize them to motivate the agricultural sector.

New students participate in orientation for 'Master of Curriculum & Teaching Methods'

By Abdulrahman Al-Shimrari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: An informative orientation meeting was held for newly accepted students into the "Master of Curriculum and Teaching Methods" program, led by Dr. Maali Al-Abdelhadi, the Director of the program.

During this session, Dr. Al-Abdelhadi elaborated on the objectives of the College of Graduate Studies, detailing the various Master's programs offered, the academic unit requirements, and the distinctions between completing a thesis versus a project.

She also provided insights into the regulations governing the College of Graduate Studies and introduced the college's newly launched website.

Dr. Farah Al-Mutawa, the Head of the Education Department, extended a warm welcome to the accepted students, expressing her best wishes for their success and growth. She emphasized the importance of leveraging the skills and experiences they will acquire throughout the program to foster creativity in their future professional endeavors.

Additionally, Lulwa Al-Rashid, a student and coordinator for the 2022-2023 cohort of the Master's in Curriculum and Teaching Methods program, shared valuable advice for her fellow students.

She highlighted the necessity of understanding their attendance requirements, whether they would be attending full-time



Al-Seyassah photo
Photo taken during the meeting.

or part-time, and the specific number of courses required for registration.

Lulwa also stressed the importance of adhering to the academic registration plan in collaboration with the program administration, enabling notifications through Microsoft Teams, and utilizing reliable sources of information, particularly the College of Graduate Studies website.

The meeting aimed to equip students with essential knowledge and guidance as they embark on their academic journey, ensuring they are well-prepared to navigate the challenges ahead.



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Programs begin in October to enhance modern teaching methods

MoE conducts interactive whiteboard training for technical supervisors

KDIPA employees granted judicial police status

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Economic Affairs and Investment Noura Al-Fassam granted judicial police status to four employees at Kuwait Direct Investment Promo-

tion Authority (KDIPA), while the same status of one employee was revoked.

The four employees include Bibi Abdul-Manaf Marafi, Fay Saad Al-Shuwaib, Nour Fahad Al-Arada and Badriya Fouad Al-Thaqeb. In accordance with Paragraph Two of Article 32 of Law No. 116/2013, KDIPLA

also revoked the investment license of OleScripts Technical and Accounting Services Company through a law decree.

According to Article Two of the decision, the company will be notified about the decision through a registered mail letter an acknowledgment receipt.

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Ministry of Education will conduct specialized training programs on the use of the interactive whiteboard for technical supervisors in various educational districts, as part of its efforts to improve the educational process and increase the effectiveness of using modern technology.

Technical supervisors in all educational levels, including the secondary stage, are the target trainees for these programs in order to improve their technical and practical skills.

The training, which begins in October and will continue for several weeks, involves supervisors in a variety of aca-

demical disciplines; such as Science, Mathematics and Arabic Language, according to the ministry's circular.

The ministry has designated a number of schools in each educational district to serve as venues for the training programs, indicating the supervisors will be trained on how to operate the interactive whiteboard in the classroom.

It explained this will ensure that technology is used to develop the educational process and implement contemporary teaching methods; while keeping up with technological advancements and to better serve the students at all educational stages, particularly the secondary stage, which is one of the most crucial stages that prepares students for the advanced educational experience at the university.

Swaika highlights promising future

Indian envoy commends high-level bilateral engagements with Kuwait

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes

Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, HE Dr. Adarsh Swaika, expressed his admiration for the ongoing high-level visits and exchanges between Indian and Kuwaiti officials and highlighted the recent meeting between His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New York.

He remarked that such interactions are instrumental in advancing the bilateral relationship, taking it to new and significant heights.

Speaking to the local media representatives, Dr. Swaika shared that India exported approximately \$2 billion worth of goods to Kuwait last year. This trade included various products, such as vehicles manufactured in India, telecommunications equipment, and food items, notably Basmati rice.

He also underscored the keen interest of Indian businessmen in exploring opportunities within the Kuwaiti market.

The ambassador reminded of a delegation of about 40 Indian companies specializing in the food and agriculture sectors that recently visited Kuwait and engaged in productive discussions with Kuwaiti businessmen.

Furthermore, he mentioned that the Chairman of the Union of Cooperative Societies and representatives from the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition visited India recently to attend the 'Indian Global Food' event in New Delhi, fostering closer ties between the two countries.

Regarding the participation of Indian companies in Kuwaiti projects, he noted that numerous Indian firms have a long-standing presence in Kuwait, executing significant projects in the oil and gas sector.

He cited specific examples such as the construction of Sabah Hospital and Shaddadiya University by Indian companies, as well as the electricity interconnection project between Kuwait and Iraq being undertaken by two Indian firms.

He pointed out the ongoing activities in the information technology sector, including a substantial IT contract between Burgan Bank and an Indian company. Dr. Swaika also mentioned a strategic focus on pharmaceuticals, real estate, and food processing, noting that two to three Indian companies have registered with the Kuwait Investment Authority.

He highlighted that several Indian pharmaceuticals are already registered in Kuwait, yet acknowledged that the overall market share of Indian pharmaceuticals remains relatively low given

India's status as the "pharmacy of the world."

He expressed a desire to attract major Indian pharmaceutical companies to Kuwait, noting that 40 to 50 percent of Indian pharmaceutical products are registered with the US Food and Drug Administration and approved by European regulatory agencies, offering high-quality products at significantly lower costs.

Dr. Swaika emphasized India's emergence as a hotspot for global investment, with an impressive growth rate of seven to eight percent over the past decade. He cited investment inflows of \$70 billion last year, bringing total investments in India over the last decade to over \$600 billion.

This remarkable growth positions India as the fifth-largest economy in the world, with aspirations to become the third-largest economy in the near future.

Speaking of the Indian workforce in Kuwait, Dr. Swaika reported that the number has surpassed one million. He emphasized the positive reception of recent regulatory changes, particularly the easing of restrictions on family visas, which has been warmly welcomed by Indian families in Kuwait.

He highlighted that a diverse array of skilled Indian professionals, including doctors, engineers, and nurses have made their way to Kuwait. He expressed optimism about a growing culture of compliance with Kuwaiti regulations among the Indian community.

He also expressed anticipation for the upcoming visit of the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister to participate in the inaugural meeting of the Joint Higher Committee, which has recently been elevated to the ministerial level.

On the cultural front, Dr. Swaika announced several encouraging developments, such as the launch of a Hindi-language program on Kuwait's national radio. He also shared that a memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Gulf University of Science and Technology to offer Hindi language courses, with plans to have an Indian professor by the end of this year to facilitate classes starting in the next academic term.

He also disclosed plans for a significant B2B tourism event scheduled for early next month and spoke of the Plant-4Mother initiative, which was launched by Prime Minister Modi on World Environment Day. This initiative encourages individuals to plant a tree in honor of their mothers.

Additionally, Dr. Swaika mentioned an upcoming major musical event in November featuring a prominent Indian musician and expressed his enthusiasm for a startup conference set for December. This conference aims to share success stories from both Kuwait and India and explore investment opportunities within the burgeoning startup sector.



Dr Swaika

Municipal Council set to tackle Jahra Corniche facade project

Approval sought for secondary transformer station

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: After the summer recess, the Municipal Council is set to hold its fourth regular session of the third term, led by Chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri.

This marks the first meeting since the council's return, and the agenda is packed with key projects and proposals aimed at shaping Kuwait's urban development.

One of the most anticipated discussions will focus on the Jahra Corniche waterfront project, a significant initiative designed to enhance the area's recreational and tourism potential.

Alongside this, a request from the Zakat House will be reviewed, seeking the allocation of a site in the Mubarak Al-Abdullah area within Plot No. 7, which could serve vital community needs.

The council is also expected to give its final approval to the reorganization of a part of Plot No. 1 in Al-Qibla, a move that will allow for improved urban planning in the area.

Attention will turn next to the Shuwaikh waterfront development, located opposite the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, which includes plans for its rehabilitation and the allocation of a future commercial site.

Another major item involves the Ports Authority's request for land allocation to support a development project southeast of Doha Port, an initiative aimed at bolstering the country's maritime infrastructure.

Beyond these key projects, the council will deliberate over several proposals, including one from member Fahad Al-Abdul Jader, who suggests allocating parts of the Shuwaikh Industrial Area to be managed by the Public Facilities Management Company.

The Ministry of Finance has also submitted a request to convert a surface parking lot in the East Area (Plot No. 2) into a multi-storey parking structure, which could help alleviate parking congestion in the area.

The Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy is seeking approval for a secondary transformer station in Mubarak Al-Abdullah (Plot No. 1), while amendments are also on the table for the expansion of Dar Al-Shifa Hospital in Hawalli, Plot No. 66. In a related move, the council will consider a request to reorganize Plot 14 in the Qibla Area, which includes Al-Salehiya Police Station and other public facilities.

Council members will also tackle broader concerns, such as a proposal by Abdul Latif Al-Da'i to conduct studies on rain floods before allocating land for new cities, particularly housing projects.

Another submission by Sherifa Al-Shalfan advocates for the separation of bathroom cleaning contracts from general public cleaning agreements aimed at improving hygiene standards across the city.

In addition to these pressing matters, the council will review responses from the executive body, ensuring accountability and transparency in their decision-making process. As the session convenes, all eyes will be on the Municipal Council as it embarks on its mission to drive forward Kuwait's urban development.



Leaders of academic and educational colleges with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. KUNA photo

Kuwait reaffirms commitment to human rights

Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs Ambassador Sheikhha Jawaher Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah reaffirmed, Sunday, Kuwait's firm commitment to promoting and protecting human rights.

This came in a speech delivered by Sheikhha Jawaher Al-Sabah during a meeting organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with leaders of educational and academic institutions.

She said that Kuwait is keen to implement international human rights recommendations, as the meeting aims to raise awareness, build capacities, and educate the public on these important issues.

Representatives from several entities participated in the meeting, including Ali Al-Sabah Military College, Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences, Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute, Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, the Civil Service Commission, and Kuwait University.

The meeting is part of a series organized by Foreign Affairs Ministry, aimed at preparing comprehensive reports reflecting national efforts and enhancing the role of academic institutions in promoting human rights. (KUNA)

Council endorses budget and proposals

KU promotes 29 academic staff

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Kuwait University Council approved the promotion of 29 academic staff to the rank of professor and associate professor in a meeting presided over by acting Director of the university Dr. Osama Al-Saeed.

Acting Secretary General and official spokesperson of the university Prof. Dr. Fayez Al-Dhafiri disclosed that the council approved the following:

- Minutes of the previous meeting and report on the decisions taken during meeting No. 03/2024 that was held on May 9, 2024 and the decision issued on Sept 23, 2024 to approve the budget of the university for the year 2025/2026;

- Proposal of some colleges to renew the secondment of some academic staff and some employees in State agencies for a period of one year, starting from the date stated beside the names of the concerned staff;

- Proposal to amend Article 25/B (second paragraph) and Article 26/1 (third paragraph) of the Academic Staff Affairs Regulations;

- Proposal to suspend the implementation of University Council Resolution No. 1/2023 dat-

ed April 12, 2023 and University Council Resolution No. 2/2022 dated Feb 2, 2022 regarding the exceptional extension of Kuwait University students on scholarship who were appointed before March 1, 2020 after exhausting the extension periods and continuing to pay their allocations before the scholarship was suspended.;

- Proposal of the Deanship of Admission and Registration to extend the implementation of the University Council's decision in its Meeting No. 4/2023 on July 27, 2023, and approved by the Council of State Universities in its Meeting No. 5/2023 on Sept 20, 2023 regarding the exemption of academic staff assigned to leadership positions other than university vice presidents and deans of colleges and special deanships from the condition stated in Clause 2/4 of the regulations for preparing the academic calendar, thereby, allowing them to have additional teaching loads for the first and second semesters of academic year 2024/2025;

- Proposal of the College of Graduate Studies on the number of graduate scholarships at Kuwait University and candidates for scholarships for the academic year 2024/2025; in light of the College Council's approval as per the circular issued on July 23, 2024.

Minister of

Continued from Page 1

There are flimsy reasons that control this matter. Compared to what happened in neighboring countries, we will find that we are far behind others in the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Kuwait imports everything from abroad, even cleaning materials, tissue paper and many others. This undoubtedly raises the financial bill to a large extent and increases the burdens on consumer citizens, so officials must pay attention to this large deficit.

It is very shameful to call for strengthening partnerships with the private sector. For about four decades, the country has lacked any new contracts under the BOT system, and if there are some, they do not exceed the number of fingers on two hands.

This is despite the work programs of successive governments and the statements of officials about giving the private sector the opportunity to develop the national economy and support the public sector.

Today, the Ministry of Commerce and the Council of Ministers have all the capabilities to develop laws and get rid of shortsightedness, so that Kuwait possesses industrial strength. Through its strategic location, it should transform into a regional window for investors, whoever that may be, as this opportunity is not illusive and it must be seized as soon as possible.

Minister of Commerce, when an industrial institution prospers, your devices follow to damage it rather than to advance and benefit from it. This is due to the fact that your institutions are enshrined in legislation, which discourage and repel investment and industry

Expat driving

Continued from Page 1

The department released its weekly statistics; stating that 110 people were detained for committing serious traffic violations, 76 vehicles wanted by law were impounded, 34 people were arrested including those for whom an arrest warrant was issued or reported absconding or hold an expired residency permit, seven people were detained for failure to present a valid proof of identification, and two people were found to be in an abnormal condition. All those arrested were referred to the competent authorities.

The department also dealt with 1,482 accidents, including 215 that resulted in injuries.

Moreover, the emergency patrols arrested 24 people suspected of possessing narcotics, 156 persons wanted by law, 22 who were under the influence of alcohol, 70 who failed to present a valid identification document and 46 with expired residency permits; impounded 82 vehicles wanted by law; resolved 15 quarrels; provided assistance to 408 cases; and impounded eight vehicles.

'7th top

Continued from Page 1

The ministry said in a press statement that nine martyrs and 41 injured arrived at hospitals over the past 24 hours, as a result of a series of strikes on the Gaza Strip.

The death toll has risen since the start of the Israeli occupation's aggression to 41,595 and 96,251 injuries, while many victims are still under rubble and on the roads as ambulances and

civil defense crews can't reach them, added the statement.

The Israeli occupation army has continued its aggression since the early hours of Sunday, targeting several residential communities north and south, including a school housing displaced Palestinians in Beit Lahia town, north of Gaza Strip.

Kuwait, GCC

Continued from Page 1

Ibrahim added that the visit comes in light of the rapid technological development that requires constant update of capabilities, which contribute to the development of the country.

For his part, the Saudi Exports Development Authority's spokesperson Thamer Al-Meshrafi stated that Kuwait's market is one of the most important international markets that attracts exports of products and goods.

He added that the value of Saudi exports to Kuwait in the first half of 2024 reached 3.7 billion Riyals (USD 986 million), which affirms the strong bilateral relation between both countries.

Al-Meshrafi noted that the Saudi delegations is on three day visit to Kuwait, visiting four government bodies and 14 companies, with the aim of offering solutions in various technological fields.

Kuwait internet

Continued from Page 1

As of 2:00 a.m. last Thursday, 30 percent of internet service had been restored via these alternative cables, with efforts ongoing to fully restore services.

Kuwait keen

Continued from Page 1

The Minister of Health reaffirmed that Kuwait developed a national action plan to combat antimicrobial resistance based on a strong multi-sectoral approach on the "One Health" principle.

Also, Kuwait succeeded in enhancing its participation in the World Health Organization's Global Surveillance System for Antibiotic Resistance and Use (GLAS), he added.

Kuwait, Saudi

Continued from Page 1

The aim is to provide Saudi companies with opportunities to enter the Kuwaiti market, fostering healthy competition for delivering high-quality services and projects.

Al-Rashidi noted that efforts are being made to streamline procedures and remove obstacles for companies interested in operating in Kuwait, especially Saudi firms. He highlighted that conditions are favorable and encouraging for Saudi market participation, and both nations are keen on collaborating on projects tied to the Ministry of Public Works.

He further stressed the importance of this logistical partnership and mentioned that future discussions would involve workshops led by engineers and sector leaders to further explain opportunities to the visiting Saudi delegation. He also reaffirmed the commitment to removing barriers for companies entering the Kuwaiti market, adding that the first step would be to register with the Central Agency for Public Tenders and the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority, which offer a range of benefits to investors.

KPC awards KD 959K cybersecurity tender

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Higher Purchasing Committee for Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) and its subsidiaries announced the awarding of the tender of Kuwait Oil Tankers Company (KOTC) for the development, modernization, licensing and provision of technical support and maintenance services for the latter's cybersecurity systems.

The tender was awarded to Al-Kharafi Computers Company at a value of KD 959,000 based on the lowest bid principle and its compliance with the terms and specifications. The contract period is three years, excluding the preparation and equipment period of three months.

The official gazette, Kuwait Al-Youm, also revealed that KOTC announced the first extension of the closing date for the tender to supply navigational charts and navigation notices, as well as publications for ships, from Oct 1 to Oct 15. The validity of the bids is 90 days from the closing date.

Minister commends

Continued from Page 1

Dr. Al-Wasmi clarified that PAMA supports this initiative as part of its responsibility to enhance the skills and abilities of minors across all sectors, preparing them for future challenges.

For his part, the Acting Director-General of PAMA, Hamad Al-Barjas, stated that applications for joining PAMA's services increased by 390 percent following a digital transformation, rising from 2,034 applications in 2020 to 9,600 in 2023.

Al-Barjas reaffirmed PAMA's com-

MoSA enhances civil society management

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The Ministry of Social Affairs is implementing higher directives aimed at managing civil society organizations more effectively, reports Al-Jarida daily.

These directives involve a thorough review of bylaws and stricter protocols for accepting new declarations from public benefit associations and charities.

The Ministry is prioritizing organizations with modern goals that align with the ongoing digital and technological transformation globally.

Currently, there are approximately 203 registered public benefit associations in Kuwait, representing over 90 percent of traditional professional and community activities.

However, there is a notable lack of associations focused on emerging scientific fields such as artificial intelligence.

commitment to digital transformation, highlighting the increase in services available through the Sahel app to 40, and 50 on the website, while facilitating electronic integration between PAMA and various ministries and government institutions.

Additionally, Al-Barjas emphasized the ongoing efforts to organize social care programs, including recreational trips, sports days, summer training events, and annual celebrations for national holidays, and other activities.

He emphasized PAMA efforts to ensure its services are comprehensive, preparing those under its care for the stage following the end of the Authority's guardianship.

World News Roundup

Europe

ANO wins most seats

Russia downs over 100 Ukraine drones

KYIV, Ukraine, Sept 29, (AP): More than 100 Ukrainian drones were shot down over Russia Sunday, officials said, sparking a wildfire and setting an apartment block alight in one of the largest barrages seen over Russian skies since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Russia's Ministry of Defense reported that it had shot down 125 drones overnight across seven regions. The southwestern region of Volgograd came under particularly heavy fire, with 67 Ukrainian drones reportedly downed by Russian air defenses.

Seventeen drones were also seen over Russia's Voronezh region, where falling debris damaged an apartment block and a private home, said Gov Aleksandr Gusev. Images on social media showed flames rising from the windows of the top floor of a high-rise building. No casualties were reported.

A further 18 drones were reported over Russia's Rostov region, where falling debris sparked a wildfire, said Gov Vasily Golubev.

He said that the fire did not pose a threat to populated areas, but that emergency services were fighting to extinguish the blaze, which had engulfed 20 hectares (49.4 acres) of forest.

Elsewhere, 14 civilians were injured in an overnight barrage on the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia after Ukrainian military leaders warned that Moscow could be preparing for a new military offensive in the country's south.



Golubev

Attacks

The city was targeted by Russian guide bombs in 10 separate attacks that damaged a high-rise building and several residential homes, regional Gov Ivan Fedorov wrote on his official Telegram channel. More people could still be trapped beneath the rubble, he said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also said that the Zaporizhzhia attack had damaged the city's transport links. "Today, Russia struck Zaporizhzhia with aerial bombs. Ordinary residential buildings were damaged and the entrance of one building was destroyed. The city's infrastructure and railway were also damaged," Zelenskyy said in a post on X.

