



KUWAIT SLAMS GLOBAL INACTION ON ISRAELI OCCUPATION CRIMES
Retaliation threat puts region on edge

Kuwait flights safe amid turmoil

Oil prices rise on heightened fears

Hezbollah and Israel clash in Lebanon

GENEVA, Oct 2, (Agencies): The Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations and International Organizations in Geneva Ambassador Nasser Al-Hein condemned, Wednesday, the international silence on the crimes committed by a "rogue state in defiance of international law" against the Palestinian people.

Warning that this silence amounts to "complicity" if immediate and effective steps were not taken to stop these violations.

This came in a speech delivered by Ambassador Al-Hein at the 57th Human Rights Council under Item 7 of the agenda dedicated to discussing the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.

Ambassador Al-Hein warned that the continued impunity and disregard for these violations undermine respect for international law and weaken the credibility of international institutions.



Left: Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024. Right: Palestinians mourn for relatives killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip at a hospital morgue in Deir al-Balah, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024. (AP)

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Food drives Kuwait inflation up 2.92 pct

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA): Kuwait's consumer price index (inflation), on an annual basis, grew on annual basis by 2.92 percent last August, according to the Kuwait Central Statistical Bureau (KCSB).

In a statement to KUNA on Wednesday, the bureau said the inflation rate rose 0.97 percent, compared to last July -- on a monthly basis.

It attributed rise of the inflation, on yearly basis, to increase of the rates of the major groups that affect the benchmarks, namely clothes, food and education.

Benchmark of the first group (food and beverages) went up by 5.96 percent in July, compared to the same month in 2023, while price index of the second group (cigarettes and tobacco) inched up by 0.15 percent, yearly.

Consumer price index (CPI) for the clothing group increased by 5.76 percent, housing services by 0.91 percent and furniture by 3.17 percent.

The health index went up by 0.49 percent, in August compared to the corresponding month of the past year, while rates of transports moved up by 2.37 percent on annual basis compared to the same month in 2022.

Communications moved up by 2.37 percent year-on-year, culture and entertainment rose by 2.19 percent and education by 0.96 percent.

Restaurants and hotels climbed on a yearly basis by 2.52 percent, in August, with services and miscellaneous goods rising by 5.25 percent, it said.

The consumer price index (inflation), excluding food and beverages, recorded a hike of 2.35 percent in August -- on annual basis.

CPI is a measurement that examines prices on a monthly or annual basis. Generally, it constitutes a basic index for growth and economic recession.

Gov't launches English 'Sahel' app to boost digital services

Cabinet commends Amir Representative's address at UN session



Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, is seen off at the airport by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Amir Representative heads to Qatar for Asian summit

The Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, headed along with an accompanying delegation to Qatar on Wednesday.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad will head the State of Kuwait's delegation at the third summit of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), scheduled in the Qatari capital, Doha.

He was seen off at the airport by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of the National Guards Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah,

Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereedah Al-Mousherji and other senior state officials.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled is accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya and senior officials from the Crown Prince Diwan. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of State for Communication Affairs Omar Al-Omar announced the launch of the English version of "Sahel" application, as part of the keenness of government on digitalizing and facilitating services.

The announcement was made during the Kuwait Cabinet weekly meeting held at Bayan Palace on Tuesday, under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The move comes to facilitate services on this application to those who do not speak Arabic to help them make their transactions in an easy and efficient way, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Shereedah Al-Mousherji said in a statement after the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet commended the speech delivered by Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York late last month.

During the speech, His Highness the Crown Prince reaffirmed Kuwait's principle of good neighborliness, and keenness on backing Iraq's recovery and helping it restore its status on regional and international levels in a way that meets aspirations of its people, Al-Mousherji noted.

His Highness the Crown Prince called on Iraq to take tangible steps to address all pending issues between Kuwait and Iraq, stressing the importance of the demarcation of maritime boundary at the 162 point with Iraq, in accordance with international laws and charters.

His Highness the Crown Prince also stressed the need of addressing the files of Kuwaiti Prisoners of War and missing persons, and the national archives based on the principle of good neighborliness.

His Highness the Crown Prince also asked Iraq to abide by bilateral agreements related to security and technical aspects of Khor Abdullah issue.

His Highness the Crown Prince referred to the military operations launched by the Israeli occupation against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip and the remaining parts of the occupied Palestinian territories, including the West Bank.

His Highness denounced the collective punishment of Palestinians

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Roadmap for productivity
Kuwait unveils gov't efficiency initiatives

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA): In 1955, Kuwait introduced its first civil service legislation, known as the Employees and Retirement System, which included 13 chapters, the last of which was devoted to the "Employees Affairs Department," which was considered an independent department.

To further this initiative, Kuwait introduced the government's employee cadre the same year, this law set employment conditions for workers in government agencies, including rules for hiring, wage categories, and working hours.

The laws evolved over time, with the employee Affairs Department becoming the Civil Service Bureau, and later renamed to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) under Law No. 67 in 1996, expanding its scope of authority.

Kuwaiti legislation has continuously balanced the implementation of modern systems with the role of government employees in enacting reforms, this modernization was essential for driving sustainable development and increasing productivity in line with Kuwait's new goals.

The importance of revitalizing state institutions has grown, particularly under the directives of His Highness the Amir

Undersecretary of the National Guard, Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai, chaired a meeting on Wednesday with commanders and officers to assess the National Guard's readiness for the 2024/2025 training season and to review the rain plan supporting relevant state agencies.

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Guard preps for training season

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA): Undersecretary of the National Guard, Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Rifai, chaired a meeting on Wednesday with commanders and officers to assess the National Guard's readiness for the 2024/2025 training season and to review the rain plan supporting relevant state agencies.

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Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya telephoned on Tuesday Lebanese counterpart Dr. Abdullah Bou Habib, expressing solidarity and support to the Lebanese people and government.

The Kuwaiti minister expressed support to all measures and action taken by Lebanon to preserve security and stability of the country, in addition to condemning all attacks against Lebanon. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Jarrah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Wednesday received a telephone call from South Korea's First Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Hong-kyun.

The two sides discussed means of boosting bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries within quarters of the international organizations. (KUNA)

RIYADH: The fourth Global Cybersecurity Forum (GCF) 2024 annual meeting began Wednesday in Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, under the theme "Advancing Collective Action in Cyberspace" organized by Saudi's National Cybersecurity Authority.

In his remarks, Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman stated that Saudi Arabia has been working for the benefit of humanity and prosperity around the world, emphasizing the importance of boosting international collaborations, as many initiatives launched to achieve these goals across various sectors. (KUNA)

Primary care vital for Kuwait's health system: Al-Awadhi

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA): Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi emphasized the importance of primary healthcare as the first line of defense for Kuwait's health system. Speaking

to reporters after the inauguration of the Musaed Al-Saleh Health Center in Al-Shaab on Wednesday, he highlighted the ministry's commitment to expanding these services, noting the opening

of several centers across northern and southern regions.

Dr. Al-Awadhi explained that the new facility offers a wide range of services, including six general medicine clinics,

specialized clinics for diabetes, chronic diseases, asthma, osteoporosis, and pediatric care, along with nutrition, health

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Day by Day

WHAT stops the Prime Minister and the ministers from opening their doors to the public just one day a week to hear the grievances of the people? Instead of complaining about rumors, social media, and fake names, they could gain valuable insights by simply listening.

By opening their doors, individuals who are well versed with what is happening around can voice their concerns and the officials can better understand the realities around them.

The key to resolving complaints lies in giving an ear to them. The response could be either 'yes' or 'no', and the issue can end there and then. This will bring peace of mind and ensure that everyone knows their rights. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Attendance issues spark 'verification'

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: In view of repeated errors in the attendance recording devices approved by the Ministry of Education, several school administrations have asked teachers for their attendance records from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) website to compare them with the signature and manual attendance records, say sources from the educational sector.

Sources explained that the devices sometimes fail to record the teachers' attendance, which leads to salary deduction on the basis of unjustified absence despite their presence at the workplace.

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KUNA photo Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi during a tour of the Musaed Al-Saleh Health Center in Al-Shaab on Wednesday.

Local

MPW gears up to cope with forthcoming rains - See Page 2

Business

Bursa sees significant drop - See Page 8

Fashion

Chanel revisits iconic elements in Paris - See Page 12

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:22	Asr	15:01
Sunrise ..	05:41	Maghrib ..	17:33
Zohr	11:38	Isha	18:50

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Hot and relatively humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate northwesterly wind to northeasterly wind, with speeds of 10-35 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

By Night: Rather hot with light

Weather

variable wind to light to moderate northwesterly wind, with speeds of 08-35 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	39	26
Kuwait Airport	39	25

Abdaly	40	24
Bubyan	34	29
Jahra	40	28
Failaka Island	33	27
Salmiyah	33	30
Ahmadi	34	24
Jal Aliyah	41	25
Nuwaisib	41	27



Photo by Rizk Taufiq

Awqaf officials at the launching of the competition.

Media role urged to invite contestants

Awqaf launches 27th Holy Quran memorizing, reciting competition

By **Mohammad Al-Musleh**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Secretariat General of Awqaf has launched the 27th edition of Kuwait Grand Competition for Memorizing and Reciting the Holy Quran under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with the theme, "Khairu Zad" (Best Support).

In a press statement on Tuesday, Secretary General Nasser Al-Hamad explained the theme of the competition was chosen by the permanent committee based on the Quranic verse on the grace of Almighty Allah: "...it is better than what they are accumulating."

He said the number of winners in the competition since its launch reached 4,185 out of 43,686 participants over the years. He confirmed the importance of the media's role in urging citizens of different ages to participate in the competition due to the competitive spiritual environment provided

by the Secretariat General of Awqaf at the Grand Mosque.

He revealed the event consists of several competitions and branches that attract different age groups, such as memorization and recitation of the successive readings and the narration of Hafs from Asim. He added the competition also attracts various segments of society, people with special needs, inmates of correctional institutions and care homes; indicating the prizes vary according to the diversity of winners.

He asserted: The Secretariat General is proud of this great Quranic competition. It is extremely happy with the participants of different ages and levels of memorization undertaken by the Endowment Fund for the Holy Quran and its Sciences -- one of the most prominent charitable funds in the Secretariat due to its association with the care of the Holy Quran.