The Ukrainian military warned Saturday that Russian forces may be preparing for offensive operations in the wider Zaporizhzhia region. Vladyslav Voloshyn, spokesperson for Ukraine's southern military command, said that Russia was amassing personnel in this direction.

Ukraine's air force also reported that 22 Russian drones were launched over the country overnight.

Contenders to lead Tories woo members: Members of Britain's defeated and divided Conservative Party gathered Sunday for an annual conference dominated by the search for a new leader capable of bringing the right-of-center party back from a catastrophic election defeat.

UK voters ousted the Tories in a July election, leaving the party that had governed since 2010 with just 121 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons. The center-left Labour Party won more than 400 seats and returned to office under Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

The day after the election, defeated ex-Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said he would quit, remaining caretaker leader until his replacement is chosen.

The four candidates still in the race to replace him - whittled down by lawmakers from an initial six - will spend the four-day conference in Birmingham, central England speaking to as many party members as possible. Former Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick, ex-Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch, former Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and ex-Security Minister Tom Tugendhat make their final pitches from the conference stage on Wednesday, before Conservative lawmakers will eliminate two candidates in a vote the following week.

Austrians vote in national election: Austrians voted Sunday in a national election that the far-right Freedom Party is hoping to win for the first time, tapping into anxieties about immigration, inflation, Ukraine and other concerns following recent gains for the hard right elsewhere in Europe.

Herbert Kickl, a former interior minister and long-time campaign strategist who has led the Freedom Party since 2021, wants to become Austria's new chancellor. He has used the term "Volkskanzler," or chancellor of the people, which was used by the Nazis to describe Adolf Hitler in the 1930s. Kickl has rejected the comparison.

But to become Austria's new leader, he would need a coalition partner to command a majority in the lower house of parliament - and rivals have said they won't work under Kickl.

ANO wins most seats in election: The main Czech opposition group led by former populist Prime Minister Andrej Babis won an election Saturday for a third of the seats in Parliament's upper house, the Senate.

The ruling coalition of Prime Minister Petr Fiala still retained a majority in the Senate.

With all the votes from the two-day ballot counted, Babis' ANO, or YES in English, won eight of the 27 seats up for grabs in the 81-seat Senate in the two-round election.

It's the first time the centrist movement won that many seats in the chamber. The results are a boost for Babis ahead of next year's parliamentary elections. ANO has been the most popular party and is favored to win that vote.

France vows hardline stance on migration: France's new government is set to take a hardline approach to migration issues as key officials have pledged to significantly reduce the number of people entering and staying illegally in the country.

After calling for snap legislative elections in June, President Emmanuel Macron appointed Prime Minister Michel Barnier, a veteran conservative from the Republicans party, hoping the Brexit negotiator would work with the divided legislature to end the political turmoil that has upended French politics in recent months.

The Barnier government - dominated by conservatives and centrists - does not have a majority in parliament and efforts to pass any new legislation are bound to be fought, and potentially blocked.

The prime minister will outline his priorities in a general policy speech scheduled for Tuesday at the National Assembly.



Britain's King Charles III, (center right), gives a speech in the Debating Chamber, during the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood in Edinburgh on Sept 28. (AP)

Politics

It'll be up to politicians to fact-check each other: CBS

'RFK's name to remain on swing state ballot'

MADISON, Wis., Sept 29, (AP): The Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled Friday that Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s name will remain on the state's presidential ballot, upholding a lower court's ruling that candidates can only be removed from the ballot if they die.

The unanimous decision from the liberal-controlled court marks the latest twist in Kennedy's quest to get his name off ballots in key battleground states where the race between Republican Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris is close. Kennedy's attorney in Wisconsin, Joseph Bugni, declined to comment on the ruling.

The decision came after more than 418,000 absentee ballots have already been sent to voters. As of Thursday, nearly 28,000 had been returned, according to the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Kennedy suspended his campaign in August and endorsed Trump. Earlier this month a divided North Carolina Supreme Court kept him off the ballot there while the Michigan Supreme Court reversed a lower court decision and kept him on.

Lawsuit

Kennedy filed a lawsuit in Wisconsin on Sept 3 seeking a court order removing him from the ballot. He argued that third-party candidates are discriminated against because state law treats them differently than Republicans and Democrats running for president.

He pointed out that Republicans and Democrats have until 5 p.m. on the first Tuesday in September before an election to certify their presidential nominee but that independent candidates like himself can only withdraw before an Aug. 6 deadline for submitting nomination papers.

Dane County Circuit Judge Stephen Ehlike ruled Sept. 16 that Wisconsin law clearly states that once candidates file valid nomination papers, they remain on the ballot unless they die. The judge added that many election clerks had already sent ballots out for printing with Kennedy's name on them.

Bugni had argued that clerks could cover his name with stickers, the standard practice when a candidate dies. Ehlike rejected that idea, saying it would be a logistical nightmare for clerks and that it is not clear whether the stickers would gum up tabulating

machines. He also predicted lawsuits if clerks failed to completely cover Kennedy's name or failed to affix a sticker on some number of ballots.

The Supreme Court's four liberal justices along with conservative Justice Brian Hagedorn wrote that Kennedy's arguments weren't developed enough for them to decide whether Ehlike erroneously exercised his discretion in keeping Kennedy on the ballot. They noted that Kennedy didn't argue that Ehlike misinterpreted the law that says only dead candidates can be removed from the ballot.

"We emphasize that we are not making any legal determinations on our own regarding the claims made by Kennedy and we are not agreeing with the circuit court's legal conclusions on those claims. We simply are unable to make such determinations, given the inadequate briefing presented to us," the five justices wrote in six-page opinion.

Conservative Justice Rebecca Bradley wrote in a one-page concurrence that while she doesn't disagree with the five other justices that Kennedy's arguments were underdeveloped, keeping Kennedy on the ballot will confuse voters and could tilt the outcome of the election.

"Voters may cast their ballots in favor of a candidate who withdrew his candidacy, thereby losing their right to cast a meaningful vote," she wrote. "Ballots listing a non-candidate mislead voters and may skew a presidential election. In this case, the damage to voter participation in electoral democracy is real."

The court's third conservative, Annette Ziegler, joined Bradley's concurrence.

The presence of independent and third-party candidates on the ballot could be a key factor in Wisconsin, where four of the past six presidential elections have been decided by between about 5,700 to 23,000 votes.

Also:

NEW YORK: CBS News, hosting vice presidential candidates JD Vance and Tim Walz for the general election campaign's third debate next week, says it will be up to the politicians - not the moderators - to check the facts of their opponents.

The 90-minute debate, scheduled for 9 p.m. Eastern on Tuesday in a Manhattan studio that once hosted the

children's program "Captain Kangaroo," will be moderated by the outgoing "CBS Evening News" anchor Norah O'Donnell and "Face the Nation" host Margaret Brennan.

During ABC's debate between presidential contenders Kamala Harris and Donald Trump earlier this month, network moderators on four occasions pointed out inaccurate statements by Trump, and none by Harris. That infuriated the former president and his supporters, who complained it was unfair.

Last spring, CNN moderators did not question any facts presented by Trump and President Joe Biden in the debate where Biden's poor performance eventually led to him dropping out of the race.

On Friday, CBS said the onus will be on Vance and Walz to point out misstatements by the other, and that "the moderators will facilitate those opportunities" during rebuttal time. The network said its own misinformation unit, CBS News Confirmed, will provide real-time fact-checking during the debate on its live blog and on social media, and on the air during post-debate analysis.

With its plans, CBS News is clearly indicating it wants to take a step back from the heat generated by calling attention to misleading statements by candidates. Some argue that offstage fact-checking is too little, too late and not seen by many people who watch the event.

Angie Drobnic Holan, director of the international fact-checking network at the Poynter Institute, said she has seen examples of moderators who have successfully encouraged candidates to keep their opponents honest.

"I'll be interested in seeing how this works in practice," she said. "Having said that, you're basically off-loading one of your journalistic responsibilities onto the candidates themselves, so I don't think that it's ideal. It takes journalistic courage to be willing to fact-check the candidates, because the candidates are absolutely going to complain about it. I don't think the moderators' first goal is to avoid controversy."

During the ABC debate, moderators David Muir and Linsey Davis corrected Trump statements on abortion, the 2020 election, crime statistics and reports that immigrants in Ohio were eating pets.

of the uncertainty of the situation. (AP)

Hurricane death toll rises to 64: Massive rains from powerful Hurricane Helene left people stranded, without shelter and awaiting rescue, as the cleanup began from a tempest that killed at least 64 people, caused widespread destruction across the US Southeast and knocked out power to millions of people.

"I've never seen so many people homeless as what I have right now," said Janalea England of Steinhatchee, Florida, a small river town along the state's rural Big Bend, as she turned her commercial fish market into a storm donation site for friends and neighbors, many of whom couldn't get insurance on their homes.

Helene blew ashore in Florida's Big Bend region as a Category 4 hurricane late Thursday with winds of 140 mph (225 kph).

From there, it quickly moved through Georgia, where Gov. Brian Kemp said Saturday that it "looks like a bomb went off" after viewing splintered homes and debris-covered highways from the air. Weakened, Helene then soaked the Carolinas and Tennessee with torrential rains, sending creeks and rivers over their banks and straining dams. (AP)



US Republican vice presidential nominee Sen JD Vance, R-Ohio, arrives with his wife Usha Chilukuri Vance for a campaign event on Sept 25 in Traverse City, Mich. (AP)



Zgonc



Kemp

America

4.2 quake hits California: An earthquake registering magnitude 4.2 shook part of central California early Sunday, the United States Geological Survey reported.

The earthquake was detected at 2:47 a.m. local time about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) northwest of Aromas with a depth of 7.4 kilometers (4.59 miles), the science agency said on its website and in a social media post.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or major property damage, according to local media.

Aromas is about 94 miles (151 kilometers) south of San Francisco. (AP)

Plane crash kills multiple people: Multiple people died after a single-engine plane crashed Saturday afternoon in a wooded area at Wright Brothers National Memorial's First Flight Airport, the National Park Service said.

The crash occurred at 5 pm as, according to eyewitnesses, the airplane was trying to land at the airport, the park service said in a news release.

The airplane caught fire after the crash, the park service said. The Kill Devil Hills Fire Department and other local fire departments put out the fire.

The airport is closed until further notice, the park service said.

The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the incident. The Federal Aviation Administration has also been notified.

The Wright Brothers National Memorial will be closed Sunday, the park service said. (AP)

Man killed in burglary: Two Georgia police officers were wounded and a man was killed during a shooting inside a suburban Atlanta retailer that calls itself the world's largest gun store.

Smyrna Police Chief Keith Zgonc said the officers were investigating reports of gunfire and a burglary in progress around midnight when they found the suspect inside Adventure Outdoors, which has more than 18,000 guns in stock.

"When officers arrived they encountered an armed gunman that was inside the store ... gunfire erupted between the gunman and officers on the scene," wounding the two officers and killing the suspect, Zgonc said.

Police have not released the names of

the deceased suspect or the officers, who Zgonc said were hospitalized and expected to survive.

"We're not sure what his reasoning was for breaking into the store," said Zgonc, noting that police believe he acted alone.

Cobb County police officers also were

on the scene and fired at the suspect, but Zgonc did not say which of the officers shot the man or how many shots were fired.

Cobb County Police Chief Stuart Van-Hoozer said a large number of his officers arrived to support Smyrna police because



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, emergency workers clear the rubble after Russia attacked the city with guided bombs overnight in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine on Sept. 29, 2024. (AP)

Africa

Road accident kills 11

UN warns of food 'crisis' in Somalia

MOGADISHU, Sept 29, (Agencies): The UN agencies urged immediate financing for humanitarian relief in Somalia, where a catastrophic drought looms and millions of people risk the danger of sinking further into a food crisis.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN World Food Program (WFP) warned that below-average rainfall between October and December linked to the La Nina weather phenomenon threatens to reverse recent gains in food security.

The UN agencies said that Somalia, which was on the verge of famine in late 2022, could experience a hunger crisis once more as a result of severe drought.

"Without swift action, Somalia risks slipping back into the hunger crisis that nearly led to famine in recent years," Elkhidir Daloum, WFP's country director in Somalia, said in a joint statement issued in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

Daloum said despite some progress in food security, many families are still at risk of hunger as food prices surge and crop yields dwindle, adding that the focus must be on providing immediate assistance while fostering long-term resilience.

The warning follows the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, which reveals that 3.6 million people are currently experiencing crisis levels of hunger in Somalia (IPC3+).

Risk

It is expected to rise to 4.4 million between October and December, when below-average Deyr rains are anticipated. Some 1.6 million children under the age of five are at risk of acute malnutrition until July 2025, including 403,000 likely to suffer from severe malnutrition, according to the report.

FAO Representative to Somalia Etienne Peterschmitt stressed the urgency of early action, given the La Nina forecast and the potential for drought. "The loss of livestock will further threaten rural livelihoods, pushing millions deeper into hunger and poverty. Anticipatory action is essential to mitigate these impacts and prevent a worsening food security crisis," he added.

The IPC findings mirror global weather forecasts, which indicate an 80 percent probability of La Nina conditions, which could lead to drought in Somalia.

The forecasts indicate the likelihood of a below-normal Deyr rainy season and above-normal temperatures, which could cause severe soil moisture loss, poor crop and fodder productivity, and worsen food insecurity in vulnerable communities.

Amid funding gaps, unfavorable rainfall forecasts, ongoing security challenges, and rising food prices, the UN agencies are urgently calling for additional funding to expand humanitarian and resilience programs to mitigate the impacts of the expected drought in Somalia.



Nigeria faces rising water levels: Nigerian authorities have issued a fresh alert to citizens as the country faces rising water levels due to flash and river flooding.

The latest warning followed the prolonged rainfall across the most populous African country, which has so far caused devastating floods in several areas, said Umar Mohammed, head of the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA), in a statement obtained by Xinhua in the capital of Abuja Saturday.

Water levels in the country's two major rivers, the Benue and Niger rivers in the central part of Nigeria, and tributaries had "reached critical levels," raising concerns about potential severe flooding in communities along these riverbanks, the hydrological agency said.

It urged residents in affected areas to relocate to safer locations and take steps to secure their lives and property while stressing the importance of maintaining clear drainage systems and ensuring that water runoff paths are unobstructed. The NIHSA also called on residents to clear the gutters and drainages, which, it said, would help mitigate the impact of flooding.

In an earlier flood alert, the hydrological agency predicted that 148 local government areas across 31 states, out of Nigeria's total 36 states, were at high risk of flooding.

On Sept. 17, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) said in a report that over 1,083,141 people have been impacted by the relentless rains in Nigeria, leading to widespread displacement, loss of lives, and destruction of homes and livelihoods.

The floods have left at least 285 people dead, 641,598 persons displaced, and 2,504 injured, the UNOCHA reported, adding houses, farmlands, and critical infrastructure had been devastated, with 98,242 homes affected.



11 dead in Tanzania road accident: At least 11 people were killed in a road accident on Friday, with 21 others injured after a truck overturned in Mbeya region in Tanzania's southern highlands, said a local official.

Mbeya regional commissioner Juma Homera said the accident occurred around 6:45 a.m. local time (0345 GMT). The truck, carrying the 11 people from Mbalizi to Ilembo some 60 km away, plunged into a gorge, Homera told Xinhua in a telephone interview.

According to Homera, the 11 people, after being informed that the truck was defective, pressed the driver to drive on to attend an auction on time.

Five of them died on the spot, and six died on the way to the hospital, he said.



Paramilitary attack in Sudan kills 8: At least 8 people were killed and 95 others injured in an attack by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on Friday in El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur State in western Sudan, a local official said.

"The RSF shelling targeted the Souq Al-Mawashi (livestock) market, south of El Fasher, which was crowded with civilians," Ibrahim Khatir, director-general of North Darfur State's health ministry, told Xinhua.

The RSF has not yet commented on the attack. Since May 10, fierce clashes have raged in El Fasher between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the RSF.

According to UN estimates, El Fasher is home to about 1.5 million people, 800,000 of whom are internally displaced persons.



Chinese President Xi Jinping walks into the venue of the presentation ceremony of the national medals and honorary titles of the People's Republic of China with the recipients at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China on Sept 29. (Xinhua)

Xi addresses ceremony awarding China's highest state honors

Chinese President Xi Jinping awarded the highest state honors on Sunday ahead of the National Day, urging the nation to learn from heroes and role models to pool strength for building a strong China.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, presented medals to recipients of national medals and honorary titles at a ceremony held ahead of the 75th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China, which falls on Oct. 1.

Four people, including veteran war hero Huang Zongde and medical scientist Wang Zhenyi, were

awarded the Medal of the Republic. Ten individuals, including border patrolman Baiyika Kalidibek, technician Xu Zhenchao, and acclaimed actress Tian Hua, were awarded national honorary titles.

Dilma Rousseff, former Brazilian president and president of the New Development Bank, received the Friendship Medal.

Addressing the ceremony at the Great Hall of the People, Xi said the CPC has led the Chinese people in creating the twin miracles of rapid economic growth and long-term social stability.

The country is now in a crucial period for building a great modern socialist country in all respects and achieving national rejuvenation through Chinese

modernization, he said.

"All Party members and people of all ethnic groups should take heroes and role models as examples, unite and strive forward to form a mighty force to build a strong China," Xi stated.

Xi emphasized the need to bear in mind the ambition of making the country greater. "We should be loyal to the country, love the country, integrate personal development goals into the overall national development, and realize personal value in fulfilling duties for the country and serving the people," he said.

He encouraged the Chinese people to hone their skills and contribute to building a strong China. (Xinhua)

Lat/Am

'US resorts to psychological warfare against Caracas'

Peace Corps volunteers return to El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, Sept 29, (Agencies): US Peace Corps volunteers returned to El Salvador Friday for the first time since the American force left in 2016 because of violence in the Central American country.

It was the latest sign of a thaw in US relations with El Salvador, whose President Nayib Bukele was once shunned because of his harsh crackdown on street gangs.

It was also a sign of how much Bukele's widespread arrests of suspected gang members - which also jailed a considerable number of apparently innocent young men - has reduced the country's once-fearsome homicide rate.

The Peace Corps said the first nine volunteers would work on community economic development, education, and youth initiatives. All nine had previously worked two-year stints in other Central American countries.

"Today is not just a celebration, it's a commitment to continue building on the decades-long partnership with the people of El Salvador," said Peace Corps Director Carol Spahn.

More than 2,300 Peace Corps Volunteers had worked in El Salvador since 1962. The Peace Corps volunteers left after El Salvador's gang-fueled homicide rate reached a high of 106 murders per 100,000 inhabitants on 2015. That year there were 6,658 killings in the country of 6.3 million.

Evidence

Under a state of emergency originally declared in 2022 and still in effect, Bukele's government has rounded up about 81,900 suspected gang members in sweeps that rights groups say are often arbitrary, based on a person's appearance or where they live. The government has had to release about 7,000 people because of a lack of evidence.

In July, the human rights organization Cristosal said at least 261 people have died in prisons during the crackdown.

While the government is accused of committing mass human rights abuses in the crackdown, Bukele remains highly popular in El Salvador because homicide rates sharply dipped following the detentions. The Central American nation went from being one of the most dangerous countries in the world to having the lowest homicide rate in the region.

In all of 2023, the country saw only 214 homicides, and 116 so far in 2024.

Bukele rode that popularity into reelection in February, despite the country's constitution prohibiting second terms for presidents. The United States did not object and sent a high-level delegation to his inauguration for a second term.

Maduro slams US: The United States has relied mainly on "psychological warfare" to attack Venezuela, President Nicolas Maduro said.

"The hybrid, multidimensional war against Venezuela, directed by the United States of America and the imperial power of the United States, has psychological warfare as its main element," the president said in a speech marking the 19th anniversary of the Strategic Operational Command of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces.

Today psychological warfare "has greater firepower because it has social media," in addition to traditional media, he said.

As part of its campaign, Washington imposes its narrative globally, but there is still "an immense majority" of people and governments worldwide that support Venezuela, said Maduro.

He also denounced the ongoing "electrical war" against Venezuela.

"We have suffered electrical attacks on the transmission systems in recent days, which have been immediately replaced by the heroic work of the country's electrical workers," he said.

Meanwhile, Venezuela reiterated its "strong commitment" to supporting

the goals of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Yvan Gil said on Friday.

"In these challenging times, the Group of Friends in Defense of the UN Charter must act decisively, collectively, and assertively to ensure full respect for the principles enshrined in the UN's founding Charter," Gil said during the sixth ministerial meeting of the group in New York on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly.

Bolivia minibus accident kills 6: A minibus accident in the western Bolivian department of La Paz claimed six lives, police commander Edgar Cortez said on Saturday.

Cortez told local media that the incident occurred at a curve in the El Mirador area on Friday when the minibus was en route to Muncas Province from El Alto's interprovincial terminal.

Initial findings suggest that the driver lost control of the vehicle at the curve, causing it to plunge into a ravine. "The impact was devastating, and the vehicle was completely destroyed," Cortez said.

Storm hits Mexico 2nd time: Tropical Storm John made its second landfall along Mexico's Pacific coast Friday, while in its wake authorities in the resort city of Acapulco called for help from anyone with a boat to deal with the flooding.

John came ashore near Tizupan in Michoacan state Friday with sustained winds of 45 mph (75 km/h) after making its initial landfall farther east on the coast on Monday as a Category 3 hurricane. Hours later it dissipated over the coastal mountains, but heavy rain was forecast to continue in the area, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

6 dead in Pakistan copter crash: At least six people lost their lives while eight others received injuries as a chartered helicopter of a petroleum company carrying

foreigners crashed in Pakistan's northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province on Saturday.

According to state owned Radio Paki-

stan, the helicopter crashed near Shewa oil field in North Waziristan district of KPK killing at least six people and wounding eight others.

An investigation into the accident has been initiated.

Preliminary reports suggested that the crash was caused by engine failure. (KUNA)

7 workers killed in Pakistan: A Gunmen stormed a house and killed seven laborers and wounded an eighth in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, a police official said Saturday.

The workers were all from the same town in Punjab, which is in Pakistan's east.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but separatists in Balochistan have often killed workers and others from Punjab to force them to leave the southwest, which for years has been rocked by an insurgency from groups demanding independence from the central government in Islamabad.

Police officer Zaheer Ahmed said that armed men entered the rented house where the laborers were staying and opened fire. Seven were killed and one was seriously wounded. All were taken to Panjgur District Hospital.

An investigation is underway and the bodies will be taken to Punjab on Sunday, said Ahmed.

Pakistani Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif** condemned the shootings and expressed his condolences to the victims' families. (AP)



This photo supplied by the South Africa Police Services (SAPS) shows the scene where seventeen people were killed in two mass shootings that took place in close proximity to each other Friday night in Lusikisiki, South Africa, police said on Sept 28. A search was underway for the suspects, national police spokesperson Brig. Athlenda Mathe said in a statement. (AP)



Sharif



Oli

Subcontinent

Nepal flood toll reaches 129: Rescuers in Nepal recovered dozens of bodies from buses and other vehicles that were buried in landslides near the capital Kathmandu, as the death toll from flooding rose to at least 129 with dozens missing, officials said Sunday.

The weather improved on Sunday following three days of monsoon rains, and rescue and clean-up efforts were underway. Kathmandu remained cut off Sunday as three highways out of the city were blocked by landslides. Nepal's prime minister is **KP Sharma Oli**.

Rescuers retrieved 14 bodies overnight from two buses that were headed to Kathmandu when a landslide buried them. Another 23 bodies were dug out from vehicles Sunday on the same spot, about 16 kilometers (10 miles) from Kathmandu, and workers searched for others who may have been buried.

A statement by the Nepal police said another 86 people were injured in the flooding and landslides while 62 are missing. (AP)



Vehicle collision in India kills 10: At least 10 people were killed and 24 others injured after a bus carrying them crashed into a stationary dumper truck in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, police said Sunday.

The accident took place late Saturday night in the Nadan Dehat police station area in Maihar district, about 490 km northeast of Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh.

"Late last night a sleeper coach bus carrying passengers crashed into a stationary stone-laden dumper truck on the national highway in the Nadan Dehat police station area, killing 10 people and injuring 24 others," a senior police official said.

"Five people died on the spot while 29 others were rushed to Satna hospital. Later on, five more succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment at the hospital. Two passengers were in critical condition.. (Xinhua)



Rescue personnel transport the dead body of a victim who was trapped under a landslide caused by heavy rains in Kathmandu, Nepal on Sept 29. The death toll from flooding and landslides in Nepal has reached at least 129, with dozens of people still missing. (AP)

EGYPT	-	EGX 30	Change	Closing pts	SAUDI	-	TASI	Change	Closing pts
			+182.18	31,459.09				-102.53	12,271.77

Business

New partnership aims to support entrepreneurs through training and guidance

KIB Mubader Center inks strategic cooperation agreement with National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that its business incubator KIB Mubader Center has signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation with the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development. The agreement aims to enhance collaboration and exchange expertise between the two parties to support the entrepreneurship sector in Kuwait.



KIB Mubader agreement with National Fund.

From his side, Mohammad Al-Huwaidi, Head of KIB Mubader, said: "This agreement will enable both parties to create conducive working environments for entrepreneurs, as well as provide services that meet their growing needs."

He also noted that the Kuwaiti market is experiencing significant growth in the entrepreneurship sector, highlighting the need for new programs and initiatives to support entrepreneurs at all stages of their projects and enhance their sustainability.

In his turn, Abdullah Al-Awadi, KIB's General Manager of Strategy, stated: "The signing of this agreement is part of the Bank's broader strategy to enhance its role in supporting the small and medium enterprise sector. This collaboration with the National Fund represents a key strategic step toward realizing KIB's vision of building strong partnerships that strengthen national economic development efforts. Through this partnership, we aim to provide innovative and comprehensive solutions that address the needs of entrepreneurs and help them achieve success."

It is worth noting that KIB Mubader Center spares no effort in strengthening its partnerships and initiating collaborations with various entities, organizations, and institutions dedicated to developing national businesses and supporting entrepreneurs and their

projects. The Center views these partnerships as a crucial foundation for progressing toward a more prosperous future. The Bank also recognizes the importance of activating such agreements through KIB Mubader Center, which helps achieve the desired goals and enhances the private sector's contribution to the national economy.



KIB Mubader signs agreement with National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development.

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.

Kuwait extends voluntary oil production cuts until Nov '24

OPEC+ compliance issues fuel price volatility

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: On September 5, 2023, Kuwait, alongside seven other member countries, agreed to extend an additional voluntary production cut of 2.2 million barrels per day until the end of November 2024, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This extension showcased Kuwait's steadfast commitment to OPEC+ production adjustments and underscored the critical role such measures play in maintaining the stability and balance of global oil markets.

As Kuwait pressed forward with its ambitious "New Kuwait 2035" vision, including calculated expansions in its oil fields, there was a sense of optimism surrounding the future of the nation's oil and gas sector.

However, lurking in the background were scenarios that could upend this promising trajectory.

KPMG Economics took a closer look at these potential scenarios in a study titled "Examining and Analyzing the Oil Price Shock." They hypothesized a typical three-month oil price shock beginning in the second quarter of the year. Their findings illuminated several significant factors that could lead to skyrocketing oil prices.

One major concern was the turmoil in the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow but crucial waterway through which about 20 percent of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas supplies flow each year.

With a minimum width of just 34 kilometers between its banks, any disruptions in this chokepoint would dramatically affect oil prices.

According to KPMG's sources in the oil sector, if conflict were to arise here, oil prices could soar from around \$85 per barrel to between \$130 and \$150, igniting heightened tensions in the already volatile Middle East.

Even the United States, with its considerable resources and expertise, might struggle to mitigate the fallout from such an event, particularly as geopolitical concerns further complicated oil supply dynamics.

In addition to geopolitical risks, OPEC+ was grappling with internal compliance issues. Although the or-

Collaboration aims to stabilize oil GCC Oil Undersecretaries meeting in Qatar to enhance collaboration

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: (KUNA) The 18th meeting of Undersecretaries of the GCC Ministries of Oil due in Qatar on Monday aims to boost reciprocal collaboration in the gas and oil field to face global and regional challenges at markets, Kuwait Ministry of Oil said on Saturday.

The meeting targets providing a unified Gulf vision on international arena to promote the region's position as a main source of energy, Sheikh Nimr Fahad Al-Malik Al-Sabah, Undersecretary of the Oil Ministry, told KUNA in a statement.

The gathering comes in preparation for the oil ministerial committee meeting due on October 6 to discuss several key topics on boosting joint

organization had begun implementing its agreement to reduce oil production by 2-3 percent of global demand in 2022, compliance among member states remained uneven.

Saudi Arabia, the de facto leader, welcomed higher oil prices, yet gaps in compliance undermined the intended impact of the production cuts, contributing to ongoing price volatility instead of stability.

Compounding these challenges was the slow adoption of renewable energy sources. A lack of supportive legislation and regulations worldwide hampered efforts to promote environmentally friendly energy alternatives.

As startups sought innovative methods for energy storage and even tech giants explored the construction

action among member states, he added.

He referred to the agenda, which includes discussing and approving some key axes and other topics.

Sheikh Nimr Al-Sabah underlined the importance of effective coordination among GCC member states to face future challenges in the energy sector and unify visions.

Meanwhile, Sheikha Tamadur Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Director of Public Relations and Petroleum Media at the Ministry of Oil, said the meeting comes at a key phase, which witnesses rapid changes in oil markets.

Kuwait has been prioritizing boosting GCC cooperation, she told KUNA in a statement, hoping that the meeting would enhance bonds and work to achieve environmental and economic sustainability in the oil and energy sector.

Gulf collaboration is a main base to promote oil markets' stability, she said, affirming that integration among GCC member states would contribute to strengthening competitive capabilities globally.

Kuwait's delegation led by Sheikh Nimr Al-Sabah includes Sheikha Tamadur Khaled Al-Sabah, Manahel Al-Rashidi, head of planning and international ties department, and others.

of their own nuclear plants, the pressure to secure reliable energy sources grew. However, the increasing energy demands of emerging technologies, particularly generative AI, complicated this landscape further.

The KPMG highlighted that the rising interest rates intended to combat post-pandemic inflation, along with new labor and local content laws in the US, could stifle the expansion of renewable energy initiatives, despite global efforts to encourage adoption.

In conclusion, KPMG Economics argued that any rise in oil prices could be fleeting. A global reaction might follow, with oil-producing nations outside the Middle East ramping up production in response to higher prices.



Sheikh Nimr Al-Sabah



Sheikha Tamadur Al-Sabah

Eurozone composite PMI contracts to 48.9

US Core PCE inflation 'eases' to 2.2%, potential rate cuts ahead

By National Bank of Kuwait

United States US PMI

US business activity remained steady in September, with the S&P Global Composite PMI at 54.4, slightly down from 54.6 in August, indicating continued private sector expansion. However, average prices for goods and services rose at their fastest rate in six months, suggesting potential inflationary pressures. The prices paid by businesses for inputs reached a one-year high of 59.1, while the prices charged by businesses increased to 54.7 from 52.9 in August.

Consumer Confidence

Consumer confidence in the US fell more than expected in September, after the Conference Board reading came in 98.7 versus 105.6 previously, the biggest one-month decline since August 2021. Consumers cited concerns about the labor market as a major source of worry in the survey. Additionally, inflation concerns continued to be a sticking point in the mind of consumers, with the one-year inflation outlook rising to 5.2%. The survey was done prior to the Federal Reserve's decision to cut interest rates by 50 bps last week.

Final GDP

The Bureau of Economic Analysis' third estimate for US second-quarter GDP remained unchanged, confirming 3% annualized growth, significantly higher than the 1.4% growth in the first quarter. While this reading reflects past data, projections indicate steady economic growth continuing into the third quarter. The Atlanta Fed's GDPNow tracker currently forecasts 2.9% annualized growth for Q3, which ends in September.

Unemployment Claims

New applications for US unemployment benefits unexpectedly fell by 4,000 to 218,000 in the week ending September 21, signaling continued low layoffs and easing concerns about the labor market. Economists had expected 225,000 claims. The data coincided with the government's household survey for September's unemployment rate. The jobless rate fell to 4.2% in August, down from 4.3% in July. Despite the rise in unemployment from 3.4% in April 2023, driven by increased immigration and labor supply, fears of rapid labor market deterioration have lessened.

Core PCE

In August, inflation moved closer to the Federal Reserve's target, which could ease the way for future interest rate cuts. The personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index, a key measure of US inflation, rose by 0.1%, bringing the 12-month inflation rate to 2.2%, down from 2.5% in July, the lowest since February 2021. Core PCE, excluding food and energy, also rose 0.1%, with a year-over-year increase of 2.7%. Although inflation showed progress, personal spending and income grew less than expected, with both rising by 0.2%. Last week, the Fed lowered its benchmark interest rate and shifted focus from inflation to supporting the labor market, hinting at further rate cuts this year and in 2025, though markets anticipate a more aggressive approach.

The US Dollar index closed the week at 100.42.

Europe & Switzerland Eurozone PMI

Eurozone business activity unexpectedly contracted in September, with the services sector stagnating and manufacturing's decline worsening. Germany's economic downturn deepened, and France returned to contraction after a temporary boost from the August Olympics. The HCOB's preliminary composite PMI for the eurozone dropped to 48.9, below the 50 threshold that indicates growth, signaling contraction for the first time since February. This was worse than the Reuters poll's prediction of a modest decline to 50.5. Demand fell at its fastest rate in eight months, with new business and services PMIs falling below expectations. Manufacturing continued its decline, with the output index dropping to 44.5.

The EUR/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.1163.

SNB Policy Rate

The Swiss National Bank (SNB) reduced its interest rate by 25 basis points to 1.00%, following similar moves by the European Central Bank and U.S. Federal Reserve. This marks the SNB's third rate cut this year, enabled by sharply cooling

inflation in Switzerland, which fell to 1.1% in August and has remained within the bank's 0-2% target range for 15 months. Outgoing SNB Chairman Thomas Jordan signaled that further rate cuts may be necessary to maintain price stability. The SNB also lowered its inflation forecasts for 2025 and 2026, predicting a 0.6% rise in Q2 2027.

The USD/CHF currency pair closed the week at 0.8405.

United Kingdom UK PMI

British businesses experienced slower growth in September, with some firms expressing concerns about potential higher taxes, according to a survey. The UK S&P Global Composite PMI dropped to 52.9 from 53.8, below forecasts but still above the 50 level that indicates growth. Economists viewed the data as signaling a return to more sustainable growth after a post-recession rebound earlier in the year, contrasting with weaker performance in the euro zone. The Bank of England is waiting for clearer signs on inflation before considering further interest rate cuts, following a reduction in August.

The GBP/USD currency pair closed the week at 1.3373.

Asia Pacific Australia Cash Rate

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) kept its cash rate at 4.35% in its September meeting, marking the seventh consecutive hold, in line with market expectations. The RBA acknowledged that inflation, especially the trimmed mean measure, remains high and may not return to the 2-3% target until 2026. The board emphasized vigilance regarding inflation risks but maintained a data-driven approach. They noted that the current monetary policy stance would remain restrictive for some time. While household consumption is expected to improve in the second half of 2024, the recovery may be slower, potentially leading to subdued economic growth and a weakening labor market.

Australia CPI

Over in Australia, in the 12 months to August, the monthly CPI indicator increased by 2.7%, a decline from the 3.5% rise in July. The key price increases were in Housing (+2.6%), Food and non-alcoholic beverages (+3.4%), and Alcohol and tobacco (+6.6%), while Transport saw a decrease (-1.1%). Excluding volatile items like fuel, fruit, vegetables, and holiday travel, inflation rose by 3.0% in August, down from 3.7% in July. The Trimmed mean inflation, which excludes large, irregular price changes, was 3.4% in August, down from 3.8% in July. The reading comes after the RBA's decision to hold interest rates steady again, citing elevated inflation as a concern.

The AUD/USD currency pair closed the week at 0.6902.

PBOC Easing Measures

On Tuesday, the People's Bank of China announced extensive monetary stimulus and property market support measures aimed at revitalizing the economy, which is facing significant deflationary pressures and risks missing the 5% growth target for 2024. Key measures include a 50-basis point reduction in reserve requirement ratios in the near future, which would release approximately 1 trillion yuan (\$142 billion) for lending, and a cut in the seven-day reverse repo rate to 1.5% from 1.7%. Additionally, the support package reduced the minimum downpayment for second homes from 25% to 15%. Despite these efforts, many analysts indicate that further fiscal stimulus is necessary to bolster real economic activity and restore consumer confidence.

The USD/CNY currency pair closed the week at 7.0110.

Tokyo Core CPI

In September, core inflation in Tokyo matched the Bank of Japan's (BOJ) 2% target, signaling progress toward potential interest rate hikes. The Tokyo core consumer price index (CPI), excluding fresh food costs, rose 2.0% year-over-year, down from 2.4% in August due to government subsidies for utility bills. This data is seen as an indicator of national inflation trends. Service prices also grew, reflecting rising labor costs. BOJ Governor Kazuo Ueda indicated the bank may continue raising rates if inflation stabilizes at 2% but will monitor global economic uncertainties given Japan's fragile recovery.

The USD/JPY currency pair closed the week at 142.19.

Kuwait Kuwaiti Dinar

USD/KWD closed last week at 0.30500.

Main market index drops 39.21 points to 6,232.65

Boursa Kuwait index slips amid heavy trading

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29, (KUNA): The Boursa Kuwait closed on Sunday with a decline, as the general index fell by 45.40 points, or 0.63%, settling at 7,151.67 points. Trading volume reached 457.6 million shares through 19,668 cash transactions, valued at KD 60.9 million (USD 185.7 million).

The main market index dropped 39.21 points, or 0.63%, closing at 6,232.65 points, with 384.2 million shares traded through 14,452 cash transactions, amounting to KD 38.2 million (USD 116.5 million).

Similarly, the premier market index decreased by 49.23 points, or 0.63%, to close at 7,740.61 points, with 73.4

million shares exchanged through 5,216 transactions, worth KD 22.7 million (USD 69.2 million).

The Main 50 index also saw a drop of 52.62 points, or 0.86%, to settle at 6,073.66 points, with 304.2 million shares traded through 9,699 cash transactions, amounting to KD 29 million (about USD 88.4 million).

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1161	1.1082	1.1213	1.1163	1.1080	1.1240	1.1204
GBP	1.3316	1.3245	1.3434	1.3373	1.3250	1.3500	1.3360
JPY	143.93	142.05	146.49	142.19	140.10	143.30	140.40
CHF	0.8500	0.8400	0.8518	0.8405	0.8250	0.8500	0.8320

Association also held the Annual General Meeting for its Kuwait chapter

Boursa Kuwait, MEIRA hold seminar on digital innovation and its impact on investor relations

KUWAIT CITY, Sep 29: In collaboration with the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) and its Kuwait chapter, Boursa Kuwait organized an interactive seminar on digital innovation and its impact on the investor relations function at its premises on Sunday, September 29, 2024, as part of its efforts to enhance the field of IR and its practices as well as improve the transparency of communications with prospective and current local and international investors and other stakeholders.

The event kicked off with a session on digital innovation from Smart Media: The Annual Report Company's Chief Operating Officer Ms. Malshini Silva, which provided insights into the latest advancements in crafting annual reports, sustainability reports and other forms of corporate reporting, shedding light on how to turn these traditional reports into advanced interactive solutions. Ms. Silva also highlighted the importance of digital innovation to IR professionals and practitioners, as it has become essential for communications with stakeholders, improving transparency and creating long-term value for companies. Ms. Silva also added that adopting cutting-edge digital tools and strategies empowers IR teams to deliver timely, relevant, and personalized information, fostering deeper connections with investors and analysts.

Ms. Silva was followed by Mr. Andrey Kozhevnikov, the Chief Executive Officer of Fanda, who presided over an informative panel on digital interaction with stakeholders, looking at the variety of ways IR professionals can build a comprehensive communications system that includes a website,



MEIRA Kuwait chapter.

webcasts, CRM, mailing lists, online reports, and surveys, to achieve meaningful engagement with stakeholders.