He clarified that the final qualifying stage will begin on Nov 24, after completing the registration of contestants, while the results will be announced on Dec 18.

MPW gears up to cope with forthcoming rains

Keep sewers clean, don't dump waste: minister

By **Mohammad Ghanem**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan confirmed that she is following up preparations of the concerned entities for the rainy season, as well as the work mechanisms of the ministry and the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) during this season and their alignment with the rest of the relevant authorities,

She affirmed the ministry intends to increase the number of its field teams in various locations during the rainy season, in coordination with the various State agencies, in order to quickly deal with rain pools or floods, if any.

The minister made the statement on Wednesday when she had a meeting with representatives of the government agencies concerned with the rainy season. They reviewed all the steps taken to address problems and deal with emergency cases quickly to ensure that traffic movement is not affected.

She also looked into the efforts exerted by the maintenance teams in the past, including cleaning operations for rainwater drainage openings and preparations for pumping stations.

She discussed the necessary measures to efficiently deal with accidents resulting from rain; while unifying efforts of the concerned government agencies to provide adequate protection, lay down preventive plans, provide support to guarantee the safety of individuals and properties, and prevent accidents.

Meanwhile, the representative of the Meteorology Department in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) did a visual presentation on the weather conditions in the coming period.

Then, Al-Mashaan confirmed the continuation of cleaning works in certain areas in various governorates, which were filled with waste that accumulated



KUNA photo

Minister of Public Works, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, during the meeting with concerned officials from various entities.

during the summer months like cans, water bottles, tree leaves and construction waste, all of which piled up in those areas; thereby, blocking the rain-water drainage.

She urged citizens and expatriates to maintain the cleanliness of these areas, once the cleaning works are completed. She advised them not to throw garbage on the roads, to clean the openings and ensure their operation at the desired efficiency.

Present at the meeting were the scientific geological team and representatives of the concerned authorities -- Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, Civil Defense, National Guard, Kuwait Fire Force, Kuwait Municipality, Meteorology Department at DGCA, Ministry of Electricity and Water, Ministry of Education, Kuwait Oil Company, Kuwait National Petroleum Company, Public Authority for Housing Welfare, Public Authority for Roads and Transportation, and Ministry of Public Works.

Kuwait, Saudi to share expertise in housing, investment projects

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare in Kuwait has expressed its appreciation for the strong and enduring relations between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, highlighting the significance of sharing expertise in housing and investment projects, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This affirmation came after a two-day meeting with a delegation from the Saudi Export Development Authority, during which both parties discussed potential avenues for collaboration and strategic partnerships that could benefit both nations.

The Housing Authority emphasized that the Saudi delegation's visit was part of a promotional tour in Kuwait, themed "One Country."

This initiative aims to promote service exports and facilitate market penetration ef-

orts outside of Saudi Arabia. The visit was designed to attract local investors from both the public and private sectors, particularly in the areas of housing and investment.

Furthermore, the Kuwaiti Housing Authority praised the Saudi Export Development Authority for its dedication to supporting local institutions. They reaffirmed their commitment to facilitating efforts that align with the objectives of the Saudi delegation's visit, aiming to foster stronger bilateral ties and achieve mutual benefits in the housing sector.

This meeting marks a significant step toward enhancing cooperation between the two nations, aiming for a collaborative approach that maximizes their respective resources and expertise in housing development.

Help for stranded Gazans

IICO hands out school bags, food aid to needy families

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA): The International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO), in collaboration with volunteer teams, distributed school bags, stationery, meals, gifts, and food baskets to underprivileged students and families across Kuwait on Wednesday.

Khaled Al-Shuaib, Director of the Volunteer Work Department at IICO, told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that 178 students from low-income families -- covering elementary, middle, and secondary school levels -- benefited from the initiative. This effort was made possible in partnership with the Kaswat Al-Khair volunteer group and the Kuwait Medical Students Association.

Al-Shuaib explained that the campaign aims to alleviate the financial pressures on these families, allowing students to better focus on their education and increasing their chances of academic success. He also emphasized the importance of fostering social solidarity within Kuwaiti society. The distributed school bags included essential supplies such as notebooks, pens, pencils, colored pencils, drawing and engineering tools, calculators, and other useful educational materials.

Additionally, Al-Shuaib announced the launch of the "Good Makers" initiative, a humanitarian effort that provided school bags, stationery, lunches, and gifts to 150 elementary and middle school students. He highlighted the organization's commitment to volunteerism, noting that IICO supports 31 teams comprised of 711 volunteers dedicated to charitable work throughout Kuwait.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Society for Students Support launched on Wednesday an initiative to help around 2,200 students from the Gaza Strip who are stranded abroad and studying in various universities around the world.

The initiative's estimated cost is KD 330,000. It was funded by charitable foundations and donors and approved by Kuwait's Ministry of Affairs.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Secretary of the Society Monia Al-Nouri stressed the society's goals are to support Palestinian students, lessen their burdens, and prevent the Israeli Occupation from depriving them of education.

MoH begins twice per year transfer of staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Ministry of Health, led by Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi, has commenced the biannual employee transfer process in accordance with the ministerial decision, which mandates that the Ministry initiate the transfer of its employees twice a year, specifically in April and October. Transfer requests are to be submitted using the official form provided by the Ministry, reports Al-Anba daily.

The transfer process is governed by specific conditions and controls to ensure that it aligns with the operational needs of the health facilities involved. This includes ensuring that the transfers meet the workforce requirements of both the originating and receiving facilities, while promoting a fair distribution of staff across the Ministry's various sectors.

Additionally, the process requires coordination with the relevant authorities within the Ministry to assess the benefit of the employee's transfer based on their job title, qualifications, and academic credentials, ensuring the move contributes to maintaining high service standards.

KUNA participates in FANA's first annual meeting in UAE

ABU DHABI, Oct 2, (KUNA): The Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) held its first meeting of the year on Wednesday in Abu Dhabi, at the Emirates News Agency (WAM) headquarters, with participation from Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

In his speech at the opening session of the meeting, representative of KUNA Deputy Director General for Administrative and Financial Affairs Mohammad Al-Mannai, expressed KUNA's welcome to hosting FANA's 51st General Assembly Conference. The conference will be held in Kuwait between October 27 and 29, Al-Mannai added that they hope to achieve the desired results in developing the work of the federation and achieving its goals.

The meeting was moderated by the President of FANA and Acting Director of WAM, Dr. Jamal Al-Kaabi, he discussed the items on the agenda, which were read by the Secretary-General of the federation, Farid Ayar.

They discussed the activities of the General Secretariat and the impact of current events in some Arab countries on the activities of media organizations, as well as the preparations for the upcoming 51st conference.



KUNA photo

Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Waleed Al-Bahar, UK Ambassador Belinda Lewis, and Iraqi Ambassador Al-Manhal Al-Safi at the press conference.

KFAED, UK embassy host workshop

Kuwait, Iraq working to mitigate negative impact of sandstorms

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA): Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), Waleed Al-Bahar, highlighted the critical importance of tackling the negative effects of cross-border sandstorms between Kuwait and Iraq, particularly their impact on the environment and public health.

Al-Bahar's comments were made during a workshop on Wednesday, organized by KFAED in collaboration with the British Embassy and with participation from the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat), the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, and Iraq's Ambassador to Kuwait, Al-Manhal Al-Safi. The workshop, titled "Confronting and Mitigating the Effects of Cross-border Sandstorms between Kuwait and Iraq," aimed to enhance efforts to combat the increasing sandstorm activity in the region.

According to Al-Bahar, KFAED is working closely with its partners to raise awareness about best practices for minimizing dust storms. He emphasized the need for technical assistance and collaboration in developing sustainable solutions, such as

early monitoring systems, to tackle the environmental challenges caused by these storms.

Over the past two decades, Kuwait, Iraq, and neighboring Gulf countries have experienced a marked increase in sandstorm frequency. Al-Bahar noted that approximately 40 percent of dust storms in Kuwait originate from southern Iraq, further underscoring the importance of regional cooperation.

Iraqi Ambassador Al-Safi expressed hope that the workshop would lead to effective strategies to combat desertification and the movement of sand dunes, which have had a severe impact on southern Iraq and Kuwait. He stressed that addressing these challenges is crucial for the well-being of the region.

British Ambassador to Kuwait Belinda Lewis praised the collaborative spirit of the workshop, stressing that joint efforts between governments, organizations, and experts are essential in confronting the harmful effects of sand and dust storms. She emphasized the importance of protecting both the environment and public health.

In 2021, KFAED signed a grant agreement with UN-Habitat worth KD 4 million (approximately US \$13 million) to fund the "Adaptation and Resilience Project for Cross-Border Sand and Dust Storms between Iraq and Kuwait." The project aims to reduce the frequency and impact of these storms, benefiting both countries.

Other Voices

The 60s ... and the fat child

By **Ahmad alsarraf**

My daughter recently shared the menu from her school shop, expressing her concern about the types of food available for six-year-olds. Much of it consisted of junk food and fast food, which, while profitable for vendors, is far from healthy.

This troubling trend continues despite clear warnings about the alarming rise in childhood obesity, particularly in affluent countries.

Obesity can lead to serious health complications that are often overlooked, especially in children which include a heightened risk of developing type 2 diabetes, elevated levels of harmful cholesterol, and high blood pressure -- conditions that can have dire long-term consequences.

Additionally, obesity can cause joint pain, breathing difficulties, and other health issues.

The psychological effects of obesity on children are equally concerning. It can lead to sleep disturbances, anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem, particularly when children face bullying due to their weight.

Their excess weight often limits their ability to participate in sports, and they may struggle with selecting or fitting into their clothes.

Many parents have noticed that as soon as the bell rings for recess, children rush to the canteen, often enduring long waits just to grab a slice of pizza or a sugary drink. This distraction takes away from their opportunity to play and engage with their peers -- activities crucial for their physical and mental development.

When it comes to meals at school, children typically rely on what they bring from home, what they buy from the canteen, or what the school kitchen provides.

Each option has its drawbacks.

Bringing food from home can be impractical, purchasing food from the canteen carries significant health risks, and the meals provided by schools are often costly and available in only a few places.