The seminar concluded with Mr. Faisal Kanth, Managing Partner at Fairview Partners, who led an interactive workshop on quantifying IR impact across an organization, exploring the measurable value Investor Relations can bring to various parts of a company. Mr. Kanth shed light on the importance of developing robust metrics that measure the impact of the IR function on key performance indicators like investor sentiment, capital access, and overall corporate reputation, which enable companies to make data-driven decisions, allocate resources effectively,

and demonstrate the department's strategic value to the business.

Partnership with MEIRA

The strategic partnership with the Middle East Investor Relations Association and its Kuwait chapter stems from Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy and is an example of the Kuwaiti stock exchange's ongoing efforts to increase financial literacy and awareness among the Kuwaiti capital market's various participants.

Commenting on the partnership, Boursa Kuwait's Director of Investor Relations Mr. Fahad Al-Besher said, "Digital innovation is reshaping Investor Relations, making it easier for companies to communicate, im-

prove transparency, and connect with a larger audience. With advanced platforms and applications, companies can share financial reports, regulatory updates, and key information smoothly, keeping shareholders and potential investors informed in real time. As technology advances, IR strategies are becoming more personalized, data-driven, and scalable."

Al-Besher added, "Boursa Kuwait is dedicated to promoting Investor Relations and maintaining international standards in corporate governance. Our aim is to strengthen the reputation, efficiency, and appeal of the Kuwaiti capital market. I would like to thank the Middle East Investor Relations As-

sociation for its strategic partnership over the years, and I look forward to further collaborations in the future."

The Middle East Investor Relations Association's Chief Executive Officer Paolo Casamassima praised the event's focus: "The Middle East Investor Relations Association is dedicated to elevating the Investor Relations profession throughout the region, and events like this one are essential for sharing knowledge and fostering innovation. Digital innovation is a key driver of success, and today's discussions have been instrumental in showcasing how technology can enhance the IR function. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Boursa Kuwait for their generous hospitality and their unwavering dedication to the development of the IR field."

Meanwhile, Mr. Mohammed Abdal, MEIRA Kuwait Chapter Head and Chief Communications Officer at Zain Group emphasized the importance of embracing change: "The future of Investor Relations lies in adopting new digital strategies. As companies evolve, so too must our approach to engaging with investors, and today's sessions have shed light on some of the tools and technologies we need to stay ahead in this dynamic field."

MEIRA Board Member and Deputy General Manager of Investor Relations at Gulf Bank Ms. Dalal Al-Dousaria added, "Digital transformation is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for IR professionals. This event has provided valuable insights into how we can leverage technology to enhance communication and build stronger relationships with our stakeholders. I would like to thank Boursa Kuwait for host-

ing this event and supporting the Middle East Investor Relations Association's initiatives throughout the years."

Boursa Kuwait has launched numerous initiatives to empower and equip companies and investors to seize market opportunities and transform Kuwait into an attractive and prosperous investment destination within a robust capital market ecosystem.

Boursa Kuwait's hosting of this initiative also forms part of the company's efforts to create a lasting meaningful impact on the communities where it operates and is in line with Goal 4 – Quality Education – and Goal 17 – Partnership for the Goals – of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Boursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations, creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow Boursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, in order to achieve longevity and an ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange.

Boursa Kuwait has launched many initiatives in partnership with local and international organizations, focusing on support for nongovernmental organizations and charity programs, financial literacy and capital market awareness, the empowerment of women, and environmental protection.

Dockworkers to strike

US retailers bracing for a potential pain this week

NEW YORK, Sept 29, (AP): With a dockworkers' strike threatening to close ports on the East and Gulf coasts beginning this week, Chris Butler is growing worried.

Butler is CEO of the National Tree Company, and, like many businesses, he is counting on shipments that are en route from Asia but won't reach their ports before an expected strike by longshoremen starting at 12:01 a.m. Eastern time Tuesday.

The company, based in New Jersey, is an importer of artificial Christmas trees and other holiday decorations. If a strike were to last just a few days, there might be time afterward to unload the trees, transport them to warehouses and have them ready for customers this season.

Yet if a strike were to keep ports closed until, say, November, about 150,000 trees might not arrive in time for the peak shopping season, imposing costs on National Tree and other businesses. In a worst-case scenario, those costs, multiplied across industries, could fuel inflation and pressure the U.S. economy.

"Definitely not an ideal situation," Butler said.

National Tree already has stockpiled or delivered most of the roughly 2 million artificial trees it sells each year. But it would lose revenue if 150,000 of the trees got stuck in the pipeline.

Other businesses face the same predicament, with goods that could be stranded at sea if 45,000 members of the International Longshoremen's Association make good on their threat to strike. They could shut down 36 ports from Maine to Texas that handle about half the goods shipped into and out of the United States. (West Coast dockworkers belong to a different union and aren't involved in the strike.)

A prolonged strike would force com-

panies to pay shippers for the delays, and goods could arrive too late for the high point of holiday shopping season. On Friday, top Biden administration officials met with port operators and told them they should negotiate with the union ahead of Tuesday, according to a White House official who insisted on anonymity to discuss an ongoing meeting.

Butler says he's hoping for an agreement or for government intervention to halt a strike. But the U.S. Maritime Alliance, which represents shippers and ports, and the longshoremen's union haven't met since June. And no talks are scheduled.

The union is demanding significantly higher wages and a total ban on the automation of cranes, gates and moving containers in the loading and unloading of freight.

The Toy Association, the nation's leading toy trade group, was among about 200 organizations that asked President Joe Biden in a letter this month to work with both sides to reach an agreement. The National Grain and Feed Association also urged Biden to take action to avert a strike, which would come just as harvest season gets underway.

Their push has put Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, in a sensitive position: Both have courted union support and don't want to be seen as pressuring the longshoremen to reach a settlement. Yet if an extended strike were to cause shortages of consumer goods or fuel high inflation, it could cost Harris votes in the November election.

Under the Taft-Hartley Act, Biden could seek a court order to suspend the strike for an 80-day cooling-off period. Robyn Patterson, a White House spokesperson, said in a statement that the administration has never invoked the act and isn't considering it now.

Average rate on a 30-year mortgage in US slips to 6.08%, lowest level in two years

WASHINGTON, Sept 29, (AP): The average rate on a 30-year mortgage in the U.S. slipped to its lowest level in two years, boosting home shoppers' purchasing power as they navigate a housing market with prices near all-time highs.

The rate dipped to 6.08% from 6.09% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday. A year ago, the rate averaged 7.31%.

The last time the average rate was lower was on September 15, 2022, when it was 6.02%.

Borrowing costs on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, popular with homeowners seeking to refinance their home loan to a lower rate, increased slightly this week. The average rate rose to 5.16% from 5.15% last week. A year ago, it averaged 6.72%, Freddie Mac said.

Mortgage rates are influenced by several factors, including how the bond market reacts to the Federal Reserve's interest rate policy decisions. That can move the trajectory of the 10-

year Treasury yield, which lenders use as a guide to pricing home loans.

The average rate on a 30-year mortgage is down from 7.22% in May, its peak so far this year. Rates have been mostly declining since July in anticipation of last week's move by the Fed to cut its main interest rate for the first time in more than four years.

Fed officials also signaled they expect further cuts this year and in 2025 and 2026. The rate cuts should, over time, lead to lower borrowing costs on mortgages.

"Given the downward trajectory of rates, refinancing activity continues to pick up, creating opportunities for many homeowners to trim their monthly mortgage payment," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist. "Meanwhile, many looking to purchase a home are playing the waiting game to see if rates decrease further as additional economic data is released over the next several weeks."

Australian treasurer welcomes Chinese efforts to stimulate its economy

BEIJING, Sept 29, (AP): Australian Treasurer Jim Chalmers on Friday welcomed Chinese efforts to stimulate its slowing economy, noting that its recent weakness has hurt Australia.

Chalmers was wrapping up a two-day visit to Beijing, the first to China

by an Australian treasurer in seven years, as strained bilateral relations mend.

He told reporters that Australia's economy was slowing because of global economic uncertainty, high interest rates and China's slowdown.

"Those three things are combining to slow our own economy considerably and when steps are taken here to boost economic activity and to boost growth in the Chinese economy, subject to the details that will be released in good time, we see that as a very,

very good development for Australia," Chalmers said.

China is the biggest buyer of Australia's most lucrative exports: iron ore and coal.

"Our resilience and prosperity are closely connected to China's economy

and the global economy," Chalmers wrote in an opinion piece published Friday in The Australian newspaper. He noted that his department forecasts Chinese annual economic growth at below 5% for the next three years, the weakest expansion since the late

1970s.

While in Beijing the two sides held meetings for the Australia-China Strategic Economic Dialogue, reviving the once annual talks aimed at growing trade and investment after a seven-year hiatus.

US economy grew at solid 3 percent rate last quarter

Government comes out with final estimate

WASHINGTON, Sept 29, (AP): The American economy expanded at a healthy 3% annual pace from April through June, boosted by strong consumer spending and business investment, the government said Thursday, leaving its previous estimate unchanged.

The Commerce Department reported that the nation's gross domestic product - the nation's total output of goods and services - picked up sharply in the second quarter from the tepid 1.6% annual rate in the first three months of the year.

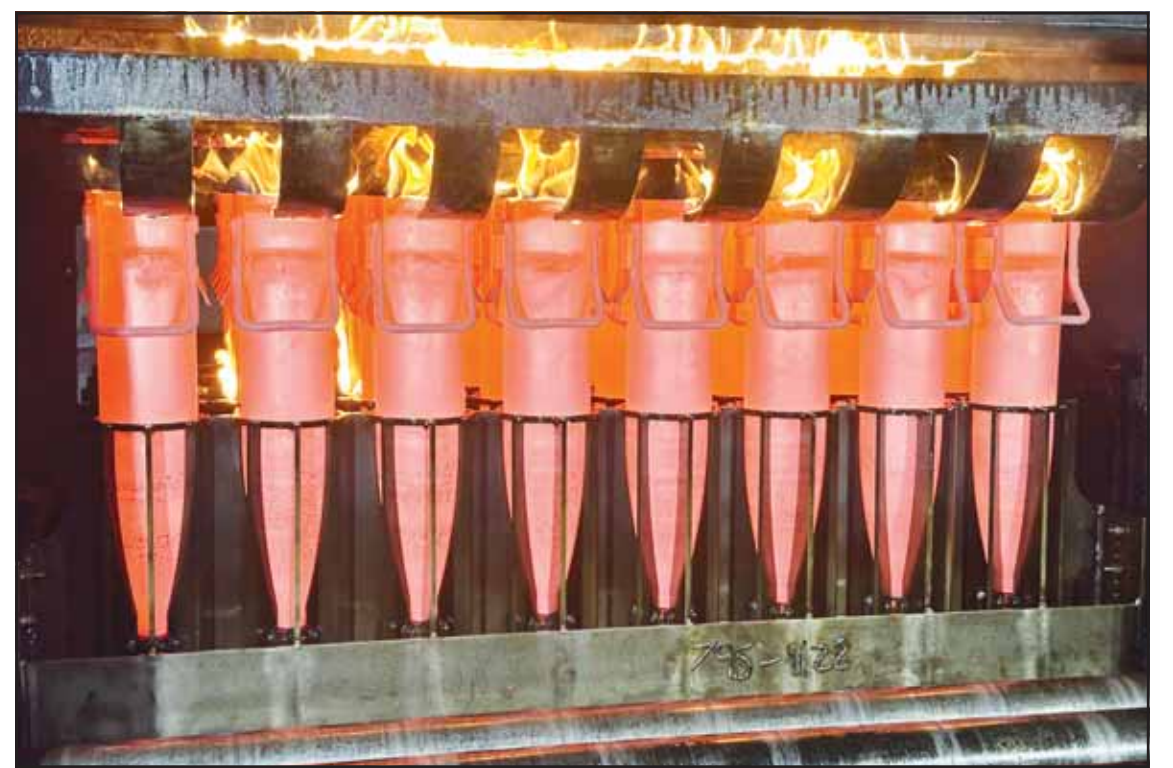
Consumer spending, the primary driver of the economy, grew last quarter at a 2.8% pace, down slightly from the 2.9% rate the government had previously estimated. Business investment was also solid: It increased at a vigorous 8.3% annual pace last quarter, led by a 9.8% rise in investment in equipment.

The third and final GDP estimate for the April-June quarter included figures showing that inflation continues to ease, to just above the Federal Reserve's 2% target. The central bank's favored inflation gauge - the personal consumption expenditures index, or PCE - rose at a 2.5% annual rate last quarter, down from 3.4% in the first quarter of the year. Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core PCE inflation grew at a 2.8% pace, down from 3.7% from January through March.

The U.S. economy, the world's biggest, displayed remarkable resilience in the face of the 11 interest rate hikes the Fed carried out in 2022 and 2023 to fight the worst bout of inflation in four decades. Since peaking at 9.1% in mid-2022, annual inflation as measured by the consumer price index has tumbled to 2.5%.

Despite the surge in borrowing rates, the economy kept growing and employers kept hiring. Still, the job market has shown signs of weakness in recent months. From June through August, America's employers added an average of just 116,000 jobs a month, the lowest three-month average since mid-2020, when the COVID pandemic had paralyzed the economy. The unemployment rate has ticked up from a half-century low 3.4% last year to 4.2%, still relatively low.

Last week, responding to the steady drop in inflation and growing evidence of a more sluggish job market, the Fed cut its benchmark interest rate by an



Howitzer shells are shown in production at the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on August 27, 2024. (AP)

Wildfire impacts regardless

Canada's GDP grew 0.2 pct in July

OTTAWA, Sept 29, (Xinhua): Canada's real gross domestic product (GDP) went up 0.2 percent in July, following essentially no change in June, Statistics Canada said Friday.

Despite negative impacts from wildfires on transportation and warehousing and accommodation services, the services-producing industries grew 0.2 percent in July, driven in large part by increases in the retail trade sector, the public sector and the finance and insurance sector, the national statistical agency said.

According to the agency, wildfires

impacted several industries across the country in July. Wildfires that spread through Jasper National Park and the Rocky Mountains caused suspension of traffic at the end of the month at a rail line passing through the park. This resulted in the halting of rail freight movements of certain commodities to and from key ports in Western Canada.

Additionally, several iron ore mines temporarily shut down their operations in July in response to wildfires burning in regions of Labrador and Northern Quebec, contributing to

a 4.8 percent decline in iron ore mining and coinciding with a decline in iron ore carloadings, the agency said.

Accommodation services declined 2 percent in July, due in part to forest fires occurring at tourist destinations in western Canada during the summer tourist season. Activity in recreational vehicle (RV) parks and recreational camps and rooming and boarding houses was down as the occurrence of forest fires restricted or limited activity at camping grounds due to smoke and outdoor fire bans, said Statistics Canada.

unusually large half-point. The rate cut, the Fed's first in more than four years, reflected its new focus on shoring up the job market now that inflation has largely been tamed.

"The economy is in pretty good shape," Bill Adams, chief economist at Comerica Bank, wrote in a commentary.

"After a big rate cut in September

and considerable further cuts expected by early 2025, interest-rate-sensitive sectors like housing, manufacturing, auto sales, and retailing of other big-ticket consumer goods should pick up over the next year. Lower rates will fuel a recovery of job growth and likely stabilize the unemployment rate around its current level in 2025."

Several barometers of the economy

still look healthy. Americans last month increased their spending at retailers, for example, suggesting that consumers are still able and willing to spend more despite the cumulative impact of three years of excess inflation and high borrowing rates. The nation's industrial production rebounded. The pace of single-family-home construction rose sharply from the pace a year earlier.

Discover flexible financing options and exclusive discounts to enhance your car buying experience

Gulf Bank concludes participation in Auto World Exhibition, offering customers interest-free car purchase opportunity

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: In its commitment to engaging with customers, Gulf Bank concluded its participation in the first edition of the Auto World Exhibition, which took place over six days from September 23 to 28, 2024 at the Kuwait International Fairgrounds.

As always, Gulf Bank remains committed to delivering exceptional banking services and tailored financing solutions across various sectors, including the automotive industry. The bank offers flexible financing options to all customers, both citizens and residents, through car dealerships across Kuwait.

The bank offers interest-free (0%) car loans of up to KD 25,000, with flexible repayment terms of up to five years. Additionally, car dealerships provide exclusive discounts in collaboration with Gulf Bank, offering up to KD 500 off when purchasing a new or certified vehicle from the exclusive dealership.

Gulf Bank offers its services six days a week, from Saturday to Thursday, with morning and evening shifts available at over 40 showrooms for new and certified cars. As an added benefit, the bank provides an exclusive complimentary service for female customers, arranging a luxury limousine with a driver to transport them and their families from home, to the dealership, for a comfortable car collection experience.

Moreover, Gulf Bank is dedicated to delivering exceptional services to all customers, helping them choose the



Photo during the Auto World Exhibition.

showroom that best meets their needs while offering flexible credit terms. The bank's branches located within these

showrooms prioritize customer privacy, streamline transactions, and enhance the overall banking experience, all while

maintaining the highest quality standards in the industry.

The bank prioritizes customer satisfaction and is dedicated to ensuring their comfort. Employees are available at auto showrooms in various locations across Kuwait – including Al-Rai, Shuwaikh, Al-Ahmadi, Fahaeel, Al-Qurain Markets, and Al-Jahra – during both morning and evening shifts.

Gulf Bank strives to simplify banking transactions for its customers and is committed to enhancing service quality to meet their expectations. A dedicated team of Gulf Bank employees is available at the showrooms to assist with customer needs and answer inquiries, both through the Gulf Bank website and app, as well as at any branch across Kuwait.

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

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

Jeel card offers unique banking experience

Weyay Bank 'teams up' Pro Futbol Academy to support young talents

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Weyay Bank, the first digital bank in Kuwait and the pioneer in providing the best digital experience to kids and parents, is excited to announce its sponsorship of Pro Futbol Academy. This partnership reflects Weyay Bank's commitment to supporting young talents and fostering community engagement through innovative and impactful initiatives.

Pro Futbol Academy, renowned for its dedication to nurturing young football enthusiasts and developing their skills, perfectly aligns with Weyay Bank's mission to inspire and empower the next generation.

"This sponsorship is a significant step for us," said Amal Al-Duwaisan, Head of Weyay Bank. "We're thrilled to be part of this collaboration. We believe that by investing in young athletes and providing them with the resources they need, we are not just supporting their dreams, but also contributing to the vibrant future of our community."

Since the season has officially started, Weyay Bank engaging with Pro Futbol Academy's events throughout the year. This partnership aims to enhance the academy's ability to offer top-notch training and opportunities to its athletes, while also bringing exciting new initiatives to the football community.

"We are incredibly grateful for Weyay Bank's support," said Abdullah Khaja, CEO of Pro Futbol Academy. "Their commitment to our academy underscores their dedication to the next generation and their belief in the power of sports to shape futures. Together, we look forward to creating more opportunities for young football players and making a positive impact on their lives."

Weyay Bank's sponsorship of Pro Futbol Academy is part of its broader strategy to engage with and support the youth of Kuwait, reinforcing its position as a forward-thinking bank that understands and responds to the need and passion of its customers, especially the younger generation who can own their own debit Jeelcard and banking app interface. The Jeel card is created for kids aged 8 to 14 years old under the supervision and control of their parents.

All the information about Weyay Bank and its initiatives for Jeel cardholders are available on www.weyaybank.com or in the Weyay app that can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play Store.

Weyay Bank is Kuwait's first digi-



Amal Al-Duwaisan and Abdullah Khaja during the signing ceremony of the partnership.

tal bank, offering an advanced banking experience tailored to the needs of the youth and kids. With a focus on innovation, accessibility, and customer satisfaction, Weyay Bank is dedicated to providing seamless financial solutions in a digital-first environment.

Pro Futbol Academy is a leading

football training academy in Kuwait that is dedicated to developing young talents and promoting the football sport across Kuwait. The academy organizes comprehensive training sessions as well as camps outside the country and provides mentorship and competitive opportunities for aspiring footballers.



US Embassy hosts Master Class.

Participants learn innovative techniques

US Embassy hosts culinary master class with Chef Adrian Lipscombe

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The US Embassy in Kuwait organized an exclusive culinary master class led by Chef Adrian Lipscombe, a graduate of the James Beard Foundation Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership program and a member of the Beard Foundation/US State Department collaborative American Culinary Corps, says a press release issued by the embassy.

The event took place at the International Centre for Culinary Arts (ICCA-Kuwait) at Arjan Bedaya on September 26, bringing together 12 enthusiastic participants to learn the art of making apple butter biscuits under Chef Lipscombe's expert guidance.

Chef Lipscombe, visiting Kuwait for the first time as part of the US Department of State's Arts Envoy program, expressed her admiration for Kuwait's vibrant food scene and the high caliber of culinary expertise among local chefs.

"I am truly impressed by the diversity and skill of the chefs here in Kuwait," she remarked during the event.

This master class provided participants with the opportunity to gain insight into Chef Lipscombe's innovative techniques and vast experience highlighting the cultural exchange between the United States and Kuwait and fostering a deeper appreciation for the culinary arts.



Charging station



New mobile charging for Mercedes-Benz launched

Al Mulla Automobiles pioneers EV transformation in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Al Mulla Automobiles Co., a member of Al Mulla Group and the sole authorized distributor of Mercedes-Benz vehicles in Kuwait, is advancing EV transformation with an innovative approach to EV support. By deploying 24/7 Emergency Mobile Charging Ve-hicles and establishing an extensive network of 44 AC and 2 DC chargers, Al Mulla Automobiles ensures seamless and reliable charging solutions for Mercedes-Benz EV customers, reinforcing its unwavering commitment to sustainable mobility.

The charging infrastructure includes 44 AC chargers and 2 DC chargers, all powered by Siemens Sicharge D 160KW technology, strategically positioned at all Al Mulla Automobiles locations and key spots across Kuwait, including Arraya Center, NBK Headquarters, Four Seasons Hotel & Creative Design Center, and dedicated stations in the Avenues Parking. These chargers feature user-friendly screens and dual-side supports for a seamless charging experience.

Prioritizing accessibility and convenience, Al Mulla Automobiles ambitious expansion plan for 2024 aims to enhance the availability of charging stations further, with numerous new locations in the pipeline for the coming year.

In addition, Al Mulla Automobiles is excited to announce a new mobile charging service. This service uses Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Vans equipped with Setec 100KW fast chargers, available on demand 24/7 to Mercedes-Benz EV customers anywhere in Kuwait. This initiative demonstrates Al Mulla Automobiles' commitment to providing flexible and comprehensive solutions for EV customers.

The deployment process for the Emergency Mobile Charging Van is streamlined to provide 24/7 assistance to customers facing charging issues. Upon contacting the Mercedes-Benz hotline, the Contact Center will promptly notify the team, who will dispatch the EV Charging Van equipped with a DC Charger to address the customer's concern. Certified Mercedes-Benz technicians will conduct diagnostic checks and utilize specialized tools to assess and resolve issues efficiently.

As one of the first Emergency Mobile Charging facilities in Kuwait, this service sets a new standard for customer-centric EV support and highlights Al Mulla Automobiles Co.'s ongoing efforts to drive sustainable mobility solutions.

Highlighting its commitment to Mercedes-Benz EV owners, Al Mulla Automobiles has assembled a dedicated team from sales to after-sales support staff. This team includes certified, trained members solely focused on ensuring EV customers receive optimal support throughout their journey. This commitment to the electrification of its fleet and establishing a robust charging infrastructure is a reflection of Al Mulla Automobiles commitment to sustainable mobility. Its dedicated EV team is poised to elevate the customer experience, from pre-purchase to after-sales service. Al Mulla Automobiles also provides all Mercedes-Benz EV customers with a complimentary charging station at home, which is installed via its expert technicians at the optimal location within the residence.

Al Mulla Automobiles introduction of this innovative Emergency Mobile Charging service represents a significant milestone in its commitment to supporting EV adoption in Kuwait. With this service, Al Mulla Automobiles Co. aims to provide unmatched convenience and support to its valued customers driving Mercedes-Benz EVs. As one of the first Emergency Mobile Charging services in Kuwait, this service sets a new standard for customer-centric EV support and highlights Al Mulla Automobiles Co.'s ongoing efforts to drive sustainable mobility solutions.

For more information and queries related to the all-electric lineup of vehicles from Mercedes-Benz, please visit Al Mulla Automobiles Mercedes-Benz showroom in Al Rai, Mercedes-Benz Boutique in The Avenues, WhatsApp or call the customer center at 1887888, follow the account on Instagram @MercedesBenzKuwait, or visit the website at www.mercedes-benz-mena.com/kuwait/en

Restaurant celebrates over 45 years of culinary excellence

The St. Regis Kuwait welcomes Chef Valerio Stella as Head Chef of Riccardo Restaurant

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The St. Regis Kuwait proudly announces the appointment of Chef Valerio Stella, of Italian origin, as the new Head Chef of the iconic Riccardo Restaurant, marking an exciting new chapter in the restaurant's distinguished culinary journey. Since its founding in 1979, Riccardo has stood as a beacon of Italian fine dining in Kuwait, celebrated for its timeless elegance, unparalleled culinary excellence, and dedication to creating a refined dining experience.

With over 45 years of history, Riccardo has been delighting the most discerning guests, offering a sophisticated experience showcasing the finest Italian cuisine in Kuwait.

Chef Valerio brings with him over 20 years of international culinary expertise, honed in renowned establishments across Italy, Germany, Paris, and the Bahamas, including a two Michelin-starred restaurant. His approach to cuisine is defined by his seamless blend of authenticity and modern innovation, incorporating traditional Italian techniques with contemporary Mediterranean influences. Chef Valerio's menus will celebrate his Italian heri-



Chef Valerio Stella



Chef Simone Murru

tage while introducing fresh Mediterranean flavors and modern techniques, resulting in unique and unforgettable dining experiences.

Chef Valerio's ascent in the world

of fine dining reflects his exceptional skill and dedication to creating luxurious, modern dishes. His culinary creativity has earned him recognition across the globe, establishing him as a

prominent figure in fine dining circles. His innovative yet authentic creations continue to captivate even the most discerning palates.

Commenting on his new role, Chef Valerio said: "It is an honor to join the esteemed team at The St. Regis Kuwait, a hotel with a long and influential history in the hospitality industry. Leading the culinary team at Riccardo, with its luxurious atmosphere and unique heritage, is a tremendous opportunity. Together, we will continue to offer the refined dining experience that has delighted guests since 1979."

Mr. Fahed Abushaar, Cluster Director of The St. Regis Kuwait, Sheraton Kuwait, and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait, expressed his excitement about Chef Valerio's appointment. He praised Chef Valerio's passion and commitment to delivering exceptional dining experiences, emphasizing that under the leadership of Executive Chef Simone Murru, Chef Valerio will work closely with the hotel's esteemed culinary team to uphold the tradition of culinary excellence, blending contemporary flavors with a rich heritage of authenticity.

Maya Rudolph, Dana Carvey open SNL's 50th season

Television

NEW YORK, Sept 29, (AP) — "Saturday Night Live" began its 50th season with a parade of former co-stars, including Maya Rudolph as Vice President Kamala Harris, Andy Samberg as her husband Doug Emhoff and Dana Carvey as President Joe Biden.

"We've got to stay focused," Rudolph-as-Harris said at a mock rally in the show's cold open. "If we win, together, we can end the drama-la and the trauma-la and go relax in our pajama-las."

After bringing out running mate Tim Walz, played by comedian and actor Jim Gaffigan, she invited Samberg-as Emhoff to the stage and then, almost as an afterthought, Biden, played by the oldest of the group, the 69-year-old Carvey.

"A lot of people forget I'm president, including me," said Carvey, best known on the show for playing President George H.W. Bush in the late 1980s.

Rudolph and Carvey jointly delivered the "Live from New York, it's Saturday night" that launched season 50 of the sketch comedy institution.

Rudolph's return to play Harris - she won an Emmy for playing her previously - had been reported, but it was not certain when she would appear. The guest spots from Carvey, Samberg and Gaffigan were all surprises.

"Designing Women" star Jean Smart, fresh off winning her sixth Emmy for her lead role in "Hacks," was host, a role the 73-year-old has somehow never played in a four-decade career.

"I remember watching the first episode of 'SNL' and thinking, 'someday I'm going to host that show,'" Smart said in her opening monologue. "And this is the first Saturday that fit my schedule."

That first episode came on Oct. 11, 1975, with Lorne Michaels at the helm, just as he is now.

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 Akroyd, Jane Curtin, Laraine Newman and Garrett Morris.

There were two musical guests - Billy Preston and Janis Ian - playing two songs apiece, the norm in the early days.

Reflection

The country singer and rapper Jelly Roll had the music role to himself Saturday, singing his songs "Liar" and "Sober." Like Smart, he was a first-timer.

Smart introduced Jelly Roll with her "Hacks" co-star Hannah Einbinder, the daughter of original cast member Newman.

That debut show is documented and reenacted in the newly released Jason Reitman film "Saturday Night," part of a wave of reflection and celebration the show is getting on the cusp of its 50th anniversary.

Despite the showy guest stars on this Saturday night, regular cast members took on the bulk of the show, which quickly settled into its

regular routine.

James Austin Johnson was back playing Donald Trump at his own rally, saying he wanted Biden as an opponent instead of Harris.

"We miss Joe Biden, folks," Johnson's Trump said. "What we wouldn't give to have him stand next to me and be old."

Colin Jost and Michael Che returned for another season of the mock-news "Weekend Update."

"There were so many insane political stories this summer and everyone kept asking, 'Are you are you so bummed you aren't on the air right now?'" Jost said to open the segment. "And I was like, 'I have a feeling there's going to be more that happens when we get back.'"

Rudolph, Carvey, Gaffigan and Samberg joined Smart, Jelly Roll and the cast on stage for the traditional sign-off.

Upcoming episodes are scheduled to feature host Nate Bargatze with musical guest Coldplay, Ariana Grande with Stevie Nicks, Michael Keaton with Billie Eilish and John Mulaney with Chappell Roan.

Those shows will lead up to a three-hour primetime special on Feb. 16 that will serve as the official 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 Jr., Mike Myers, Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and Will Ferrell.

Variety



This image released by Roadside Attractions shows Kate Winslet in a scene from the film 'Lee.' (AP)

Film

'Lee was redefining femininity 80 years ago'

Winslet on bringing Miller's tale to life

LOS ANGELES, Sept 29, (AP) — When Kate Winslet stumbled upon the extraordinary story of Lee Miller she didn't want to let go.

Miller was an American photographer who became a correspondent for British Vogue during World War II, shooting everything from London after the Blitz to the liberation of Dachau. In 1945, David E. Scherman took a rather famous photo of her in Hitler's bathtub in Munich.

Before the war, Miller had already led many lives as a model and so-called "muse" to surrealists like Man-Ray. After, she continued documenting the fallout in Eastern Europe, all the while struggling with alcoholism, PTSD and trauma from sexual assault at a young age.

Winslet didn't just want to play this woman; she wanted to shepherd the story to fruition. It set her on a nearly 10-year journey to bring "Lee" to the big screen. It opens nationwide Friday.

The Oscar-winning actor spoke to The Associated Press about the film, its impact and the toughest day she's ever experienced as an actor. Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Why do you think Lee Miller captured your imagination to this extent?

Winslet: Many people are asking me, understandably, why Lee Miller? Why now? It's evident, not least because of how important her work was, but because of what she represented in terms of what it means to be female. She was redefining femininity already 80 years ago to mean everything that it means to us now: Resilience and compassion and determination and togetherness and empathy and strength. She was not some up-and-coming little hot-shot who was trying to make a name for herself. This was a middle-aged woman who had already lived so much life at the point that she went to Europe. She knew what was at stake. She knew that she was going to put herself in danger. She knew it was a huge risk, but she did it because she felt a compulsion to be that visual voice for the victims of conflict.

AP: Working at The Associated Press so many of my colleagues do that, run towards the danger, towards the conflict to bear witness. Did you feel like you could relate to that, or was it more from a distance?

Winslet: When I go to work, it's never from a distance. The idea of protecting oneself or chilling out at the end of the day with a nice hot bath and a glass of wine, I just haven't learned that. And I don't know that I want to. I don't think that's how I work. I started this process in 2015, I went and sat with (Miller's son) Antony Penrose and (learned about) his time getting to know his mother only after she had passed away. It completely floored me. Not only did he get to know who she truly was and what she had done during the war, but he came to form a different level of understanding about why she had been the way she had been as a mother. As soon as I went to meet Antony, something happened to me. Something that goes beyond acting.

AP: This is the feature directorial debut of cinematographer Ellen Kuras, who you have a long history with going back to "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

Winslet: She might have been the first female cinematographer I'd worked with at that point. But in those days there weren't very many women on sets. There were almost never women in the camera department. Ellen and I were kind of thrown together because we were on a very male-dominated set - happy to be there - but two of very few women. And whilst it was a great adventure, it was a really tough shoot. We always had to do so much in one day and it happened to be a brutal New York winter. We stayed friends and we worked together again on "A Little Chaos" (Winslet suggested her to Alan Rickman). I just thought to myself, why isn't she doing features? It made sense on so many levels. This was somebody who had spent decades of her life being a visual eye, conveying narratives in a very powerful visual way. And that's exactly what Lee Miller did.

It wouldn't have sat well with me if it had been a man. I almost feel like Lee would have been shaking her fists at me from her grave.

AP: People have tried to tell Lee's story before, but her son never felt like they'd got her right until you came along. This film does not shy away from all of the facets of Lee Miller: Her drive, her demons and her trauma.

Winslet: We made the film because I wanted for people to discover Lee Miller as this Lee Miller, the real Lee Miller on her terms in her most defining decade, not as the ex-lover and former muse of Man-Ray, these sort of reductive, sexist terms.

Her injustice streak was so powerful in her. And because she never told anyone what happened to her as a child, it drove her and it gave her a way of seeing the world. Women who were the survivors of sexual abuse who I spoke to in my preparation process, the two things they said in common was that they'd never told and that it gave them the ability to see evil at a mile. Lee had that. She had this somewhat innate capacity to tolerate hell.

In the scene when she reveals to (Vogue editor) Audrey (Withers) what happened to her when she was 7, Andrea (Riseborough, who plays Withers) and I said at the end of that filming day that it was arguably the toughest day of filming that we'd ever done in our lives as actors ever. Just that one day. It sounds a bit extreme. I sort of shy away from talking about an actor's process because at the end of the day, it's not rocket science. We're not curing cancer. We're not on the front line ourselves. But sometimes you do find yourself going there to the extent that you feel a little bit possessed. And it can be a bit frightening.

What has taken my breath away is how women, complete strangers, come up to me and grab me by the arm and pull me close and say, "That was me. I was told to never tell." That's when filmmaking really can be extraordinary is if, just for a split second, you're able to make an audience member feel held or seen.

Features

ARABIC TIMES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

DALLAS: Newly emerged film footage of President John F. Kennedy's motorcade speeding down a Dallas freeway toward a hospital after he was fatally wounded sold at auction Saturday for \$137,500.

The 8 mm color home film was offered up by RR Auction in Boston. The auction house said the buyer wishes to remain anonymous.

The film has been with the family of the man who took it, Dale Carpenter Sr., since he recorded it on Nov. 22, 1963. It begins as Carpenter just misses the limousine carrying the president and first lady Jacqueline Kennedy but capturing other vehicles in the motorcade as it traveled down Lemmon Avenue toward downtown. The film then picks up after Kennedy has been shot, with Carpenter rolling as the motorcade roars down Interstate 35.

The shots had fired as the motorcade passed through Dealey Plaza in front of the Texas School Book Depository, where it was later found that assassin Lee Harvey Oswald had positioned himself from a sniper's perch on the sixth floor. The assassination itself was famously captured on film by Abraham Zapruder.

Carpenter's footage from 1-35, which lasts about 10 seconds, shows Secret Service Agent Clint Hill - who famously jumped onto the back of the limousine as the shots rang out - hovering in a standing position over the president and Jacqueline Kennedy, whose pink suit can be seen. The president was pronounced dead after arriving at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

Bobby Livingston, executive vice president of the auction house, said in a news release that the film "provides a gripping sense of urgency and heartbreak."

Carpenter's grandson, James Gates, said that while it was known in his family that his grandfather had film from that day, it wasn't talked about often. So Gates said that when the film, stored along with other family films in a milk crate, was eventually passed on to him, he wasn't sure exactly what his grandfather, who died in 1991 at age 77, had captured. (AP)

WASHINGTON: The Kennedy

Center and the union representing musicians in the National Symphony Orchestra have come to an agreement on a short-term contract after a brief strike that threatened to derail Saturday's season-opening gala.

The DC Federation of Musicians, local 161-710 of the American Federation of Musicians, went



Kennedy



Noseda

on strike Friday following the Sept. 2 expiration of its collective bargaining agreement, forcing the Kennedy Center to announce the cancellation of its gala. But within hours, the Kennedy Center announced that an 18-month labor agreement had been agreed upon, and Saturday's concert and the rest of the 2024-25 season will proceed

as scheduled.

The short-term contract "will provide all parties time to come together to settle a longer-term agreement that demonstrates our respect for their artistic contributions and maintains the orchestra's competitiveness in the field," the Kennedy Center said in a statement.

The NSO season at the Kennedy Center kicks off Saturday night with music director Gianandrea Noseda conducting a program that includes pianist Yunchan Lim. The previous deal originally was a four-year contract through the 2022-23 season, but was extended by one year during the pandemic. (AP)

People & Places

Music

Jazz and pop blend

Gaga's 'Harlequin' a tribute to 'Joker' role

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 29, (AP) — Lady Gaga knew the recipe to keep her Las Vegas shows electric: start in the studio. Before each residency performance this summer, she and a group of talented musicians clocked hours-long recording sessions, capturing that spark.

The energy from their studio time flowed into Gaga's performance and fueled the creation of her new album "Harlequin," out Friday. The superstar was initially uncertain about the project's direction before embracing the challenge of pushing musical boundaries — much like her fearlessly edgy character in "Joker: Folie à Deux," which opens in theaters Oct. 4.

"Harlequin" is a companion album for the film, in which Gaga stars as Lee, also better known as the unhinged villain Harley Quinn. Her character served as the driving force behind the album, which seamlessly blends jazz, funk, blues and early American music while drawing from vintage and modern pop.

"I had a really deep relationship with the character, and I just had a lot more that I wanted to say," said the Grammy and Oscar winner, who recorded "Harlequin" between Malibu, California, and Las Vegas while finishing her Jazz & Piano residency this summer. She came up with the album idea with her fiancé Michael Polansky, who joined her as the album's other executive producer.

Polansky said they felt confident booking studio time after talking over music, and noticing parallels between Gaga's split-identity movie character and her real life alter ego. He said their mission was to let the creative energy flow with jazz as the foundation of the music.

"It was important to us that the album felt cohesive, not because it fit into one style, but because the energy and personality tied it all together," said Polansky, who called Gaga "brilliant and fearless." "We still wanted to respect the role of genre to help listeners connect with the music, but we didn't want it to hold the team back creatively."

Focused

Before her two-hour-plus Las Vegas set, Gaga and the show's drummers, trumpeters, bassists, and orchestra members hit the studio and recorded for about six hours. It became a ritual that infused the energy of her live shows into the studio.

"I was focused on pushing this sound every day and pushing ourselves to be as daring as possible," said Gaga, who produced on all the tracks alongside Benjamin Rice, who won a Grammy for his work on "A Star is Born" soundtrack with her and Bradley Cooper. The album features reimagined songs like the 1930s "Get Happy" and the Black spiritual "Oh, When the Saints" along with original tracks such as "Happy Mistake" and "Folie à Deux."

"This album was made with grace and a lot of focus and real love and dedication for Harley Quinn," she said. "It's also a deep love and respect for all the musicians and people that were in the studio with us every single day."

"Harlequin" marks Gaga's first jazz-inspired album since the death of her longtime collaborator and close friend Tony Bennett. She frequently reflects on his wise words.

"He always used to say to me, 'If you stick with quality, you'll never go wrong,'" recalled Gaga, who had shared the stage with Bennett and collaborated on two albums: 2014's "Cheek to Cheek" and 2021's "Love For Sale," which both won Grammy for best traditional pop vocal album. She said Bennett, who died at 96 in 2023, would have celebrated someone like herself who was excited to explore new horizons of "what jazz can mean today and what music can be."