This is a stark contrast to the system in place during the 1950s and 1960s, when schools provided students with everything they needed -- including two pairs of shoes, a complete set of clothes, and nutritious meals prepared in a central kitchen. Back then, every child, regardless of their background, received a meal rich in calories, vitamins, and proteins essential for growth and development.

In an effort to address this issue, I reached out to the relevant undersecretary at the ministry to discuss the situation. He was responsive and informed me that inspectors would be sent to several schools.

He had the potential to make a significant impact, potentially safeguarding the health of thousands of children by issuing a directive to improve the quality of food sold in school shops.

This action could also save the government hundreds of millions of dinars in future healthcare costs associated with treating those same children, who might suffer the consequences of unhealthy eating habits.

However, after two weeks of anticipation, I found that nothing had changed in the school shops. It seemed that greed had overshadowed the well-being of the children, leaving their health at risk.

Nutritionist Maryam Al-Hamad emphasizes that a child's dietary choices in their early years can shape their lifelong preferences. This highlights the critical need to monitor the types of food offered in school canteens and to be mindful of what children eat at home.

While it's important not to completely ban fast food, occasional indulgence is acceptable, as strict prohibitions can lead to an increased desire for those foods.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education must take action by investigating this concerning trend and devising suitable solutions to address the current health risks facing children.

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



alsarraf

LOCAL

Minister confirms his support for Mol employees in order to continue their academic career

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA): First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah affirmed his support for all employees of the ministry to continue their academic journey, which contributes to refining their scientific and practical capabilities and raising the security level in all sectors of the Ministry of Interior.

This came in a press statement issued by the General Department of Security Relations and Media at the Interior after receiving today, Wednesday, Lieutenant Colonel Fatima Mustafa for obtaining a master's degree in cybercrimes and digital forensic investigation with honors from Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (first in the batch), in the presence of Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Affairs Major General Hamed Al-Dawas.

The minister congratulated Lieutenant Colonel Fatima Mustafa on achieving this distinguished academic level and obtaining an excellent rating with honors, urging her to double her efforts to achieve more success and excellence.



KUNA photo
Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef during his reception of Lieutenant Colonel Fatima Mustafa for obtaining a master's degree in cybercrime.

Court of Cassation acquits five PADA employees in KD 5m public fund case

MoC employee's jail, KD 18m fine & dismissal from job upheld

'Ruling family listens'

Sheikh Fahad Yousef's visits reaffirms the national unity

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: In a testament to the deep bond between Kuwait's ruling family and its people, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, embarked on a heartfelt mission to listen to the concerns of citizens in the Jahra region, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

His visits to diwaniyas were not mere formalities but part of a direct royal mandate.

Reflecting on his responsibilities, Sheikh Fahad shared a profound message from His Highness the Amir: 'Fahad, you must go everywhere in Kuwait and find out what the people need. Inform me of their concerns so I can address them.'

The visit was a reminder of the special relationship between the Kuwaiti leadership and its citizens, where the ruler listens to the people's needs directly.

Sheikh Fahad emphasized that anyone facing challenges or grievances should not resort to social media or public forums like 'X'. Instead, they should convey their concerns through him, allowing a private, dignified route to reach the Amir's ears. "This is an order from His Highness," Sheikh Fahad said, reinforcing the Amir's commitment to maintaining a personal and accessible relationship with his people.

During his visits, Sheikh Fahad expressed his gratitude for the peace and stability in Kuwait. "We are living in grace and goodness," he said. "International reports have shown that Kuwait ranks among the safest countries in the world. Today, while people around the globe search for safety we are fortunate to already live in it."

Citizens welcomed the Deputy Prime Minister with open arms. Mishaal Al-Saeed, a prominent local figure, offered his admiration, saying, "Your work is fine... just keep walking, and we will follow you."

The sentiment was echoed widely across social media platforms, where citizens expressed their appreciation for Sheikh Fahad's visits. A hashtag bearing his name quickly gained traction, with many praising the visits as a continuation of Kuwait's longstanding tradition of close communication between rulers and the people.

Sheikh Fahad's visits are more than symbolic; they demonstrate a real commitment to addressing the needs of Kuwait's citizens. With the support of His Highness the Amir, the Crown Prince, and the Prime Minister, Sheikh Fahad reassured the nation: "We live in safety and security. Everything else is secondary."

These visits reaffirm the unity of Kuwait, where leadership and citizens stand together, fostering a future of continued prosperity and peace.



Sheikh Fahad

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Munif Naif Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Court of Cassation has closed the public fund squandering case involving five employees in the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA) accused of disbursing funds to undeserving and deceased persons over a period of eight years with a total value of KD 5 million, leading to the acquittal of the accused.

Attorneys Jamal Taher Al-Khatib and Dr. Fawaz Al-Khatib, who represented most of the accused in court, refuted the circumstances of the case; thereby, confirming the invalidity of the accusation and the innocence of their clients.

Dr. Fawaz Al-Khatib pointed out that the charges of negligence and causing serious harm to public funds do not apply to the accused, explaining that even if it is proven the accused carried out the disbursement operations for the benefit of the deceased, where are the supervisory authorities whose primary role is to approve the disbursement? He wondered how the accused were left to do such operations throughout those years without intervention or accountability.

Meanwhile, Jamal Taher Al-Khatib asserted that innocent people should not be dragged into the fray and tarnish their reputation under the pretext of holding public employees accountable for negligence. He said accountability should be for those who made mistakes, not those who performed their work with perfection.

The court explained the grounds for its ruling: stating the legislator specified three forms of error -- negligence in performing the job, breach of duties and abuse of authority. It added that the error defined by law is an employee's departure from the usual behavior of an ordinary man keen on protecting the money and interests of the entity he works for, in the same manner he protects his own money.

It also confirmed that the case documents and the evidence presented did not indicate that the five defendants had any intention to harm public money, so the Public Prosecution's declaration about the proof of error and harm was inaccurate.

It concluded that the testimonies of prosecution witnesses regarding the defendants' signatures on disability pension application forms could not be relied on, as such is considered an objective argument in assessing the evidence of the case -- a matter that cannot be raised at the Court of Cassation. It also confirmed that it is not obligated to respond to every piece of evidence once it rules on the innocence of defendants.

7-yr jail, dismissal, fine upheld: The Criminal Court on Tuesday upheld the seven-year prison sentence imposed on an official in the Ministry of Communications, along with dismissal from his job and a fine of KD18 million for embezzling KD6 million from 341 subscribers.

The accused was charged with money laundering, forgery of official documents through a computer, and embezzling KD6 million from the fees collected from subscribers.

The Public Prosecution charged the accused with embezzling the money he collected from subscribers in his capacity as administrative coordinator in the Services Accounts Department. The accused collected money from subscribers, whose names are listed in the documents, for the benefit of his employer, but he did not deposit the money and kept it for himself.

Lawyer appointed for murderer: The Criminal Court on Monday held a trial session for the murderer of Ahmed Al-Jalal, after appointing a lawyer for him due to the absence of one who could defend him.

The court decided to refer the accused to a psychiatrist to examine his mental faculties and to confirm that he is responsible for

his action.

According to the case files, the Public Prosecution pleaded before the court and demanded the imposition of death penalty on the accused.

The prosecution's representative, Deputy Director of Ahmadi and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Public Prosecution Nasser Al-Masbahi stated during his pleading: "The accused who appears before your court deliberately killed a soul that Allah has forbidden to be killed except for a just cause. Through his heinous action, he has taken an innocent soul without guilt and deprived the victim of his most sacred right in this world, which is the right to life, by obeying his whims and following the devil, transgressing and haughtily disregarding the right of Almighty Allah, who is unique in that He is the One who gives life and causes death. He is the One who seizes the souls He created."

"The action of the accused shook the conscience of people, their horror dislocated hearts, and mountains moved from them; so it is right, true and just to impose the most severe punishment on him by executing him. It is a just punishment to cut off his roots to be a warning and a guiding example for those who consider, insight for those who see, and a reminder for those who remember."

"We sense the blood boiling in the veins of the victim's family and relatives. We sense the pain and wounds of society from a malignant disease that has afflicted a corrupt limb which deserves to be amputated. The whole society rejects this tragedy. There is anguish in the heart of society and regret in its soul. It has turned to the court's justice to make the punishment a deterrent."

"The Almighty said in the Holy Quran: 'Because of that, we decreed for the children of Israel that whoever kills a person for reasons other than legal retaliation or for stopping corruption in the land; it is as if he killed the entire mankind. However, to save a life would be as great a virtue as to save all of mankind.'"

Attorney Hussein Al-Asfour, the civil plaintiff, also attended the session in his capacity as the representative of the heirs of the victim; confirming the integration of the elements of the crime of premeditated murder.

Police officer, citizen quarrel: A police officer assigned at Qashaniyyah Police Station and a citizen have exchanged accusations; as the officer claimed the citizen insulted him, while the citizen claimed the officer assaulted and insulted him, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed the police officer said the citizen insulted him while he was performing his duties, but the citizen denied the allegation; claiming the officer beat and insulted him.

The case file was referred to the concerned authorities for investigation.

'Shell' detonated: Acting on information personnel from the Explosives Department of the Ministry of Interior rushed to an unidentified location in Mutla'a desert and detonated a shell, reports Al-Rai daily.

According to security sources the shell -- believed to be a remnant left behind by the defeated Iraqi forces -- might have remained hidden underground and surfaced due to shifting sand.

The daily added, security men rushed to the spot and cordoned off the area until bomb disposal experts arrived and detonated the ordnance at the site.

277 persons arrested: As per the directive of Assistant Undersecretary for Public Security Affairs in the Interior Ministry Major General Hamad Al-Muneifi; the security campaigns in various governorates resulted in the arrest of 277 people for the possession of narcotics and 669 violators of the Residency Law in just one month.

The Security Media Department at the ministry revealed that the Public Security Sector dealt with 9,588 reports, set up 1,997 checkpoints, issued 46,591 traffic violations, and arrested 2,315 people, including 277 in possession of narcotics.

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A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'What's next for Hezbollah?'