"I wanted to make a really high quality album that has sophisticated musicianship," she said. "Tony is the anchor in a lot of ways. No matter how much you may drift from the classic old school approach that these songs can take, as long as there were moments where we returned to the study and discipline of jazz, it kind of anchors the whole record."

Along with her companion album, Gaga said she expects to release a studio album in February. It'll be her first since 2020's "Chromatica," which featured the Grammy-winning song "Rain on Me" with Ariana Grande.

"I'm finished with that record," she said. "It's all a part of each other, although the music is vastly different."

Gaga's happiness with her life has sparked her musical creativity. She was excited to get into the studio and collaborate with people she "loves and respects."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: Bright Eyes' new album is a sound and word collage: confessional yet opaque, intimate yet anthemic — dense and dizzying and dark, yet catchy and engaging.

"Five Dice, All Threes," which released Friday, is the trio's first album of new songs since 2020. Frontman **Conor Oberst's** familiar, distinctive punk-folk tremolo serves as the aural and spiritual anchor.

"I hate the protest singer staring at me in the mirror," he sings on "Hate."

Oberst is good at his job, though, as are his bandmates. **Mike Mogis** and **Nate Walcott** provide inventive accompaniment on instruments ranging from banjo and pedal steel to synthesizer and celeste. Electric guitars drenched in pedal effects are prominent in the lo-fi but intricate sonic patchwork, as is movie dialogue and a dice game.

Oberst had a hand in all the compositions, with help from Walcott and **Alex Levine** of the So So Glos. They draw from punk, power pop and classic rock, with sprinkles of jazz and hip-hop. It's an appropriately expansive setting for discourses on discontent, disillusion and death.

The album is not as relentlessly heavy as that sounds. The first song sports a whistling introduction worthy of Disney, and some of Oberst's observations are similarly playful.

"You shouldn't place bets on the New York Mets," he sings on "Bells and Whistles." Grim contemplations about mortality on "The Time I Have Left" are leavened by an ironic singalong verse that goes, "Sha la la la la la," although a vocal contribution from the National's **Matt Berninger's** baritone ensures the mood doesn't get too bright.

The tunnel at the end of the light is a recurring topic. Cat Power's ethereal backing vocals distinguish "All Threes," which laments the toll of time, as does "Tiny Suicides," which ends with sobbing. On the final song, "Tin Soldier Boy," Walcott's trumpet serenades Oberst's repeated reminder that our days are numbered. Point taken.



Gaga



A model wears a creation as part of the Elie Saab Spring/Summer 2025 collection presented Saturday, Sept. 28, in Paris. (AP)



Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal poses on the green carpet ahead of the 24th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, Sept. 28. (AP)



Tarantino



Roan

Variety

NEW YORK: Chappell Roan, the breakout pop star who has publicly grappled with her rising fame in recent weeks, has dropped out of this weekend's All Things Go music festival.

"I apologize to people who have been waiting to see me in NYC & DC this weekend at All Things Go, but I am unable to perform. Things have gotten overwhelming over the past few weeks and I am really feeling it," Roan posted Friday on Instagram.

She was due to perform at New York's Forest Hills Stadium on Saturday and at the Merrifield Post Pavilion outside Washington on Sunday as part of the festival.

"I feel pressures to prioritize a lot of things right now and I need a few days to prioritize my health. I want to be present when I perform and give the best shows possible," she continued in her statement. "Thank you for understanding."

Representatives for Roan did not immediately respond to The Associated Press' request for comment. In a statement, representatives for All Things Go say they were "heartbroken."

"All Things Go strongly supports artists prioritizing their well-being and we ask our community to rally around Chappell Roan with love and understanding," the statement said. "Let's continue to show the world that music fans support not just the art, but the artists themselves."

Last month, Roan shared a series of TikTok posts describing her relationship to fame and the inappropriate ways in which people interact with her in public. More recently, Roan drew flak for abstaining from endorsing a presidential candidate in the upcoming US election, unlike **Taylor Swift** and **Billie Eilish**, who are supporting Vice President **Kamala Harris**. (AP)

BEIJING: Ballet classic "Swan Lake" performed by the **Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko** Moscow Music Theater has begun its **China** tour as part of the China-Russia Cultural Year celebrations.

The first performance will be staged at the Beijing Poly Theater on Sunday.

The Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Music Theater is one of **Russia's** three major ballet troupes.

The tour, featuring renowned dancers from the troupe and acclaimed Russian conductor **Felix Korobov**, will also visit

Fashion

Hermès defies seasons with luxe hues

Saab unveils vibrant safari looks

PARIS, Sept. 29, (AP) — Nadege Vanhee-Cybulski set Hermès' spring collection ablaze with golden beiges and autumnal hues, defying seasonal conventions. Sensual mesh, leather thin as air, and a touch of utilitarian chic came together in an elegantly modern vision. Hermès proved once again that luxury can be both adventurous and effortlessly refined.

Here are some highlights of Saturday's ready-to-wear collections:

Nadege Vanhee-Cybulski's Hermès collection reimagined spring with a palette of warm golden beiges and earthy autumnal hues, a bold choice that immediately set the collection apart. Gentle geometry shaped the garments — myriad squares and architectural forms that fused seamlessly with Hermès' signature minimalism. This interplay was reinforced by the striking wooden backdrop, enhancing the atmosphere of sophisticated restraint.

Vanhee-Cybulski leaned into a refined sensuality with sheer mesh trousers that transformed at a flick of a zip and featherweight leather jackets that seemed almost ethereal. These pieces paired athletic ease with luxury, demonstrating her skill in blending delicacy with bold, structured shapes. Utilitarian details, like buckled belts and boxy, pocket-laden shirts, underscored the collection's grounding in practicality, even amid its more daring expressions of sensuality.

Throughout, Vanhee-Cybulski captured the lightness that spring calls for: luxurious reinterpretations of Hermès' iconic silk scarves, transformed into breezy shirtdresses and rompers, embodied a carefree spirit ready for sunlit escapes. Warm neutrals dominated, echoing a feeling of being sun-soaked, while her activewear-inspired pieces conveyed a relaxed, summer-ready attitude without compromising on elegance.

The footwear, always a standout for Hermès, carried this ethos further. Sleek riding boots offered a solid founda-

tion to the collection's grounded luxury, while clog sandals brought a playful, modern twist.

Vivienne Westwood's spirit lived on in Paris this season, as Andreas Kronthaler brought a masterful interplay of rebellion, history, and glam rock energy to the runway. The spring collection opened with sparkling pants paired with a silky blue bodice, a nod to the late designer's love of bold, unexpected contrasts—a brilliant start that practically screamed rock 'n' roll chic. Kronthaler clearly hasn't lost his taste for the dramatic, diving headfirst into the kind of fierce, confrontational style that made Westwood an icon.

A giant silver chain, dangling almost absurdly to the model's knees, set the tone: a clear statement of raw, unapologetic power, in course with the punk ethos of the 80s that still courses through this house's veins. And there, of course, were the signature Westwood suits and Grecian-style draped dresses—classic shapes that carried a dynamic energy and timeless rebellion, reminiscent of the archival references that have defined Kronthaler's tenure.

Personal

These silhouettes bore the same sense of timeless radicalism seen in Kronthaler's reinterpretations of Westwood's personal wardrobe last fall, where each garment seemed to transcend fleeting trends.

Clothing checks—a staple of the Westwood lexicon—made their mark, giving the collection an urban, gritty edge that felt distinctly true to the house's rebellious spirit.

Whimsy had its moment in the shape of a giant tulle headpiece, soaring high and embodying an '80s bridal punk vision—a dizzying height of contradiction that no one but Westwood's house could make look so irreverently sophisticated. This playful chaos echoed past seasons, where Kronthaler has embraced an eclectic mishmash

of themes—from historical doublets to modern macramé cloaks. This time, however, there was a sense of restraint. It was a more controlled affair, one that saw Kronthaler tightening his narrative, perhaps reflecting a shift toward emotional homage rather than spectacle alone.

Elie Saab unveiled his spring collection on Saturday at the Palais de Tokyo, and let me tell you, any expectations of colonial nostalgia were swiftly blown away, just like the hazy mist of the past. Instead, what we got was a mesmerizing journey through the African savannah that felt fresh, vibrant, and completely devoid of tired clichés. This was no ordinary safari chic—Saab took the concept and injected it with his signature luxury, letting it roar in all the right ways while keeping the camp firmly in check.

Right from the start, Saab showed he wasn't afraid to play with the safari staples—but with a twist. Safari suits, reimagined as roomy linen separates and sleek crepe jumpsuits, traded their usual khaki for the blazing red of fireball lilies, moody elephant gray, and the ochre dust of West Africa. It was a palette that brought the raw, natural beauty of the continent to life without falling into the predictable tropes. These looks weren't the romanticized garb of the intrepid explorer; they were effortlessly chic, perfectly fitted for today's cosmopolitan adventurer.

Then came the raffia—oh, the raffia! Saab worked magic with this plant fiber, weaving it into low-slung skirts and minidresses with faint bubble hems that felt light and breezy, yet utterly luxurious. It also made an appearance as fern embroideries on floor-grazing tulle gowns, adding texture and depth that felt delightfully organic. It was these delicate, thoughtful touches that took this collection beyond just a thematic exercise and elevated it to something exquisite.

Shanghai and Shenzhen. (Xinhua)

LOS ANGELES: On a hot summer evening, **Miles Villalon** lined up outside the New Beverly Cinema, hours before showtime.

The 36-year-old already had tickets to the Watergate-themed double feature of 1976's "All the President's Men" and 1999's "Dick." But Villalon braved **Los Angeles'** infamous rush-hour traffic to snag front-row seats at **Quentin Tarantino's** historic theater.

This level of dedication is routine for the Starbucks barista and aspiring filmmaker,

who typically sees up to six movies a week in theaters, and almost exclusively in independently owned theaters in and around Los Angeles.

Streaming — and a pandemic — have radically transformed cinema consumption, but Villalon is part of a growing number of mostly younger people contributing to a renaissance of LA's independent theater scene. The city's enduring, if diminished, role as a hub of the film industry still shapes its residents and their entertainment preferences, often with renewed appreciation after the pandemic.

Part of what makes the city unique is its

abundance of historic theaters, salvaged amid looming closures or resurrected in recent years by those with ties to the film industry. Experts see a pattern of success for a certain kind of theater experience in Los Angeles. **Kate Markham**, the managing director at Art House Convergence, a coalition of independent cinema exhibitors, said a key factor is the people who run these theaters. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Former Ohio Supreme Court Justice **Herb Brown** celebrated his 93rd birthday on Friday with the release of his latest book — and a plug for democracy. As he promoted "Darkness Lies in Wait," Brown said he had fall elections on his mind.

"I would never tell anyone how to vote," he said in a statement, "but I encourage voters to rely on good sources of information."

Brown said his six years on the bench, from 1987 to 1992, taught him the importance of fair courts, and he hopes voters engage as three races that will determine partisan control of the Ohio Supreme Court are decided this November.

"Darkness Lies in Wait," Brown's third novel, is a psychological thriller inspired by a death penalty case the high court heard in 1990, for which Brown wrote the majority opinion. It involved **David Brewer**, a Middletown man with no criminal record and a gentle and friendly demeanor who was executed in 2003 for brutally murdering a good friend's wife.

Brown has written seven plays — including "You're My Boy," which is set to be staged next year in the Columbus suburb of **Dublin**. "Writing keeps me going," he said. "But who knows for how long." (AP)



This image released by NBC shows Jean Smart during promos for 'Saturday Night Live' on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at Studio 8H in New York. (AP)

Heart disease is the world's number one killer

WHF urges global action: Call for cardiovascular action plans

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The World Heart Federation (WHF) is launching a global petition today, urging all countries to implement a 'National Cardiovascular Action Plan' to combat heart disease, the world's number one killer. Improving cardiovascular health requires strategies tailored to the national, regional, and local contexts, and must take the socioeconomic environment and healthcare systems into account, they argue. So far, most countries with standalone National CVD Action Plans or Strategies in place are located in Europe and the Western Pacific Region.

For over two decades, WHF has been leading the World Heart Day movement, celebrated every year on 29 September—raising awareness about CVD and calling for better healthcare policies and increased funding for heart health research.

Jean-Luc Eiselé, Chief Executive of the World Heart Federation, stated: "Cardiovascular disease claims more lives than all forms of cancer and chronic lower respiratory disease combined, yet efforts to combat CVD at a national level fall short in nearly every part of the world. We have the knowl-



Dr. Rajesh Rajan



Dr. Mohammed Al Jarallah



Jean-Luc Eiselé



Dr. Raja Dashti

edge and tools to improve cardiovascular health outcomes and provide everyone with access to appropriate care. This year, WHF aims to gather over a million signatures for its petition, intending to convey a compelling message to political leaders in anticipation of the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases in 2025."

Dr. Mohammed Al Jarallah, Chief Medical Officer and Head of the Department of Cardiology at Amiri Hospital, echoed this sentiment, highlighting the urgent need for countries lacking action plans to develop tailored strategies. He noted that the staggering death toll from heart disease, juxtaposed with the lack of proactive measures, calls for an immediate response and commitment.

Marking this year's World Heart Day with the petition launch, WHF hopes this call to action will inspire a more robust and coordinated response to cardiovascular disease (CVD), which is responsible for more than 20.5 million deaths every year.

Dr. Raja Dashti, Senior Consultant Cardiologist at Amiri Hospital, emphasized that a National Cardiovascular

Action Plan serves as a strategic mechanism to reduce premature mortality from heart disease and stroke. Furthermore, it can significantly mitigate healthcare costs and enhance productivity, potentially saving hundreds of billions of dollars globally. Currently, 87% of countries have developed National Cancer Action Plans, highlighting the progress that must be made to

improve cardiovascular health.

Dr. Rajesh Rajan, Senior Cardiologist at Amiri Hospital, passionately encouraged global participation in the petition, asserting the necessity of action plans to safeguard communities from the world's foremost health threat. He stated, "Nations must develop tailored plans to protect communities from the world's biggest killer." As many as 80% of deaths from heart attacks and strokes are preventable, but early findings by WHF show that as few as 7% of countries have standalone plans or strategies to address CVD.

WHF's efforts to promote awareness and advocate for better healthcare policies have been ongoing for over two decades, with World Heart Day serving as a pivotal platform for these initiatives. As the global health community responds to this clarion call, the imperative for collaborative action against cardiovascular disease has never been more pronounced.

To lend your voice to this crucial cause, sign the first-ever global petition for heart health here: https://world-heart-federation.org/world-heart-day/petition/

Wilmore and Williams watch the liftoff live

SpaceX launches rescue mission for 2 NASA astronauts stranded at ISS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Sept 29, (AP): SpaceX launched a rescue mission for the two stuck astronauts at the International Space Station on Saturday, sending up a downsized crew to bring them home but not until next year.

The capsule rocketed into orbit to fetch the test pilots whose Boeing spacecraft returned to Earth empty earlier this month because of safety concerns. The switch in rides left it to NASA's Nick Hague and Russia's Alexander Gorbunov to retrieve Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams.

Because NASA rotates space station crews approximately every six months, this newly launched flight with two empty seats reserved for Wilmore and Williams won't return until late February. Officials said there wasn't a way to bring them back earlier on SpaceX without interrupting other scheduled missions.

By the time they return, the pair will have logged more than eight months in space. They expected to be gone just a week when they signed up for Boeing's first astronaut flight that launched in June.

Troubles

NASA ultimately decided that Boeing's Starliner was too risky after a cascade of thruster troubles and helium leaks marred its trip to the orbiting complex. The space agency cut two astronauts from this SpaceX launch to make room on the Dragon capsule's return leg for Wilmore and Williams.

Williams was promoted to commander of the space station, which will soon be back to its normal population of seven. Once Hague and Gorbunov arrive on Sunday, four astronauts living there since March can leave in their own SpaceX capsule. Their homecoming was delayed a month by Starliner's turmoil.

Hague noted before the flight that change is the one constant in human spaceflight. "There's always something that is changing. Maybe this time it's been a



This photo shows the exterior design of China's moon-landing spacesuit during the third Spacesuit Technology Forum in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, Sept. 28. (Xinhua)

China unveils moon-landing spacesuit for the first time

CHONGQING, Sept 29, (Xinhua): The China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) unveiled the exterior design of the country's moon-landing spacesuit for the first time on Saturday, soliciting its name from the public.

Displayed on the third Spacesuit Technology Forum hosted by the China Astronaut Research and Training Center in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, the white moon-landing spacesuit is decorated with red stripes.

The red stripes on its upper limbs are inspired by ribbons from the famous "flying aparas" of Dunhuang art, while those on its lower limbs resemble rocket launch flames.

According to a video released by the CMSA, the spacesuit is made from protective materials that can ef-

fectively shield astronauts from the lunar thermal environment and lunar dust. It is equipped with a multifunctional integrated control panel that is easy to operate, as well as cameras for recording close-up and long-distance scenes.

The spacesuit also features flexible and reliable gloves, a panoramic glare-proof helmet visor, and joints adapted for low-gravity environments. The overall design of the spacesuit is lightweight, suitable for activities on the lunar surface.

Astronauts Zhai Zhigang and Wang Yaping serve as models for the new lunar suit in the video. Clad in the lunar gear, they perform a variety of movements, including walking, squatting, bending over, kneeling on one knee, and climbing a ladder.

emergency six years ago. The Russian rocket failed shortly after liftoff, and the capsule carrying him and a cosmonaut catapulted off the top to safety.

little more visible to the public," he said. Hague was thrust into the commander's job for the rescue mission based on his experience and handling of a launch

emergency six years ago. The Russian rocket failed shortly after liftoff, and the capsule carrying him and a cosmonaut catapulted off the top to safety.

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Powerful diagnostic tool

New AI test aims to identify aggressive prostate cancer

A new era of diagnostics

Global Health Expo focuses on AI's impact in healthcare

EDMONTON, Alberta, Sept 29, (AP): Nanostics Inc., a precision health company developing diagnostic tests with its ClarityDX platform technology, and OncoHelix, a leader in precision diagnostics, have announced their partnership to provide ClarityDX Prostate to healthcare providers and men in the Middle East.

ClarityDX Prostate uses biological data, clinical information, and AI-powered learning models to generate a risk score for aggressive prostate cancer, marking a significant advancement in prostate cancer screening. It provides critical support to men and their healthcare providers in making more informed decisions about whether to proceed with a biopsy following a high prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test result or abnormal digital rectal examination (DRE) result.

OncoHelix provides advanced molecular diagnostics and immune profile testing to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region through OncoHelix-coLAB, a state-of-the-art laboratory within Burjeel Medical City, Abu Dhabi. This facility is a joint venture between OncoHelix and Burjeel Holdings, one of the largest healthcare providers in the Middle East.

Treatment

The OncoHelix-coLAB facility will now also provide Nanostics' ClarityDX Prostate diagnostic tool to men at risk of having aggressive prostate cancer. The addition of this test will further enhance patient diagnostics and treatment outcomes in the region.

"Partnering with OncoHelix, another Alberta-based company, to bring ClarityDX Prostate to men in the Middle East really shows how relevant Alberta-developed technology has become to the world," said Dr. John Lewis, CEO of Nanostics and Bird Dogs Chair of Translational Oncology at the University of Alberta. "ClarityDX Prostate is a powerful diagnostic tool that can help identify men with aggressive prostate cancer early. We want all men to benefit from early detection leading to better outcomes."

"We are thrilled to partner with Nanostics to bring the ClarityDX Pros-

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Sept 29, (AP): The 2024 Global Health Exhibition in Malham, Riyadh (21-23 October) will place a key focus on the integration of novel artificial intelligence (AI) into mainstream healthcare delivery and its power to transform the patient journey from diagnostics to outcomes, the event's organizers have announced.

As part of the Exhibition's Digital Health Forum, one of four parallel event tracks, world-leading experts on applying AI technology will discuss the evolution of disease and illness detection spearheaded by radiology services and showcase new AI models set to become fully integrated into diagnostic practice, both in-person and remotely.

"We are in a transformative era in radiology, where artificial intelligence and now Gen AI is redefining the entire patient experience, from enhancing diagnostic accuracy to improving safety. This paradigm shift in healthcare allows for personalized and more precise treatment options," said Global Health Exhibition panellist Dr. Maha Gmira, Chief Technology Officer of SolutionAI.

"Through advanced deep learning algorithms, AI has shown a remarkable capacity for detecting intricate patterns in complex diseases, leading to more quantitative, data-driven diagnostic approaches. The Global Health Exhibition is an ideal platform to explore how these innovations can be harnessed in healthcare delivery, pushing the boundaries of what is possible in medical diagnostics and patient care with respect to the ethics and regulations of AI in Healthcare."

tate test to the Middle East. This advanced diagnostic tool will empower healthcare providers with better, data-driven insights, enabling earlier detec-

AI is also showing significant potential in reframing clinical decision support systems to enhance decision-making processes for multidisciplinary patient care teams, as well as showing an increasing aptitude for medicines discovery, molecule screening and drug development, bringing increasing degrees of automation that significantly reduces the time required to bring a novel medicine from molecule to market. Global Health Exhibition attendees will have the opportunity to attend over forty-five sessions, panel discussions and case study presentations as part of the Digital Health Forum over the course of the event, each looking at different elements of data, intelligence and AI integration into healthcare systems.

"There is no better place in the world in 2024 for health professionals and stakeholders keen to understand the ongoing AI revolution in healthcare than Global Health Exhibition," said Rachel Sturgess, Group Director, Tahaluf, the event's organizer.

"AI has a multitude of applications across all areas of healthcare and this year's exhibition will cover many of them, from its use in genomics, personalized medicine, value-based healthcare and most importantly improving patient outcomes. Attendees will also meet and interact with dynamic, innovative health businesses focused on AI and data intelligence including the winners of the Exhibition's 2023 startup competition Cerebra AI, GE Healthcare who are expanding into the region, and global health giant Philips."

tion and more targeted treatment for men at risk of aggressive prostate cancer in the region," said Faisal Khan, CEO of OncoHelix.

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Santa Anita race ends in photo finish

Subsanador wins \$1 million California Crown over Baffert-trained duo

ARCADIA, Calif., Sept 29, (AP): Subsanador won the inaugural \$1 million California Crown by a head over two Bob Baffert-trained colts in a photo finish at Santa Anita on Saturday.

Argentine-bred Subsanador ran 1 1/8 miles in 1:48.68. National Treasure was second and Newgate was another nose back in third on a day that featured top-level racing against a backdrop of big-name musicians and elevated food in an effort to boost the sagging sport in California.

"Racing needs these things to succeed," winning trainer Richard Mandella said. "Racing has gotten too everyday and so to make a big day and get excitement going, that's what we need to do. Get people back in here."

The victory landed Mandella and fellow Hall of Famer, jockey Mike Smith, in the winner's circle, where Cher was part of the trophy presentation in front of 21,812.

"It was pretty exciting," Mandella said of meeting the singer and Oscar-winning actor. "Been a big fan all these years."

Earlier, Smith won the \$750,000 California Crown Eddie D Stakes.

Subsanador paid \$14.20 to win as the third choice in the field of six that included three Baffert horses. His other entry, 3-2 favorite Muth, finished last. Baffert has won the California Crown eight times previously, when it known by other names and run at Santa Anita and the old Hollywood Park.

HORSE RACING

"We just got beat," Baffert said. "Muth didn't bring his 'A' game. He just didn't fire. The other two horses ran their hearts out."

Subsanador stalked National Treasure along the inside through both turns and went two-wide into the stretch. Smith went to a left-handed whip at the eighth pole and Subsanador dug in to overtake National Treasure approaching the wire.

"Once we got by Newgate, he thought the race was over and I had to gather myself and get him going

again," Smith said. "He has a tendency to think the race is over. I've got to give Richard Mandella credit. He's got this horse so confident, he think he owns the place."

Subsanador earned an automatic entry to the \$7 million Breeders' Cup Classic at Del Mar in November. Mandella said the colt would likely be pointed toward that race at the two-day world championships near San Diego.

"We've never had him in a tight situation like that. I didn't know how he'd react," Mandella said. "I was very proud that he kept trying. Can't give Mike enough credit for the way he rode him."

The California Crown purse was tripled in value by 1/ST Racing, the parent company of Santa Anita, in an attempt to replicate the Pegasus World Cup held in South Florida in January.

In other races:
■ Cabo Spirit, a 24-1 shot, led all the way in winning the \$750,000 California Crown John Henry Turf Championship by a length. Ridden by Abel Cedillo, he

ran 1 1/4 miles in 2:01.26 and paid \$51.20 to win.

"The plan was always to get to the front and then try to slow down," Cedillo said. "That's exactly what we did." There Goes Harvard was second and Master Piece was another head back in third.

First Peace won by 1 1/2 lengths. He ran 6 1/2 furlongs on the hillside turf course in 1:11.56. Sent off as the 9-5 favorite in the field of 11, First Peace paid \$5.80 to win under Smith. Air Force Red was second and Britain-bred King of Gosford was third. "Mike put a perfect trip on him," trainer Mark Glatt said. "and that's why they call him 'Big Money Mike.'"

It wasn't just about the racing. A popup version of West Hollywood hotspot Delilah was the site of trackside performances by Shabooszy and Lil Yachty, with Los Angeles Dodgers teammates Walker Buehler and Jack Flaherty in the crowd. Chef Evan Funke set up an outpost of his eponymous celebrity haven. Wally's, another Beverly Hills eatery, dished out its special-



Wathnan Racing's Subsanador and jockey Mike Smith (center, white shadow-roll) win the inaugural California Crown Stakes, Grade I \$1,000,000, on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024 at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, Calif. CA barely outfinishing National Treasure and Flavian Prat, right, and Newgate and John Velazquez, left, are seen. (AP)

ties. General admission was \$25 and box seats were as high as \$1,300. The California Crown and two other stakes races were shown nationally on CNBC.

Messi scores as Inter Miami moves closer to No. 1 seed

LAFc clinches spot in postseason

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., Sept 29, (AP): Lionel Messi moved Inter Miami another step closer to the No. 1 seed for the MLS Cup playoffs.

And the MLS single-season points record remains in the club's reach as well.

Messi scored in the 67th minute and Inter Miami pushed its unbeaten streak to eight straight Major League Soccer matches with a 1-1 tie against Charlotte FC. It was Messi's 15th goal in 16 league matches this season.

The tie, combined with Columbus' 2-2 draw with D.C. United on Saturday, left Inter Miami eight points clear of the Crew for the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference. Inter Miami is also seven points up on the LA Galaxy for the No. 1 overall seed in the MLS playoffs.

Inter Miami plays at Columbus on Wednesday, and a win would wrap up the No. 1 seed in the East. Inter Miami (19-4-8) has 65 points with three matches left; Columbus (16-5-9) has 57 points with four matches remaining.

If Inter Miami wins out, it will finish with 74 points - one more than the MLS record of 73 set by New England in 2021.

Denis Bouanga scored in the 73rd minute to propel Los Angeles FC to a

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2-1 victory over FC Cincinnati, clinching his club a spot in the postseason.

Bouanga found the net for the 18th time this season for LAFC (15-8-7), which became the only team in league history to record at least 50 points with postseason appearances in three straight seasons. Bouanga is second in the league to the 21 goals of D.C. United's Christian Benteke. Olivier Giroud notched his first assist in his sixth career appearance.

Ramiro Enrique scored in the 18th minute, Rodrigo Schlegel and Facundo Torres added goals four-minutes apart in the second half for a three-goal lead and Orlando clinched a berth in the MLS playoffs after a 3-1 victory over FC Dallas.

The win for Orlando (13-11-7) also secured a playoff spot for Houston ahead of its game at Seattle.

Enrique, who returned to his starting role, scored on a glancing header at the near post of Rafael Santos's cross early in the first half.

Cedric Teuchert scored a goal and added two assists, Rasmus Alm and Eduard Löwen also scored a goal apiece and St. Louis City beat Sporting



Vancouver Whitecaps' Edier Ocampo, left, and Portland Timbers' Kamal Miller, right, vie for the ball during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Vancouver. (AP)

Kansas City 3-1.

Teuchert blasted a shot from a couple yards outside the area that split a pair of defenders and slipped inside the post, beyond the outstretched hand of diving goalkeeper John Pulskamp to make it 1-0 in the 33rd minute.

Kelvin Yeboah scored a goal in each half, becoming the fourth player in MLS history to score in five of his first six matches, and Minnesota United rolled to a 3-0 victory over the Colorado Rapids.

Minnesota United (13-12-6) grabbed a 1-0 lead in the 16th minute



Inter Miami midfielder Diego Gomez, left, clashes with Charlotte FC defender Adilson Malanda during the second half of an MLS soccer match in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (AP)

on a header from the center of the box by Yeboah with an assist from Robin Lod. Lod's helper was his 15th of the season after totaling 14 assists through his first five seasons.

Paul Rothrock scored an early goal and Stefan Frei made it stand up as the Seattle Sounders held off the Houston Dynamo 1-0 after both teams clinched playoff spots before the beginning of the match.

Seattle (14-9-8) punched its ticket to the playoffs after FC Dallas lost 3-0 to Orlando City earlier in the day and Austin FC tied Real Salt Lake 2-2.

Houston qualified for the postseason after Dallas lost.

Defender Brandon Bye's first goal of the season came late in the second half and Aljaz Ivacic had four saves, leading the New England Revolution to a 1-0 victory over Nashville SC on Saturday night.

Bye took a pass from Luca Langoni in the 86th minute and scored for the 10th time in his seven-year career. It was the second assist for Langoni in seven career appearances.

Ivacic earned his fifth clean sheet of the season for New England (9-17-4). Joe Willis did not have a save in goal for Nashville (8-14-9).

Josef Martinez scored two goals in four minutes, Caden Clark had a goal and an assist, and CF Montreal beat the San Jose Earthquakes 3-0.

Montreal (9-12-10) extended its unbeaten run to four games (3-0-1) amid a playoff chase. Montreal improved to 37 points with three games remaining in the regular season.

Maxi Moralez opened the scoring in the fifth minute, Alonso Martinez added two first-half goals and New York City FC beat the New York Red Bulls 5-1 in the Hudson River Derby to snap a nine-game winless streak.

Brian White scored a goal in the third minute and Yohei Takaoka had four saves Saturday night for the Vancouver in a 1-1 tie with the Portland Timbers as the Whitecaps clinched a berth in the 2024 MLS Cup Playoffs.

IOC president says it's unlikely

Could doping probe strip Salt Lake City of '34 Oly?

PARK CITY, Utah, Sept 29, (AP): In his first visit back to Utah since awarding Salt Lake City the 2034 Winter Games, the International Olympic Committee president sought to ease worries that the city could lose its second Olympics if organizers don't fulfill an agreement to play peacemaker between anti-doping authorities.

Thomas Bach on Saturday downplayed the gravity of a termination clause the IOC inserted into Salt Lake City's host contract in July that threatens to pull the 2034 Games if the U.S. government does not respect "the supreme authority" of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Olympic officials also extracted assurances from Utah politicians and U.S. Olympic leaders that they would urge the federal government to back down from an investigation into a suspected doping cover-up.

Utah bid leaders, already in Paris for the signing ceremony, hastily agreed to the IOC's conditions to avoid delaying the much anticipated announcement.

Bach characterized the contract language Saturday as a demonstration of the IOC's confidence that the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency will fall in line with WADA. He implied that

OLYMPICS

WADA, not the Olympic committee, would be responsible in the unlikely occasion that Salt Lake City loses the Winter Games.

"This clause is the advice to our friends in Salt Lake that a third party could make a decision which could have an impact on our partnership," Bach said.

Tensions have grown between WADA and its American counterpart as the U.S. government has given itself greater authority to crack down on doping schemes at international events that involve American athletes. U.S. officials have used that power to investigate WADA itself after the global regulator declined to penalize nearly two dozen Chinese swimmers who tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

With its contract curveball, the IOC attempted to use its little leverage to ensure that WADA would be the lead authority on doping cases in Olympic sports when the U.S. hosts in 2028 and 2034.

Salt Lake City's eagerness to become a repeat host - and part of a possible permanent rotation of Winter Olympic cities - is a lifeline for the IOC as climate change and high operational costs have reduced the number of cities willing and able to welcome the Winter Games. The Utah capital was the only candidate for 2034 after Olympic officials gave it exclusive negotiating rights last year.

Utah bid leaders should have the upper hand, so why did they agree to the IOC's demands?
Gene Sykes, chairman of the U.S.



International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, center right, talks with Olympic speed skater Andrew Heo as they tour the U.S. Speedskating Speed Factory training center at the Utah Olympic Oval in Kearns, Utah. (AP)

Olympic and Paralympic Committee, said he doesn't view the late change to the host contract as a strong-arm tactic, but rather a "reasonable accommodation" that secured the bid for Utah and brought him to the table as a mediator between agencies.

He expects the end result will be a stronger anti-doping system for all.

"It would have been incredibly disturbing if the Games had not been awarded at that time," Sykes told The Associated Press. "There were 150 people in the Utah delegation who'd traveled to Paris for the single purpose of being there when the Games were awarded. So this allowed that to happen in a way that we still feel very confident does not put Utah at any real risk of losing the Games."

"The IOC absolutely does not want to lose Utah in 2034," he added.

Sykes is involved in an effort to help reduce tensions between WADA and the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, while making sure the U.S. stands firm in its commitment to the world anti-doping system that WADA administers.

The White House's own director of national drug control policy, Rahul Gupta, sits on WADA's executive committee, but the global agency this month has tried to bar Gupta from meetings about the Chinese swimmers case.

For Fraser Bullock, the president and CEO of Salt Lake City's bid committee, any friction between regulators and government officials has not been felt on a local level. His decades-long friendship with Bach and other visiting Olympic leaders was on full display Saturday as he toured them around the Utah Olympic Park in Park City.

"There's no tension - just excitement about the future of the Games and the wonderful venues and people of Utah," Bullock told the AP. "We are 100%."

Jessica Pegula continues late-season charge at China Open

BEIJING, Sept 29, (AP): Third-ranked Jessica Pegula responded to losing a marathon first set to rally for a 6-7 (9), 6-1, 6-2 win over Veronika Kudermetova in the third round of the China Open on Sunday.

Pegula has won 17 of her last 19 matches, including defending her title in Toronto and making finals at Cincinnati and the U.S. Open, where her only defeats have come to Aryna Sabalenka, the top-seeded player in Beijing.

The American made three service breaks in the first set, but also lost three of her own, with Kudermetova prevailing in a lung-busting 20 point tiebreaker to take the lead.

The loss of the tiebreaker seemed to spur Pegula to life as she found her groundstroke range to break her Russian opponent's serve twice in each set to take the match in just over two-and-a-half hours. It was Pegula's first win against the 39th-ranked Kudermetova in three attempts.

Pegula will play the 15th-seeded Paola Badosa in the fourth round after the Spaniard beat Serbian Rebecca Sramkova 7-5, 7-5.

Poland's Magdalena Frech, seeded

Yingsha reaches last 32 at WTT China Smash

BEIJING, Sept 29, (Xinhua): Top-seeded Chinese paddler Sun Yingsha defeated Natalia Bajor of Poland 11-7, 11-1, 11-8 to cruise into the women's singles last 32, as the main draw of World Table Tennis (WTT) China Smash kicked off on Sunday.

The opening ceremony of WTT China Smash was staged ahead of the match between Sun and Bajor. A famous song "Welcome to Beijing" written for the Beijing

23rd, overcame a disastrous start to rally to a three-set win over 12th-seeded Diana Shnaider 0-6, 6-3, 6-4 and next faces the 59th-ranked wildcard Zhang Shuai, who beat Greet Minnen of Belgium 6-2, 6-3.

The No. 6-ranked Coco Gauff played Katie Boulter of Britain and four-time major winner Naomi Osaka faced Katie Volynets later Sunday.

In the men's draw, local favorite Bu Yunchaokete upset Paris Olympics bronze

2008 Olympic Games brought the atmosphere in the venue to the climax.

The 27-year-old Bajor took an upper hand at the beginning of the first set before Sun adjusted quickly to rally past and seal an 11-7 win. In the following two sets, the Chinese favorite maintained the momentum and clinched the victory in straight sets.

"This is the first time for Beijing to host WTT Smash. I feel pretty good in

the first-round match with the warm support from the crowd. I hope to make progress match after match to further improve my performance," Sun, 23, said after the game.

On Sunday evening, top-ranked Wang Chuqin, world No. 4 Wang Yidi, and Mima Ito of Japan will make their appearances at the tournament held in Beijing's Shougang Park.

to the quarterfinals.

Tomas Machac was the first man through to the semifinals in Tokyo with a 7-6 (2), 6-3 victory over American qualifier Alex Michelsen.

The No.34-ranked Machac had eight aces and broke Michelsen's serve twice as he advanced in 95 minutes.

Machac will play Ugo Humbert in the semifinals against the Frenchman won by walkover against Jack Draper of Britain.



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Al-Qadsiya secures vital victory over Al-Tadamon

Al-Fahaheel dominates Kazma

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: Al-Qadsiya's Montenegrin coach, Zeljko Petrovic, acknowledged that the players are experiencing significant pressure, a fact that was notably evident in the way Libyan forward Mohammed Soula celebrated his second goal against Al-Tadamon during their recent match at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium. This match, part of the sixth round of the Zain Premier League, ended with Al-Qadsiya claiming a 3-1 victory.

With this win, Al-Qadsiya secured its second victory of the league season, bringing both teams to a total of 7 points.

Petrovic emphasized that this victory "came at an important time," providing the team an opportunity to regroup during the break starting today, which he sees as crucial for addressing the team's issues.

He characterized the win over Al-Tadamon as "not easy," especially given the challenges Al-Qadsiya faced in recent matches. Petrovic also called for increased public support in the up-



Al-Qadsiya players celebrate their win over Al-Tadamon.

coming period, noting that the league competition is still in its early stages.

Additionally, he praised the contributions of Al-Qadsiya captain Bader Al-Mutawa, 39, highlighting his importance to the team.

In contrast, Al-Tadamon coach Ja-

mal Al-Qabandi attributed his team's 3-1 loss to a lack of experience in critical moments of the match. Al-Tadamon conceded two goals in stoppage time when the game was poised to end in a draw. With this defeat, Al-Tadamon remains on 7 points in the Premier League, tied with Al-Qadsiya.

Al-Qabandi noted the significant

impact of striker Casimir Ninja's absence due to suspension, asserting that his presence could have changed the dynamics of the match. He stressed the need for the team to move past this loss and prepare more effectively under its new Portuguese coach, Felipe Moreira.

Meanwhile, Al-Fahaheel's Syrian coach, Firas Al-Khatib, expressed his delight over the team's impressive 4-0 victory against Kazma, which took place at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium during the sixth round of the league. This win elevated Al-Fahaheel's total to 10 points, placing them in fourth position.

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Al-Khatib underscored the importance of this victory as a culmination of the players' hard work and expressed hope that such performance levels would continue in the upcoming rounds of the competition.

CL returns missing Mbappé, Rodri, Barella

Injury wave hits European soccer

LONDON, Sept 29, (AP) — Key players will be sidelined when the Champions League resumes Tuesday after a wave of injuries within a week of the new-look competition starting.

Kylian Mbappé's sore hamstring is likely to sideline him beyond Wednesday when he was due to return to France with defending champion Real Madrid to face Lille.

Serious knee injuries mean Manchester City midfielder Rodri is out for the season and Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen will miss at least most of it.

Inter Milan midfielder Nicolò Barella, who was a standout playing against Rodri on Sept. 18, will miss at least one Champions League game because of a thigh strain.

The injuries to four players who were involved at the European Championship into the knockout phase have sharpened the debate about player workload in a calendar made more congested by the bigger Champions League.

The extended program is what influential clubs all-but forced UEFA to create and the 18 games this week, split between Tuesday and Wednesday, still leaves each of them with six more to play through January.

There were two repeats of past finals in the first week of games that relaunched the Champions League in a single-standings format. Man City and Inter drew 0-0 and Liverpool won 3-1 at AC Milan.

The next rematch comes Wednesday when Aston Villa hosts Bayern Munich, a giant of the European Cup era that was shocked 1-0 in the 1982 final.

Villa Park will host a first game in the competition since March 1983 when the English side's title defense was ended by Juventus.