"IT IS evident that Israel is advancing with a well-structured plan that it developed in the wake of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood. The first phase focused on diminishing Hamas's influence in Gaza," columnist Dr. Noura Saleh Al-Majim wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"While Israel did not entirely eradicate Hamas, it managed to significantly weaken the organization. Following this, the second phase commenced with a gradual increase in hostilities directed at Hezbollah, culminating in a declaration of open warfare against the group in southern Lebanon.

"The effectiveness of this strategy is underscored by Israel's methodical execution of operations, such as the pager explosions and targeted strikes on the Radwan unit. These actions resulted in the deaths of several prominent Hezbollah leaders across various ranks, demonstrating a strategic blow to the party.

"The scale of the aggressive bombardment in the southern suburbs and the attacks on Hezbollah's headquarters reveal a lack of substantial retaliation from the group, compounded by the absence of direct assistance from Iran, its primary backer.

"The final stage of Israel's strategy involves potentially opening a direct conflict with Iran. Current developments in southern Lebanon indicate that this stage is becoming increasingly plausible, reflecting Israel's readiness to engage in such a confrontation.

"However, this prospective conflict extends beyond a bilateral engagement; it involves multiple stakeholders, notably the United States, which has its interests in the region.

"Several critical questions arise: Will the US endorse this military escalation? Is Iran prepared to confront Israel? Can Israel reconsider its approach? And will Israel ultimately attain its objectives?"

"The trajectory of Israel's escalating actions suggests that retreating from a confrontation with Iran is highly unlikely. The unprecedented escalation against Hezbollah can be interpreted as a strategic provocation aimed at drawing Iran into a conflict. The explicit goal remains the dismantling of Iran's nuclear program, perceived by Israel as a significant existential threat.

"Conversely, Iran has demonstrated a reluctance to engage in widespread conflict. Following the military actions in southern Lebanon, Iran issued a series of statements indicating its desire for diplomatic engagement with the US, emphasizing its lack of intention to escalate into an all-encompassing war in the region.

"Iran's decision not to intervene to protect Hezbollah -- its most significant ally -- strongly indicates a strategic effort to sidestep a broader conflict, even at the cost of dimin-

ishing Hezbollah's influence in the area.

"This context positions the United States as a pivotal player in either exacerbating or mitigating the situation. The US is apprehensive about entering a new conflict, as it would compel American involvement in a war that carries significant consequences. The US has thus far leveraged the threat of Iran to justify its military presence in the region.

"Nevertheless, Israel's persistent push for conflict -- appearing to transcend American oversight -- places Washington in a challenging position. Recent statements from Joe Biden administration officials indicate a lack of prior knowledge regarding the pager explosions and other military actions, which suggests that the situation is evolving beyond American control.

"In summary, the likelihood that Iran will become the next target for Israeli military action stands at over 90 percent. Israel is poised to achieve its strategic objectives, contingent upon receiving US support.

"However, unless the United States, alongside its Western and regional allies, exerts substantial pressure on Israel to avert this conflict, the repercussions will likely result in serious strategic repercussions for Washington."

Also:

"The events that Lebanon is experiencing these days only arouse regret and sadness for this country, and before it Gaza, with all the disasters that have befallen it and the problems that are increasing day after day," columnist and former deputy director-general of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Iqbal Al-Ahmed wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"After the assassination of Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah, unfortunately, reactions varied between cheering and applauding this event, and deep sadness and pain over the loss of a person like Nasrallah. Every team has its own calculations and justifications, at least to itself.

"I am not here to support or reject any reaction here or there, but I confirm that such events cannot tolerate more sectarian diseases, pains and repercussions, whether in the areas within the event or surrounding it, because the repercussions spread like fire very quickly to burn everyone.

"Today, we all need more than ever to control our reactions, keep our intense feelings inside ourselves, and try to be moderate in presenting our point of view, whether it is for or against, in a way that preserves everyone's dignity.

"We can only say that God guides the situation and grant our Arab region security, safety and stability, because the people are exhausted by these conflicts.

"It is time to let the mind be sober in these situations, and for our vision of the future to have a deeper dimension so that our decisions are not based on emotions and feelings, but much closer to reason."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes

Citizen cheated of KD 9K

Narcotic pills seized from man

By Munif Naif Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: A 40-year-old man was arrested in Mahboula for the possession of narcotic pills.

A security source revealed that while patrolling along Fahaeel Expressway, opposite Mahboula, a team of highway patrol officers spotted a vehicle parked on the side of the road. They stopped behind the vehicle to provide assistance, and they saw him throwing a bag into the trash container in a rapid and baffled manner. This made them suspicious, so they searched the bag, which turned out to contain narcotic pills.

The suspect and the seized items were referred to the Drug Control General Department.

KD 9,000 swindled: A citizen accused three people of defrauding him by selling a watch at an auction for KD9,000 and then disappeared after he paid through bank links.

According to a security source, the citizen stated in the report he submitted to a police station in Capital Governorate that he purchased a famous international brand watch for KD9,000. However, he could no longer contact the sellers after sending the payment through bank links.

A case was registered and investigations are ongoing to arrest the culprits

School opens for inmates of correctional institution

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: In a significant move aimed at rehabilitating and supporting inmates, a school for correctional institution inmates was inaugurated Tuesday, reports Al-Rai daily.

This initiative is part of the 'Sandhom' project, launched through a strategic partnership involving the Ministry of Interior, the National Human Rights Bureau, the Human Development Association, and the Ministry of Education.

The school will provide secondary and intermediate educational opportunities for both men and women inmates.

The Ministry of Interior announced that this effort was made possible in collaboration with the Inmaa Al Khair Society, the Ministry of Educa-

tion, and the Ministry of Awqaf.

Moreover, the academic season for teaching Islamic sciences for the 2024/2025 academic year was also commenced to enhance the religious and cultural education of the inmates.

During the opening ceremony, Brigadier General Fahad Al-Obaid, Acting Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Correctional Institutions and Enforcement of Sentences, expressed gratitude to His Excellency Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef, the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, for his unwavering support and dedication to improving human rights conditions in Kuwait.

He emphasized the importance of developing correctional facilities to better the lives of inmates and prepare them for reintegration into society.

Brigadier Al-Obaid highlighted that enhancing correctional institutions includes creating a suitable educational environment that equips inmates with knowledge and skills, ultimately increasing their chances of successful reintegration and reducing recidivism rates.

This initiative is part of the Ministry of Interior's ongoing commitment to improving the conditions of inmates and ensuring they are rehabilitated to reintegrate effectively into society, adhering to the highest standards.

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SAB confirms no prior control on renewable energy buyback plans

CAPT opens infrastructure tenders, 12 bids cleared

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The State Audit Bureau (SAB) confirmed that purchasing renewable energy from customers is not subject to its prior control.

This is in response to the Ministry of Electricity, which asked the

bureau to study the project to purchase renewable energy produced by customers and its intention to issue a ministerial decision allowing such purchase.

Sources told the newspaper that the bureau responded: "After studying the documents on the subject, it became clear that it is related to presenting a draft administrative decision regulating the process of purchasing renewable energy from others and does not include requesting the bureau's opinion in accordance with the provisions of Articles 13 and 14 of Law No. 30/1964 on establishing SAB."

They said the research is not subject to its prior control and that subsequent control will continue to follow up on the audit of the subject with the necessity of presenting the contracts arising from the implementation of the decision when it is issued to the bureau if their value reaches the quorum subject to its prior control.

Sources indicated this is one of the development projects, through which the ministry aims to encourage customers to produce renewable energy by installing solar panels on the roofs of homes and purchasing the energy produced from them at competitive prices to obtain financial and electrical savings for the State, as well as to reduce carbon emissions from power plants that operate on traditional fossil fuels which consume millions of dinars annually.

In a related context, sources stated that the ministry is currently offering a tender to supply, install, and operate a photovoltaic cell system on car awnings in the main workshops and its emergency services department in Subhan.

Sources said the last date for opening the tender bids is Oct 6, after which the bids will be referred to the ministry to study them through a technical committee that will prepare a recommendation, based on which a decision will be issued to award it to the best bidder financially and commercially.

Sources added the tender is within the framework of the ministry's efforts to expand renewable energy projects, especially in its affiliated facilities, to use them instead of relying on traditional electrical energy produced from power production stations, contributing to saving money and oil used in producing this energy and preserving the environment on the other hand.

Meanwhile, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), in its meeting recently, opened the tenders for the study, design, and infrastructure works in Faiha, Kaifan and Shuwaikh Administrative Area; while the bids of 12 companies were accepted and one company was excluded in accordance with Article 45 of the Public Tenders Law.



KUNA photo

The 16th plane from the Kuwaiti air bridge carrying 28 tons of transport vehicles and food supplies to relieve displaced people in Sudan.

Kuwait sends 16th air bridge to Sudan carrying 28 tons of relief

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA): The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced its 16th air bridge to Sudan carrying 28 tons of food, relief supplies, and transport vehicles to support displaced individuals in Sudan affected by ongoing conflicts, heavy rains, and floods.

Speaking to KUNA General Director Abdulrahman Al-Oun, affirmed that Kuwaiti aid provided to Sudan are guided by the leaderships of Kuwait.

He emphasized that this aid represents Kuwait's significant humanitarian role, embodied through the KRCS.

Kuwait has provided humanitarian relief, medical aid and transport vehicles, including ambulances to mitigate the impact and risks of the natural disaster caused by floods and the current conditions in Sudan,

he added. Al-Oun mentioned that the 28 tons plane consist of four ambulances, food supplies, and blankets, as he expressed his gratitude to the donors from Kuwait.

He extended his sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kuwaiti Embassy in Sudan, the Ministry of Defense, and the Kuwaiti Air Force, commending their pioneering humanitarian role in rescuing and assisting those affected in various countries worldwide.

Meanwhile, a Kuwait-based charity dispatched some 2,500 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Sudan in an endeavor that encapsulates the camaraderie shared between the two countries. Kuwait's ambassador to Khartoum Dr. Fahad Al-Thefeeri said on Tuesday.



Al-Seyassah photo

Group photo during the graduation ceremony.

PIFSS honors new Kuwaiti law graduates

The Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) recently held a graduation ceremony for the 15th batch of participants in the training and qualification program for fresh Kuwaiti law graduates to empower and prepare them for the labor market, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

These law graduates completed an intensive training course conducted by an elite and distinguished group of specialists who provide scientific material that keeps pace with the latest developments in legal studies and training methods. All the trainees are granted a monthly

reward and a certificate of completion.

In his speech at the ceremony, acting Director General of PIFSS Ahmed Al-Thunayan stressed the importance of training programs in shaping future paths. He explained that the goal of PIFSS is to qualify Kuwaiti youths for the labor market, indicating this has been the goal of the institution for about 47 years. He pointed out the institution is a pioneer in providing sustainable insurance and social services; "as it is keen on securing a future that guarantees a decent life for ourselves, our children and many generations after us."

Islamic Society expands orphanage in Cambodia

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Islamic Heritage Revival Society has announced a charitable initiative to expand and develop an orphanage located in the Muslim communities of Batombong province, Cambodia, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This initiative reflects the Society's commitment to providing quality edu-

cational opportunities for orphans and Muslim children in the area.

In a recent statement, the Society highlighted that the orphanage serves as a vital educational center, offering a unique blend of the government's educational curriculum alongside an officially accredited certificate.

Proposals for architecture and disability access gain approval

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Technical Committee at the Municipal Council, approved in its meeting that was presided over by Munira Al-Amir on Tuesday, three out of seven items in its agenda as follows:

■ Proposal of Al-Amir on determining the architectural identity of government buildings in Kuwait,

■ Two proposals of Alia Al-Farsi on forming a joint committee to follow up the implementation of requirements for people with disabilities and the Kuwait Code for acces-

sibility according to the general design, and preventing delivery bikes from stopping and plying on sidewalks.

The committee referred three items in its agenda to the executive body as follows:

■ Permanent headquarters for the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises Development,

■ Executive body's response to the proposal of Abdullatif Al-Daai and Sharifah Al-Shalfan on determining medium-density housing sites in the existing urban area,

■ Proposals related to the building regulations. It retained in its agenda the proposal of Abdullatif Al-Daai on allowing roofed shade or awning for commercial activities.



Al-Anba photo

Participants at the training course pose for a group photo with the lecturer and General Manager of the Union.

Union of Engineering Offices concludes training program on consulting projects

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Union of Engineering Offices and Consulting Firms has concluded its second training program for the current training season entitled, "Preparing the Terms of Reference Booklet for Consulting Projects and the Mechanism for the Evaluation of Technical and Financial Bids for Projects", reports Al-Anba daily.

A group of engineers working in the public

and private sectors participated in the program, in addition to individual participants. Senior Specialist Engineer Eng. Sabah Asad conducted the training at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Salmiya.

Within one working week the engineers were trained on the facts, concepts and skills necessary for preparing and designing the Terms of Reference Booklet, as well as evaluating the technical bids submitted by consulting firms.



October

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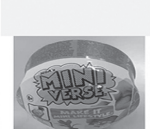
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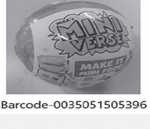
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LOCAL

Cabinet commends

Continued from Page 1

and the targeting of civilians by continued airstrikes that claimed the lives of more than 41,000 people, most of whom children and women.

His Highness also deplored Israeli occupation's targeting of the headquarters of international organizations and infrastructure, as well as forced displacement of Gazans.

He reiterated Kuwait's keenness on establishing an independent Palestinian state based on the June 4, 1967 borders in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative, welcoming the recognition of several countries of Palestine as a state over the past months.

Furthermore, the Cabinet reviewed the outcomes of His Highness the Crown Prince's meetings with a host of presidents of sisterly and friendly countries, and heads of international organizations, on the sidelines of the UNGA session.

Those meetings discussed means of enhancing cooperation in all fields, in addition to the latest developments on regional and international arenas.

During meetings with representatives and heads of global companies, His Highness the Crown Prince conveyed the desire of His Highness the Amir to boost the presence of those firms in Kuwait. The meetings further dealt with economic and investment cooperation, and ways of bolstering collaboration between Kuwait and those companies.

Attendance issues

Continued from Page 1

Sources said schools have taken additional measures to confirm the adoption of the attendance devices, which correctly record the punching in and out of teachers, such as placing manual records to protect the rights of the teachers in the event that the devices fail to record their attendance.

Sources revealed the schools' request for teachers to extract attendance records from the CSC website and compare them with the manual attendance data in the schools' internal system aims to ensure that the attendance and short leave data are recorded correctly, and to avoid making mistakes that could lead to salary deduction.

Sources pointed out that the attendance devices installed in many schools experience technical faults; so some teachers' fingerprints are not recorded when they enter or leave the workplace or ask for time off. In some cases, a malfunction occurs in registering early departure from the workplace, which leaves a negative impact on their job files, as they are considered absent without

justification, sources clarified.

Sources affirmed the step taken by the school administrations aims to first verify the teachers' attendance, and then submit any objections or complaints if there are contradictions or errors in the records.

Guard preps

Continued from Page 1

In a press statement, Lieutenant General Al-Rifai emphasized the importance of enhancing cooperation protocols with state agencies and maintaining training and academic progress for Guard members according to military standards.

He conveyed greetings from Deputy Chief of the National Guard, Sheikh Faisal Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, commending the efforts made to prepare for the upcoming training season.

He noted that the National Guard is committed to ensuring training activities meet their objectives, in line with the guiding document 2025 (Protection and Support), which prioritizes training.

Retaliation threat

Continued from Page 1

He expressed his regrets over the attempts to change the true narrative and exonerate the perpetrators and encourage them to ignore all international condemnations and Security Council resolutions noting that the occupying power in Palestine continues its blatant aggression on Lebanon as well.

Ambassador Al-Hein said "What human rights are we discussing today As we witness a series of violations amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity including the torture of prisoners silencing of peaceful supporters intimidation of supportive voices accusing them of anti-Semitism deliberate"

Elsewhere, Israeli troops battled Hezbollah militants inside Lebanon on Wednesday after launching what they say are limited ground operations there. The region meanwhile braced for further escalation as Israel vowed to retaliate for Iran's ballistic missile attack the day before.

In Gaza, where the nearly year-long war that triggered the widening conflict rages on with no end in sight, Israeli ground and air operations in a hard-hit city killed at least 51 people, including women and children, Palestinian medical officials said.

Israel has continued to strike what it says are militant targets across Gaza nearly a year after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack ignited the war.

The escalation on multiple fronts has raised fears of a wider war in the Middle East that could further draw in Iran - which backs Hezbollah and Hamas - as well as the United States, which has rushed military assets to

the region in support of Israel.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Al-Rajhi, the spokesman for the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation, has reassured the public that all necessary measures are being taken to ensure the safety of aircraft belonging to the State of Kuwait amidst turbulent events and instability in certain regions, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Al-Rajhi emphasized that flights have been re-routed where needed to keep passengers and aircraft safe, ensuring that operations remain smooth despite external challenges.

In related news, the oil prices surged by approximately 4 percent Tuesday, driven by heightened fears of an expanded conflict in the Middle East, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This spike followed a warning from the White House indicating that Iran is preparing to launch a ballistic missile attack on Israel, raising concerns about the potential for a wider war in the region.

Primary care

Continued from Page 1

education, geriatrics, and dental services. Additionally, the center provides home visit services.

He noted that the center is a key addition to Kuwait's healthcare system, offering comprehensive support services in pharmacy and laboratories with a highly qualified team. Dr. Al-Awadhi also thanked the donor's family for their significant contribution.

Najib Musaed Al-Saleh, representing the donor's family, stated that the center was completed in 2019 at the late Musaed Al-Saleh's request, but its opening was delayed due to the pandemic. Covering more than 6,600 square meters and built at a cost of approximately three million dinars, the center includes various medical specialties aimed at serving the local community. Al-Saleh reaffirmed the family's dedication to social responsibility and the welfare of Kuwait's citizens.

Kuwait unveils

Continued from Page 1

Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who put an emphasis on accelerating project implementation and improving public services.

With the formation of the current government in May, headed by His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, there has been a clear desire to chart a roadmap for productivity, which included innovative mechanisms to improve the government work environment and encourage creativity across various departments.

Recent government directives also called on the CSC to review laws and regulations and adopt new measures to boost productivity in government agencies.

MoCI expands licenses

Insurance services, battery sales introduced

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recently announced the addition of two new commercial activities focused on establishing and operating companies, as well as retail sales, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This initiative enables individuals and entities to obtain licenses for forming companies or participating in joint ventures within the financial activities sector, specifically for insurance activities and related services.

Moreover, a new retail activity for selling vehicle batteries has been introduced under the general trade activities and services sector.

This decision follows a thorough review of the Commercial Law and its amendments, as well as the Companies Law.

It aligns with a ministerial directive aimed at standardizing the classification of statistical data for economic activities across government agencies, adhering to the United Nations International Classification of Economic Activities.

This classification has undergone four revisions and is endorsed by the United Nations Statistics Division. The decision also reflects agreements made among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.



Al-Anba photo
Acting Director General Marzouq Al-Otaibi and the attendees during the honoring of Aseel Al-Mazid.

PAM bids farewell to Al-Mazid

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) Marzouq Al-Otaibi praised the efforts of outgoing Public Relations and Media Department Director Aseel Al-Mazid throughout her tenure, reports Al-Anba daily.

Speaking at the ceremony organized by the employees of the department on the occasion of the retirement of Al-Mazid, Al-Otaibi af-

firmed that Al-Mazid left an indelible mark at PAM through her dedication at work; regardless of the working conditions, especially during the Corona pandemic. He pointed out that she worked tirelessly to highlight the achievements of the authority, in addition to activating the department's website and organizing awareness and guidance campaigns on social media. He wished her success as she begins a new stage in her life.

Teachers seek 900 nominees for conference

By Abdulrahman Al-Shammari
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Kuwait Teachers Association has called on Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and acting Minister of Education Dr. Nader Al-Jalal to nominate 900 teachers — 150 from each educational district — to attend the 45th Educational Conference on Oct 14-16 at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center.

With the theme, "Education in Kuwait: Current Problems and Future Paths," the conference will be held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The newspaper obtained a copy of the letter of the association to the minister stating that "the conference is a platform for sharing educational experiences and presenting future visions on educational paths.