Both eased to winning starts two weeks ago. Villa won 3-0 at Young Boys and Bayern's nine goals against Dinamo Zagreb was a record for any team in the 33-season Champions League era. Harry Kane scored four in Bayern's 9-2 win and has a good record visiting Villa, with five goals there in five Premier League games for Tottenham. He faces a late check on an ankle injury.

Kane's fast start to the season with 10 goals in seven games for Bayern has outpaced even Erling Haaland's 10 in eight games for Man City. Haaland was kept quiet by Inter for the second time in 16 months, a fact he was reminded of in a post-game talk with the Italian champion's center back

Francesco Acerbi, who smiled and held up two fingers.

Haaland should find it easier on Tuesday in Slovakia when Man City faces Slovan Bratislava, which took the second biggest beating in the opening round, 5-1 at Celtic.

The pulsating atmosphere at Celtic Park for a rare European win by the Scottish champion stood out in an opening week where anticipation was not universal.

Pundits including former Man City goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel noted a quietness about the stadium for the Inter game. The attendance was nearly 2,000 higher five days later when Man City met Arsenal in a tempestuous Premier League clash where title ambitions were already in play.

Milan-Liverpool was a heavyweight European fixture yet far from sold out, with fewer than 60,000 at San Siro. The crowd topped 70,000 at each of Milan's first two Serie A home games this season, and 66,000 on the equivalent Champions League opening night last season to see another English club, Newcastle.

Paris Saint-Germain drew at least 46,000 fans for each home game in Ligue 1 this season - and all three Champions League group-stage games last season - yet fewer than



Mbappe

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40,000 were at Parc des Princes to see European debutant Girona two weeks ago.

Sporting Lisbon also had 40,000 fans for a Champions League opener against Lille that was 6,000 down on the crowd for a domestic league game against Porto. The attendance and atmosphere trends will be watched as fans respond to the longer and more expensive program of four Champions League home games. The 36-team standings is set to be more dynamic for the final two rounds in January.

The raucous atmosphere should follow Celtic to Borussia Dortmund whose fans in the Yellow Wall tribune are among the noisiest in Europe.

Bundesliga champion Bayer Leverkusen hosts Milan after making a fast start in a 4-0 rout at Feyenoord. San Siro now reverts to Inter to host Red Star Belgrade.

Arsenal hosts PSG in a meeting of two teams chasing a trophy they never won. Each was a beaten finalist once. Also, Barcelona hosts Young Boys.

Even without Mbappé, Madrid should have too much for Lille playing in the stadium that hosted basketball group-stage games at the Paris Olympics. Premier League leader Liverpool hosts Bologna, and Girona's first European visitor to the Montilivi stadium is Feyenoord.

Springboks blow away Argentina

SA wins Rugby Championship title in style

MBOMBELA, South Africa, Sept 29, (AP) — South Africa won its first Rugby Championship title since 2019 in style by blowing away contender Argentina 48-7.

In a strange quirk, while the Springboks have owned the last two Rugby World Cups, they haven't been able to win the trophy for southern hemisphere supremacy.

Until now. They capped a tournament they led from day one - Aug. 10 - with a handsome last-round victory by seven tries to one that exceeded expectations and celebrated lock Eben Etzebeth becoming outright the most capped Springbok in his 128th test.

South Africa was prevented from clinching the title last weekend in Santiago del Estero, where Argentina ended the Springboks' unbeaten run 29-28. But the world champions needed only a single bonus point to finish the

job when they returned home.

A side of 10 changes and restocked with World Cup winners led by a commanding 27-7 at halftime, weathered an attempted Pumas comeback, and finished with three converted tries in the last 11 minutes.

Argentina buckled under relentless pressure, conceding its first yellow cards in the tournament; three of them,

RUGBY

one of them becoming a red card to replace flanker Pablo Matera.

South Africa made its mood known in the second minute when it waived off a kickable penalty and forced a five-meter lineout. That didn't work, so it forced three straight five-meter scrums. Finally, center Damian de Allende was first receiver, Manie Libbok ran back door and fullback Apehele

Fassi straightened and busted through two defenders to cross.

Libbok, who missed a late penalty last weekend for the win and title, was relieved of goalkicking duty but had a starring role. His distribution, vision and defense were top-notch.

Scrumhalf Jaden Hendrikse, combining with Libbok for the first time, nailed the conversion and the next two goalkicks.

Another penalty kicked to the corner finished with flanker Pieter-Steph du Toit leaping over the ruck NFL-style to score. Trailing 14-0 after 14 minutes, Argentina reminded of its qualities when flyhalf Tomas Albornoz converted his own try.

But after winger Mateo Carreras was sin-binned for recklessly taking out an aerial Fassi, Fassi scored after a du Toit turnover and Jesse Kriel break.

Right on halftime, Libbok and Fassi set up wing Cheslin Kolbe to step one

defender and crash through a second to score and make it 27-7.

In a first half which flew by, the Pumas struggled to hold back the Springboks and took hits. Backs Santiago Chocobares and Rodrigo Isgro - the sevens star - and flanker Juan Martin Gonzalez had already been forced off.

But the Pumas fought back in the new half with more possession. But the Boks defense was too good.

Matera reduced the Pumas to 14 again after his yellow card for a shoulder to the head of Vincent Koch. That turned into a red card. And when they dropped to 13 men when fullback Santiago Carreras was yellow-carded for a deliberate knock-on in the 68th, the Springboks showed no mercy.

Malcolm Marx scored from a line-out maul, du Toit crossed for his second try after a Kurt-Lee Arendse break, and Jesse Kriel scored from a Handre Pollard chip.



Participants in action.

Al-Juma team claims title

First Asiri Carom Tournament concludes

KUWAIT CITY, Sept 29: The first Asiri Carom Tournament recently concluded, featuring 128 players selected from a pool of 580 participants through a draw.

The Al-Juma team, consisting of Mohammed and Farouk Al-Juma, claimed the tournament title and the Qassim Asiri Prize, while the Dabour team, with Abdullah and Saleh Al-Marhoun, secured second place and the Abdul Aziz Asiri Prize. The Al-Sajma team, comprising Mohammed and Shamlan Al-Filkawi, took third place.

Tournament sponsor Ammar Ab-

dul Aziz Asiri emphasized that the event aimed to revive cultural heritage, highlighting the widespread popularity of carom among all age groups. He noted that the tournament showcased high technical skill levels and attracted a large audience, reflecting the community's deep passion for the game.

Asiri also stressed the importance of hosting such competitions to provide productive activities for young people, adding that carom is a traditional game brought from India by earlier generations and passed down through the years.

Best of the Rest

INEOS, Luna Rossa stay tied: Britain's INEOS Britannia and Italy's Luna Rossa Prada Pirelli split race victories Sunday to remain tied in the America's Cup challenger final.

Britannia took the win in the first race of the day before Luna Rossa triumphed in the second, leaving the first-to-seven series even at 2-2.

The first race went to Britannia after Luna Rossa was disqualified for needing to bring outside crew onboard to change a broken mainsail skin batten. Racing was delayed for the second race because of excessively strong winds.

The winner will lift the Louis Vuitton Cup and try to topple defending champion Team Emirates New Zealand for the America's Cup next month.

The final race of the day on Saturday had been stopped after four winds died and neither team could finish within the time limit. (AP)

Tigers secure last-minute win: Tianjin Jinmen Tigers clinched a dramatic last-minute victory over Cangzhou Mighty Lions in the 27th round of the Chinese Super League, while relegation-threatened Meizhou Hakka suffered a third consecutive loss.

Cangzhou took an early lead in the 8th minute, as Liu Xinyu headed home. Tianjin equalized in the 36th minute when Finnish forward Albion Ademi assisted Wang Qiuming to add on the scoresheet.

Cangzhou regained the lead in the 53rd minute as Ayo Obileye volleyed a powerful curled shot into the net. However, the hosts leveled the score again in the 74th minute through Xie Weijun. In

stoppage time, Wang scored a decisive shot in the penalty area to secure a thrilling 3-2 win for Tianjin.

Elsewhere, Chengdu Rongcheng hosted a match against Meizhou Hakka, which were struggling near the bottom of the league standings. While the ball intercepted by Cheng Yuelei, Meizhou's goalkeeper, bounced to the ground, Manuel Palacios sent a shot to establish the lead for Chengdu in the 14th minute. The game was sealed in the 83rd minute when Mutellip Iminqari volleyed from the right wing to make it 2-0. (Xinhua)

Boca manager steps down: Diego Martinez resigned as manager of Boca Juniors on Saturday following the team's 2-0 away loss to Belgrano in Argentina's Primera Division.

The result marked Boca Juniors' third straight league defeat and left them 12th in the 28-team Primera Division standings. 12 points behind leaders Velez Sarsfield.

"Tonight I'm not going to talk to you about the match as I usually do," Martinez said after the match at El Gigante stadium in Cordoba. "I just want to inform you that I have tendered my resignation. I've already told the board, the president and the players of my decision."

Boca recorded 20 wins, 15 draws and 10 losses under Martinez, who took charge of the Buenos Aires giants last December.

The 45-year-old expressed gratitude for the opportunity to manage one of South America's most successful clubs but admitted he was no longer the best man for the job. (Xinhua)



South Africa players celebrate with the trophy after defeating Argentina and winning the rugby championship at Mbombela stadium in Nelspruit, South Africa. (AP)

Liverpool moves to the top of Premier League

Delap double earns draw for Ipswich against Villa

MANCHESTER, England, Sept 29, (Agencies): Aston Villa missed the chance to move level on points with Premier League leader Liverpool after a 2-2 draw at Ipswich on Sunday.

Liam Delap scored twice for newly promoted Ipswich to earn a point at Portman Road.

Villa had led 2-1 at halftime, but Delap's 72nd-minute goal ensured the points were shared.

Villa remained in fifth place and Ipswich is 15th after a fourth-straight draw in the league.

Delap fired Ipswich into a surprise lead in the eighth with a low effort at the near post.

Morgan Rogers leveled the score seven minutes later as Villa capitalized on the Ipswich defense's failure to clear the danger from its own box and drilled past goalkeeper Arjanjan Muric.

Ollie Watkins headed the visitors in



Aston Villa's Diego Carlos (left) and Ipswich Town's Liam Delap battle for the ball during the British Premier League soccer match between Ipswich Town and Aston Villa at Portman Road, Ipswich, England. (AP)

front in the 32nd when rising to meet Leon Bailey's cross from the right for his fourth goal in as many games.

But Villa's hopes of leapfrogging Manchester City, Arsenal and Chelsea were ended by Delap's second from inside the box. Liverpool moved to the top of the Premier League with

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a 2-1 win away to Wolverhampton Wanderers in Saturday's late kickoff.

Ibrahim Konate put Liverpool ahead with a header from a Diogo Jota cross just before halftime, but Rayan Ait-Nouri equalized for Wolves following a mistake by Jota.

The home side's joy was short-lived as just five minutes later Mo Salah scored the winner from the penalty spot after a foul by Nelson



Barcelona's Ferran Torres fights for the ball against Osasuna's Juan Cruz during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Osasuna and Barcelona at El Sadar stadium in Pamplona, Spain. (AP)

Sports

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Barca suffers 1st league loss of season

Sociedad takes first home win

MADRID, Sept 29, (Xinhua): FC Barcelona's winning start to the season ended in an emphatic style as it suffered a 4-2 defeat away to Osasuna.

Barcelona was outplayed and outmuscled for much of the game by the team from Pamplona in a game that showed the limits of Hansi Flick's squad.

Flick rested key players, Lamine Yamal, Inigo Martinez and Raphinha, with youngsters Pau Victor, Gerard Martin and Sergi Domiguez all starting.

Bryan Zaragoza was the architect of Osasuna's first goal, providing a pinpoint cross for Ante Budimir, who headed his side ahead after 18 minutes. The winger then beat the offside trap and shimmied past Inaki Pena in the 28th minute, with Barcelona struggling to get into the game.

A double error from Osasuna goalkeeper Sergio Herrera, who gave the ball away and then slipped to allow Victor's tame shot, got Barca back into things early in the second half, but after Herrera redeemed himself with a fine save to deny Ferran Tor-

SOCCER

res, Osasuna began to take advantage of Barca's high defensive line.

Jesus Areso looked to play in Budimir, who was brought down by Dominguez for the Croatian to make it 3-1 in the penalty spot.

Left back Abel Bretones added a fourth with a powerful shot after winning the ball just outside the Barca area and although Yamal's trademark goal in the last minute of normal time gave Osasuna some nervous moments in the seven minutes of injury time, there was no way back for the league leader.

Orri Oskarsson's first two goals for the club helped Real Sociedad to a 3-0 win at home to Valencia. It was its first home win of the season.

Take Kubo put Real Sociedad ahead after eight minutes, with Oskarsson doubling its lead 10 minutes from time after an assist from Brais Mendez, before assuring the points in injury time.

While Real Sociedad move into mid-table, Valencia remain sunk in the relegation zone after its fifth defeat in eight games.

In other matches, Mauro Arambarri's 42nd minute shot and a 58th minute penalty from Luis Milla gave Getafe its first win of the campaign as they beat Alaves 2-0; Rayo Vallecano and Leganes took a point each in their Madrid derby; Mallorca kicked off the weekend with a 2-1 win away to Valladolid that lifted it into the top-four.

Also

PARIS: Monaco scored eight minutes into stoppage time to beat Montpellier 2-1 and move level on points with leader Paris Saint-Germain atop the French league.

Midfielder Lamine Camara curled the ball in from the edge of the penalty area after receiving a pass from Brel Embolo as unbeaten Monaco moved onto 16 points after six rounds.

Marseille was also unbeaten but needs to win at Strasbourg on Sunday to join the top two.

At Stade Louis II, the home side fell behind to Rabby Nzingoula's early goal after losing the ball in midfield.

United States forward Folarin Balogun latched onto Embolo's reverse pass to equalize in the 32nd minute with his second goal in as many games.

Elsewhere, Jonathan David scored a hat trick as 2021 champion Lille won at Le Havre 3-0.



Kuwait Club players and officials pose for a group photo upon their arrival in Jordan for AFC Champions League 2 match against Irbid.

Kuwait Special Olympics and Marine Sports Club join forces for 2024 sailing competition in Dubai

DUBAI, Sept 29: The Kuwaiti Special Olympics athletes and the Marine Sports Club continue their training in Abu Dhabi, preparing for the 2024 Special Olympics Regional Sailing Competition for the Middle East and North Africa, which will take place from October 2-7 at the Dubai Sailing Club.

Rehab Boursli, National Director of the Kuwaiti Special Olympics, expressed gratitude for the Marine Sports Club's support in training and qualifying the athletes. She acknowledged the participation of the club's players, Abdul Rahman Al-Kandari and Manaf Al-Wahib, as partners with the Special Olympics athletes in the competition. Additionally, Naif Al-Hada, the General Supervisor of the Sailing, Rowing, and Kayaking Committee, has been assigned to oversee the athletes' training.

Boursli commended the Marine Club's management for its commitment to ensuring Kuwait's success in the competition. The club has generously opened its facilities and provided technical and administrative resources to train the athletes in Kuwait, nominating its champions and personnel to participate in both the training camp and the competition.

She extended her thanks to Major General Fahd Al-Fahd, Chairman of the Marine Club's Board of Directors, and Secretary General Khaled Al-Foudari, for their unwavering support of Ambition Club and Special Olympics activities. Their dedication to expanding opportunities for people with disabilities in marine sports and providing them with comprehensive support was deeply appreciated.



Special Olympics delegation.

Kuwait Club 'gears up' for 2nd round of AFC Champs League 2

By Hassan Musa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

AMMAN, Sept 29: The Kuwait Club held its first training session in Amman, the capital of Jordan, as it prepares to face Al-Hussein Irbid in the second round of Group 4 of the AFC Champions League 2 on Wednesday.

Kuwait Club started its campaign with a scoreless draw against Nasaf Qarshi from Uzbekistan, while Al-Hussein Irbid suffered a 1-3 loss to Shabab Al-Ahli from the Emirates.

The Kuwaiti delegation welcomed back Mohammed Daham and Meshari Ghannam, who were previously absent from the team during its playoff match against Al-Ahli of Bahrain in Manama last August.

They also missed the opportunity to join the national team for the World Cup qualifiers against Jordan.

Under the guidance of Montenegrin coach Nebojsa, Kuwait aims to enhance the players' readiness and ensure they are well-prepared for the

SOCCER

upcoming match to secure a positive result and continue their quest for one of the two qualifying spots for the next round.

Nebojsa is counting on the players' high morale following their recent 2-0 victory over Al-Arabi, which has placed them at the top of the Zain Premier League standings with 18 points, three points ahead of Al-Arabi.

Mendis hits unbeaten 182

Sri Lanka crushes New Zealand to clinch historic series victory

GALLE, Sri Lanka, Sept 29, (AP): Sri Lanka stormed to a series victory over New Zealand, securing the two-match test series with a resounding 154-run triumph on the fourth day in Galle on Sunday.

This victory, Sri Lanka's most dominant over the Kiwis, also marks its first win against New Zealand in 15 years.

The hero of the games, left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya, was named Player of the Series after a masterful performance, claiming 18 wickets across the two matches.

CRICKET

Meanwhile, Kamindu Mendis took home Man of the Match honours for his unbeaten 182, anchoring Sri Lanka's colossal total of 602-5 declared.

With this knock, Mendis etched his name in history, joining the great Sir Don Bradman as the third joint-fastest player to reach 1,000 test runs.

Jayasuriya, who took nine wickets in the first test, was at his best again, snaring another nine wickets in the second test as New Zealand's batters struggled to cope with Sri Lanka's spin-heavy attack. Debutant Nishan Peiris was the perfect foil, chipping in with nine wickets of his own, including a five-wicket haul in the second innings.

New Zealand's woes began early, bundled out for a paltry 88 in their first innings. Forced to follow on, the Kiwis showed more fight in their second innings, posting 360 - their

highest total of the tour and in Galle - but it was too little, too late.

Tom Blundell, Glenn Phillips and Mitchell Santner all contributed half-centuries in the second innings, but the tourists needed far more to challenge Sri Lanka's dominance.

Resuming at 199-5, New Zealand lost three wickets before lunch on the fourth day. Despite Sri Lanka's fielding lapses, which saw three catches dropped, they eventually cleaned up after lunch. Jayasuriya removed Ajaz Patel and Peiris took the final scalp of Santner, stumped by Kusal Mendis, sealing the series win for Sri Lanka.

With this victory, Sri Lanka has now won three consecutive test matches and bolstered its hopes of qualifying for the ICC World Test Championship final at Lord's next June.



Sri Lanka's Nishan Peiris acknowledges the crowd after taking six New Zealand wickets during the day four of the second test cricket match between Sri Lanka and New Zealand in Galle, Sri Lanka. (AP)

Ethiopians Mengesha and Ketema win Berlin Marathon

BERLIN, Sept 29, (AP): Ethiopians Milkesa Mengesha and Tigest Ketema won the men's and women's races in the 50th edition of the Berlin Marathon on Sunday.

The 24-year-old Mengesha finished strongly and ran a personal best time of 2 hours, 3 minutes and 17 seconds to finish ahead of Kenyans Cybrian Kotut and Stephen Kiprop in the men's race. Haymanot Alew of Ethiopia was fourth.

Mengesha collapsed after crossing the finish line and wiped away

tears as he was overcome by emotion.

The women's result was clear long before the men's as Ketema dropped her rivals before the half-way mark and finished in 2:16:42 - the third fastest time recorded in Berlin. Compatriots Mestawot Fikir and Bosena Mulate followed in 2:18:48 and 2:19:00, respectively.

Conditions were perfect on a sunny crisp autumn day in the German capital.

A record number of 58,212 runners from 161 nations registered to run on the course where more world records (13) were set than

MARATHON

any other. Another record was not expected this soon after the top stars raced at the Olympics last month.

It was the first Berlin Marathon without either Kenya's Eliud

Kipchoge or Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele since 2014.

Kipchoge still holds the Berlin course record of 2:01:09 from 2022 - then a world record that was only beaten by Kelvin Kiptum with a time of 2:00:35 in the Chicago Marathon in October last year. The 24-year-old Kiptum was killed in a car crash in his native Kenya in February.

Ethiopia's Tigest Assefa set the women's world record of 2:11:53 in the Berlin Marathon last year.