IRU posts record 16 mln dinar contribution to state treasury

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Insurance Regulatory Unit (IRU) has reached a significant milestone, announcing its best financial performance since its inception, reports Al-Jarida daily.

With no cost to public funds, the unit has successfully contributed to the state treasury, transferring a substantial amount of 16 million dinars.

For fiscal 2023/2024, the unit reported a remarkable revenue of 5.1 million dinars, showcasing an annual increase of 6.6 percent, bringing its total revenues since its establishment

in 2019 to approximately 24 million dinars.

The unit's strategic plan emphasizes maintaining financial and administrative independence, ensuring that it receives the necessary budgetary allocations to support its initiatives and adapt to any necessary amendments in its strategy.

Its fourth strategic goal focuses on fostering a safe, sound, and stable insurance sector, aimed at strengthening the national economy and enhancing the sector's overall safety, thereby consolidating financial stability in the region.





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INTERNATIONAL



US Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, delivers an economic address to financial and business leaders, at the New York Stock Exchange on Oct 1. (AP)

Republicans fight to hold House majority

US Speaker Johnson lays out agenda for GOP

WASHINGTON, Oct 2, (AP): US Speaker Mike Johnson has laid out a policy agenda should Republicans take the majority next year that extends the tax cuts approved when Donald Trump was president, reduces the size of the federal workforce and gives parents more choice on where they can send their children to school.

Johnson emphasized five main policy points during a speech at the New York Stock Exchange. He talked of extending and building on the Trump tax cuts, confronting China, boosting oil and gas production, expanding school choice and cutting the size and scope of the federal government.

"The survival of the American dream depends upon our victory," Johnson said.

The speaker and House Republicans are fighting this election season to hold their narrow House majority, with just a handful of seats to spare. Republicans are hopeful that a Trump victory over Vice President Kamala Harris in the election will help propel them to majorities in the House and Senate, which would give them unified control

of Washington for the first time since 2018 and the ability to enact a sweeping legislative agenda.

Against the campaign backdrop, Johnson provided a bleak view of the economy under President Joe Biden, though the economy continues to grow at a solid pace, inflation is on the decline and the unemployment rate is still low by historical standards. He spoke to an audience of Wall Street investors, traders and others who have witnessed stock markets reach record highs in recent days.

But Johnson said that as he has traveled the country, he's meeting business owners on the verge of collapse because of high inflation, high taxes and over-regulation. And he said he's met moms and dads who have resorted to donating plasma and setting up crowdfunding pages so that they didn't lose their homes.

"Our incredible people are hanging on right now in spite of so many unprecedented challenges, but many can't afford to do it much longer," Johnson said.

The first policy priority he outlined

was enhanced tax breaks, citing specifically immediate expensing for research and development costs. He also cited the need for a "strong" child tax credit, though he did not provide specific numbers. He said the Republican tax policies would "respect the dignity of work, and it doesn't pay people more for staying out of the workforce."

Trump has laid out a series of tax cuts on the campaign trail, such as extending the expiring provisions of his 2017 overhaul, and not taxing tips and Social Security. Outside experts say the tax cuts proposed by Trump and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris would cause the debt to rise even faster the pace under current law.

Doing more to confront China and rolling back environmental regulations are a common denominator for Republicans that Johnson embraced in his speech. On education, he said millions of Americans have the opportunity to send their children to a school that best fits their need, and "Republicans want to expand that choice so that every American has that opportunity."

'Calmer era in American politics'

Walz and Vance go in depth on policy in US vice presidential debate

NEW YORK, Oct 2, (AP): In a debate that evoked a calmer era in American politics, Tim Walz and JD Vance on Tuesday went after each other's running mates and sought to shore up their campaigns' vulnerabilities at a time of renewed fears of a regional war in the Middle East and sadness over devastation from Hurricane Helene.

Walz, the Democratic governor of Minnesota, and Vance, a Republican senator from Ohio, focused many of their criticisms on the top of the ticket, as is traditional for vice presidential debates. They each pointed to the crises of the day as reasons for voters to choose Vice President Kamala Harris or former President Donald Trump.

The debate unfolded in the final weeks of a campaign that has been defined by harsh, personal attacks and historic convulsions, including a candidate dropping out and another facing two attempted assassinations. Polls have shown Harris and Trump locked in a close contest as early voting begins across the country, giving added weight to anything that can sway voters on the margins, including the impression left by the vice presidential candidates.

Despite the milder tone of the debate, there were still glimpses of the political fractures that threaten American democracy. Vance papered over

the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol and echoed Trump's election denial by refusing to acknowledge that President Joe Biden won the race in 2020.

But throughout much of the rest of the night, two Midwesterners struck a noticeably friendlier tone than the matchup between Trump and Harris - or, earlier this year, the showdown between Trump and Biden before he dropped out of the race following a disastrous performance.

In one raw moment when Walz said his teenage son had witnessed a shooting at a community center, Vance expressed empathy.

"I appreciate that," Walz said.

In other parts of the debate, Vance tried to soften his image, ratcheting down his typically forceful and aggressive delivery and acknowledging that people watching might not agree with him or Trump. He discussed Trump's ideas with polish while avoiding being pinned down on the more controversial parts of the former president's record. His performance immediately delighted the Trump campaign and many of its allies.

Walz depicted Trump as wrong on the issues and a chaotic leader. He occasionally stumbled over his words, even saying "I've become friends with school shooters" when he was talking about meeting with survivors. He did deliver several points sure to please

Democrats, including on abortion rights and democracy - even if he never used the word "weird," the branding he attached to Trump and Vance that brought him to national prominence.

The debate began with a discussion of the Middle East, where Israeli forces are fighting Hezbollah in Lebanon and Iran has fired missiles at Israel. In Gaza, Israeli forces continue to fight Hamas after the Oct. 7 attack.

"What's fundamental here is that steady leadership is going to matter," said Walz. "And the world saw it on that debate stage a few weeks ago, a nearly 80-year-old Donald Trump talking about crowd sizes is not what we need in this moment."

Vance, in his reply, argued that Trump is an intimidating figure whose presence on the international stage is its own deterrent.

"Gov. Walz can criticize Donald Trump's tweets, but effective, smart diplomacy and peace through strength is how you bring stability back to a very broken world," he said.

The debate in New York hosted by CBS News opened with a sober tone that reflected growing domestic and international concerns about safety and security. But it gave way to sharper attacks from both Walz and Vance - and a moment in which the moderators stopped the discussion by cutting the two men's mics.



US Republican vice presidential nominee Sen. JD Vance, talks with Democratic vice presidential candidate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz after the vice presidential debate hosted by CBS News on Oct 1, in New York. (AP)



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer shakes hands with European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, on Oct 2. (AP)

UK's Starmer visits EU's HQ

BRUSSELS, Oct 2, (AP): British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Wednesday held out the prospect of "sensible leadership" on issues of common interest as he launched a mission to improve ties with the European Union, which disintegrated as his country left the world's biggest trading bloc four years ago.

"I firmly believe that the British public want to return to pragmatic, sensible leadership when it comes to dealing with our closest neighbors, to make Brexit work and to deliver in their interests, to find ways to boost economic growth, strengthen our security and tackle shared challenges like irregular migration and climate change," Starmer said.

Speaking ahead of talks with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Starmer said that "in dangerous times we have a duty to work together to preserve stability and security," referring to the crisis in the Middle East and war in Ukraine.

Barnier to tackle issues

French PM postpones poll in New Caledonia

NICE, France, Oct 2, (AP): France's new Prime Minister Michel Barnier announced Tuesday that a provincial election scheduled for December in the restive French Pacific territory of New Caledonia has been postponed for a year.

During his inaugural address to parliament, Barnier also said a controversial bill proposed by President Emmanuel Macron to amend the constitution to change voting lists in the territory would not be forwarded to a joint meeting of parliament for ratification. The territory's Indigenous Kanak people fear changes to the voting registry would favor recent arrivals to the Pacific archipelago.

Tensions in New Caledonia have long been simmering between white settler communities loyal to Paris and pro-independence Kanak people.

Barnier said the provincial election would be postponed from its scheduled date of Dec 15 until the end of 2025. New Caledonia has been living through an "exceptionally grave crisis," Barnier said and added that he will tackle the issues early next year.



France's Prime Minister Michel Barnier arrives at the National Assembly, in Paris on Oct 1. (AP)

America

'Ships sail thru Bering': The US Coast Guard said Tuesday that it spotted two Russian ships and two Chinese vessels passing through the Bering Sea in formation on Saturday, in a sign of the growing cooperation between Beijing and Moscow in the Arctic.

The Chinese and Russian coast guard ships were spotted about five miles inside the Russian exclusive economic zone in the northernmost location where Chinese vessels have been seen by the US Coast Guard, it said. The Bering Sea separates Russia from Alaska.

"This recent activity demonstrates the increased interest in the Arctic by our strategic competitors," Rear Adm. Megan Dean, commander of the 17th Coast Guard District, said in a statement.

In July, Russian and Chinese bombers flew together for the first time in international airspace off the coast of Alaska. The flights were not seen as a threat, but it was the first time that Chinese bombers had flown within the Alaskan air defense identification zone and the first time Chinese and Russian aircraft had taken off from the same base in northern Russia. (AP)

Man charged in blast: A California man has been hit with additional charges in a courthouse bomb attack that injured five people, officials said Tuesday, including for three local arson fires.

Nathaniel McGuire, 20, was charged by federal officials last week with maliciously damaging a

building with an explosive. Santa Barbara County prosecutors are charging him with 10 counts, including two counts of attempted murder, use of an explosive device with the intent to murder, and carrying a loaded firearm.

He is also being charged with arson of forest land in connection with three fires that occurred on the outskirts of Santa Maria, a city of about 110,000 in California's central coast region, that officials say were set in preparation for the courthouse attack.

It was not immediately known whether McGuire had an attorney for his local charges. His federal public defender Iboh Umodu declined to comment on his federal case. His family did not respond to calls or messages for comment.

McGuire was arrested Sept. 25 at the Santa Maria Courthouse where he was about to be arraigned on an illegal gun possession charge when an explosion damaged the building and injured five people. Authorities said McGuire threw a bag into the courthouse lobby that exploded and he left the building on foot. He was arrested as he was trying to get into his car, which was parked nearby.

Authorities said they later found ammunition, a rifle, a suspected bomb,

fireworks and 10 Molotov cocktails inside the car and other materials used in making explosives during a search of McGuire's home. (AP)

Texas man executed: A Texas man convicted of fatally stabbing twin 16-year-old girls more than three decades ago was executed on Tuesday evening.

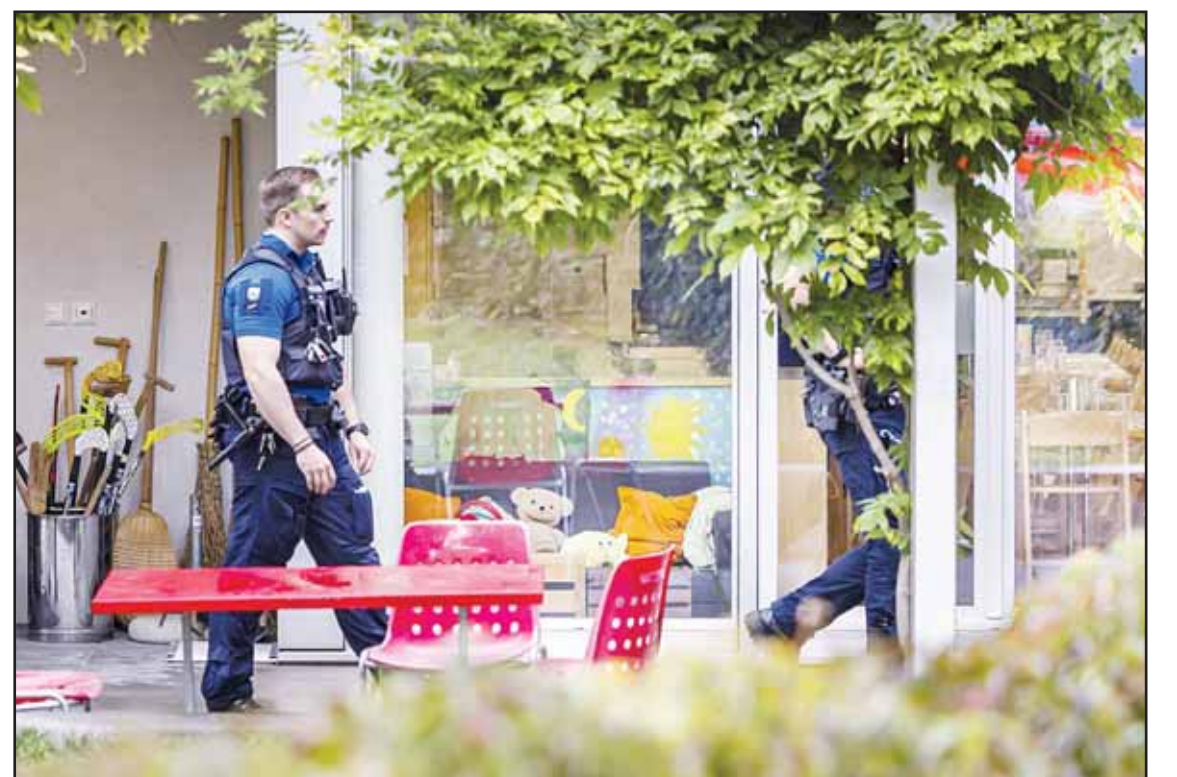
Garcia Glenn White was pronounced dead at 6:56 p.m. CDT following a chemical injection at the state penitentiary in Huntsville. He was condemned for the December 1989 killings of Annette and Bernette Edwards. The bodies of the twin girls and their mother, Bonita Edwards, were found in their Houston apartment.

White, 61, was the sixth inmate put to death in the U.S. in the last 11 days. His execution took place shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court, without comment, rejected three last-ditch appeals.

Asked by a warden if he had any statement, White repeatedly apologized in his final words to witnesses looking on.

"I would like to apologize for all the wrong I have done, and for the pain I've caused," he said from the death chamber, shortly before the lethal dose of the sedative pentobarbital began flowing into his arms.

He said he took responsibility for the slayings, regretted his actions and was praying for prison officials, officers and "for my brothers and sisters behind these walls." (AP)



Police officers during an operation outside a day care center in Zurich Oerlikon, Switzerland, on Oct 1 after a man attacked and injured three young children as they were heading to the day care center. (AP)

Man attacked 3 kids in Zurich: Swiss police

A man attacked and injured three young children as they were heading to a day care center in Zurich on Tuesday, Swiss police said. The suspect was arrested.

Officers were alerted to the incident in the Oerlikon district of Switzerland's biggest city shortly after midday. Police said the children were on their way to the day-care center with a woman who works for the facility when the man suddenly stabbed them.

The center employee quickly overwhelmed the assailant with the help of another man and held him until police arrived. Police said the suspect is a 23-year-old Chinese national.

Three 5-year-old boys were taken to hospitals, one with serious injuries and two others with injuries of medium severity, police said in a statement.

Police gave no details on a possible motive for the attack. (AP)

New leader makes long list of promises

Claudia Sheinbaum sworn in as first female president of Mexico

MEXICO CITY, Oct 2, (AP): Claudia Sheinbaum was sworn in Tuesday as Mexico's first female president, riding the enthusiasm over her predecessor's social programs but also facing challenges that include stubbornly high levels of violence.

After a smiling Sheinbaum took the oath of office on the floor of Congress, legislators shouted "Presidenta! Presidenta!" using the feminine form of president in Spanish for the first time in over 200 years of Mexico's history as an independent country.

The 62-year-old scientist-turned-politician receives a country with a number of immediate problems, also including a sluggish economy, unfinished building programs, rising debt and the hurricane-battered resort city of Acapulco.

In her inauguration speech, Sheinbaum said that she came to power accompanied by all of the women who have struggled in anonymity to make their way in Mexico, including "those who dreamed of the possibility that one day no matter if we were born as women or men we would achieve our dreams and desires without our sex determining our destiny."

She made a long list of promises to limit prices for gasoline and food, expand cash hand-out programs for women and children, support business investment, housing and passenger rail construction. But any mention of the drug cartels that control much of the country was brief and near the end of the list.

Sheinbaum offered little change from former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's 'Hugs not Bullets' strategy of addressing root causes and not confronting the cartels, apart from pledging more intelligence work and investigation. "There will be no return to the irresponsible drug war," she said.

Sheinbaum romped to victory in June with nearly 60% of the vote, propelled largely by the sustained popularity of her political mentor, López Obrador. She has pledged to continue all his policies, even those that strengthened the power of the military and weakened the country's checks and balances.

After the inauguration, Sheinbaum appeared at a mass rally in Mexico City's colonial-era main plaza to participate in a ceremony involving an all-women committee representing

Mexico's approximately 70 Indigenous groups.

After the ceremony, Sheinbaum said she would push for a total ban on any public servant being re-elected to office - a tall promise, given that her party has now passed a law making all judges stand for election. That would suggest Mexico may have a new crop of inexperienced judges every few years.

Lucía Ruíz, a 42-year-old mother of three, was one of thousands trying to reach the main square to see the rally. She said she hopes Sheinbaum will be able to combat high rates of violence against women in the country.

"She is going to represent us," said Ruíz. "We have always been governed by men, and they think we're incapable, but we're not. We are the head of our families."

López Obrador took office six years ago declaring "For the good of all, first the poor," and promising historical change from the neoliberal economic policies of his predecessors. Sheinbaum promised continuity from his popular social policies to controversial constitutional reforms to the judiciary and National Guard rammed through during his final days in office.



Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum waves to supporters in the Zócalo, Mexico City's main square, during a rally on her inauguration day on Oct 1. (AP)

Kishida's Cabinet emphasizes defense

Japan, US agree to enhance bilateral alliance

TOKYO, Oct 2, (AP): Japan's new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba pledged to stick to the vital Japan-US alliance while calling for it to be more equitable after he took office Tuesday vowing to tackle a slow economy and regain public trust before an upcoming election.

Shigeru Ishiba replaced Fumio Kishida, who stepped down to pave the way for a fresh leader after scandals dogged his government.

In a show of Japan's respect to its most important ally, the United States, Ishiba spoke by telephone with President Joe Biden early Wednesday and told reporters he reassured Biden of his plan to further strengthen the Japan-US alliance that Biden and Kishida have significantly elevated.

His new Cabinet emphasizes defense and a majority of its members, including Ishiba himself, are unaffiliated with factions led and controlled by Liberal Democratic Party heavyweights, and none is from the late Shinzo Abe's faction that has been linked to damaging misconduct.

Speaking to reporters at the prime minister's office for the first time following a palace ceremony, Ishiba called for stronger military cooperation with like-minded partners. He has been vocal about his wish to form a NATO-like alliance in the region.

He said that one of his policy's main goals was to protect Japan as "the security environment surrounding us is the toughest since the end of World War II."

Ishiba renewed his proposal of a more equal Japan-US security alliance, including joint management of US bases in Japan and having Japanese bases in the United States, which would require changes to a bilateral forces agreement. He called the current alliance "asymmetrical."

"The measure would contribute to further strengthen the Japan-US alliance," Ishiba said. "I've advocated the idea for more than 20 years and obviously it's not going to happen suddenly just because I became prime minister." He also said he hadn't assigned the matter to his Cabinet as an urgent task. "But I will not give up

and will steadily work on it."

He said Wednesday that he did not raise the issue on his call with Biden but would find the chance to do so later.

Ishiba said he told Biden that he will strengthen Kishida's defense and diplomatic policies while bolstering networks that include South Korea and other like-minded countries. Japan's national security strategy adopted by Kishida's government in 2022 calls for accelerating a Japanese military buildup.

Ishiba earlier said he would call for a snap election on Oct. 27 and named former Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi to head the party's election task force. On Tuesday, he said he intended to dissolve the lower house on Oct. 9 so his new administration could obtain "the people's verdict" as soon as possible.

During Tuesday's parliament session, opposition leaders criticized Ishiba for announcing such a plan before even becoming prime minister and allowing only several days for his policies to be examined and discussed before a national election.



Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, (third from right), and his cabinet ministers pose for a photo session at Ishiba's residence in Tokyo, Japan on Oct 1. (AP)

Thailand seeks negligence charges for school bus fire that killed 23 students

BANGKOK, Oct 2, (AP): Thai police arrested the driver of a bus carrying young students and teachers that caught fire and killed 23 in suburban Bangkok, as families arrived in the capital Wednesday to help identify their loved ones.

The bus carrying six teachers and 39 students in elementary and junior high school was traveling from Uthai Thani province, about 300 kilometers (186 miles) north of Bangkok, for a school trip in Ayutthaya and Nonthaburi provinces Tuesday. The fire started while the bus was on a highway north of the capital and spread so quickly many were unable to escape.

Trairong Phiwpan, head of the police forensic department, said 23 bodies were recovered from the bus. The recovery work and confirmation of the total dead had been delayed earlier because the burned vehicle, which was fueled with natural gas, remained too

hot to enter for hours.

The families were driven from Uthai Thani in vans to the forensic department at the Police General Hospital in Bangkok on Wednesday to provide DNA samples for the identification process. Kornchai Klaiklung, assistant to the Royal Thai Police chief, told reporters the forensics team was working as fast as it could to identify the victims.

The driver, identified by the police as Saman Chanput, surrendered Tuesday evening several hours after the fire. Police said they have charged him with reckless driving causing deaths and injuries, failing to stop to help others and failing to report the accident.

The driver told investigators he was driving normally until the bus lost balance at its front right tire, hit another car and scraped a concrete highway barrier, causing sparks that ignited the blaze, Chayanont Meesati, deputy re-

gional police chief, told reporters.

The driver said he ran to grab a fire extinguisher from another bus that was traveling on the same trip but could not put out the fire, and ran away because he panicked, Chayanont said.

Police said they are investigating whether the bus company followed all safety standards.

In an interview with public broadcaster Thai PBS, bus company owner Songwit Chinnaboot said the bus was inspected for safety twice a year as required and that the gas cylinders had passed safety standards. He also said he would compensate the victims' families as best as he could.

Three students are hospitalized, and the hospital said two of them were in serious condition. A 7-year-old girl suffered burns on her face, and a surgeon said doctors were doing their best to try to save her eyesight.



Ambulances carrying bodies of victims of a school bus fire leave from the police hospital in Bangkok, Thailand on Oct 2. (AP)



Waves crash on the coastline in Kaohsiung, southern Taiwan on Oct 2 as Typhoon Krathon approaches Taiwan. (AP)

Typhoon heads to Taiwan kills 1 person, injures dozens

An approaching typhoon bringing strong winds and torrential rainfall to Taiwan killed one person and injured dozens of others over the past few days and led to the evacuation of thousands from low-lying or mountainous areas.

At least 70 people were injured and one person died due to weather conditions attributed to Typhoon Krathon, Taiwan's fire department said Wednesday.

One elderly man died after falling off a ladder while pruning tree branches in the eastern city of Hualien. Two others were missing.

The typhoon, packing maximum sustained winds of 173 kph (108 mph) and gusts of 209 kph (130 mph), was expected to make landfall early Thursday on Taiwan's

densely populated west coast, according to the Central Weather Administration.

Typhoons rarely hit Taiwan's west coast, affecting instead the mountainous, eastern side of the island.

At least 128 centimeters (4.2 feet) of rain has fallen in coastal Taitung county in the past four days and 43 centimeters (17 inches) in the major port city of Kaohsiung ahead of the typhoon.

Authorities shut schools and government offices across the island and canceled all domestic flights.

In Hualien county, more than 3,000 people were evacuated from townships vulnerable to landslides. Almost 200 people in the southwestern city of Tainan and more than 800 residents of the southern

Pingtung county were also evacuated.

Kaohsiung, a city of 2.7 million people expected to be directly hit by the typhoon, evacuated more than 2,500 of its residents from areas prone to mudslides and landslides. Military personnel helped evacuees into trucks which took them to temporary shelters.

Most stores and restaurants in the city remained closed for a second consecutive day. Shoppers emptied supermarket shelves of essentials.

Streets and markets were eerily empty. An industrial harbor south of the city was at a standstill.

Kaohsiung's international airport looked deserted, with all flights canceled. (AP)

Africa

45 migrants dead in Djibouti: Two vessels carrying migrants from Africa sank in the Red Sea off the coast of Djibouti, killing 45 people, the UN migration agency said Tuesday.

The boats had departed from Yemen carrying 310 people, the International Organization for Migration said.

Thousands of migrants from African, Middle Eastern and South Asian countries seeking a better life in Europe attempt irregular migration every year. Smugglers pack vessels full of desperate people willing to risk their lives to reach continental Europe.

The UN agency, which was assisting search and rescue efforts, said on the social media platform X that 32 survivors were rescued.

Djibouti's coast guard said the tragedy struck some 150 meters (about 500 feet) off a beach near the northwest Khor Angar region. It said a joint rescue effort was under way, which began early Monday. It said 115 survivors were rescued.

"We remain committed to finding the missing persons and ensuring the safety of the survivors," the agency said in a statement posted on social media, with images of white body bags. (AP)

'M23 earns \$300k monthly': An armed rebel group in Congo generates around \$300,000 a month in revenue through its control of a mining area in the east of the country, the U.N. Security Council heard.

In April, the M23 - a rebel group with alleged links to Rwanda - seized the Rubaya mining area in eastern Congo, which holds deposits of a key mineral used in the production of smartphones and computers. Over 15% of the world's supply of tantalum, a rare metal extracted from coltan, comes from Rubaya, **Bintou Keita**, head of the UN mission in Congo, told the Security Council.

"Unless international sanctions are imposed on those benefiting from this criminal trade, peace will remain elusive and civilians will continue to suffer," Keita said.

Tantalum is among the minerals that

was identified earlier this year in a letter from Congo's government questioning Apple about the tech company's knowledge of "blood minerals" being smuggled in its supply chain.

The decadeslong conflict in eastern Congo has produced one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with more than 120 armed groups fighting for power, land and valuable mineral resources while others try to defend their communities.

Some armed groups have been accused of mass killings, rapes and other human rights violations. The violence has displaced some 6 million people in the country's east.

M23, or the March 23 Movement, is a rebel military group mainly made up of ethnic Tutsis that broke away from the Congolese army just over a decade ago. They staged a large offensive in 2012 and took over the provincial capital of Goma near the border with Rwanda, the same city they are threatening again.

Congo alleges that Rwanda has been involved in war crimes in the east and US and UN experts accuse it of giving military backing to M23. Rwanda denies the claim, but in February admitted that it has troops and missile systems in eastern Congo to safeguard its security, pointing to a buildup of Congolese forces near the border.

In July, UN experts estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 Rwandan government forces are deployed in eastern Congo alongside M23, which has been making major advances.

Last week, a regional court in East Africa opened proceedings in a case filed by Congo against Rwanda, accusing it of violating Congo's sovereignty and territorial integrity by sending troops to help rebels in the country's east. (AP)

Nigerians stage protests: Nigerians on Tuesday staged protests against economic hardship as the West African nation marked its 64th independence anniversary with its president calling for patience. Police fired tear gas to disperse some of the protesters, resulting in clashes.

Dozens of people in a few states waved placards and the green-and-white national flag, demanding better opportunities and jobs for young people, in a country that has some of the world's highest poverty and hunger levels despite being a top oil producer on the continent.

It was the second protest in two months in Africa's most populous country amid worsening hardship caused by government reforms introduced to save money and shore up dwindling foreign investments. During the last protest in August, at least 20 protesters were shot dead and hundreds of others were arrested.

The government has defended the reforms even though they have helped push the inflation rate to a 28-year high and the local naira currency to record lows against the dollar.

In the capital city of Abuja where government officials and the military attended an independence anniversary parade, some protesters in another part of the city were dispersed with tear gas.

There was a heavy security presence along major roads in other cities, including in the economic hub of Lagos, where some protesters were killed during demonstrations against police brutality in 2020.

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, who has been in office since May last year after an election campaign forged on "renewed hope," defended the reforms as necessary and said they were already yielding results, such as \$30 billion in foreign direct investments attracted in the last year.

"Once again, I plead for your patience as the reforms we are implementing show positive signs, and we are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel," Tinubu said in a broadcast. (AP)

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
PHILIPPINES - PSEI	+22.49	7,402.81	SAUDI - TASI	-209.47	12,044.07
PAKISTAN - KSE 100	+105.37	81,966.50	DUBAI - DFMGI	-37.00	4,440.27
			JAPAN - Nikkei 225	-843.21	37,808.76
			EGYPT - EGX 30	-533.33	31,332.73

Business

Madbouly highlights \$4 trillion investment gap threatening UN goals

Kuwait's Central Bank Governor joins regional talks on economic policy

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The 48th regular session of the Council of Arab Central Banks and Monetary Institutions Governors kicked off in Cairo under the patronage of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The session witnessed the participation of several countries, including Kuwait, represented by the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, Basil Al-Haroun.

In his opening address, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. Mostafa Madbouly emphasized that this gathering comes at a time marked by extraordinarily complex regional and international circumstances.

He noted that the consequences of successive crises, intertwined with geopolitical developments and disturbances, are casting shadows over various aspects of life and presenting unconventional challenges to governments across the Arab region.

Madbouly underscored the necessity for innovative methods and approaches to address these challenges, stressing the importance of considering various factors, influences, and variables while not overlooking the social dimension.

He called for close coordination and collaboration between those responsible for formulating economic



Governors participating in the event.

KUNA photo

policies and regional and international financial institutions.

A significant portion of Madbouly's speech focused on the rising tensions that have led to the expansion of inflationary waves.

He highlighted the need for substantial changes in economic policy priorities, particularly monetary policy.

In response to surging inflation rates, central banks have implement-

ed successive interest rate hikes, which have adversely impacted economic growth and the financing of development projects in many developing countries and emerging market economies.

Madbouly brought to attention a critical issue: the substantial investment gap that threatens the achievement of the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy goals, estimated at approximately \$4 trillion.

This gap poses a significant challenge for emerging economies striving to meet development objectives amidst changing global dynamics.

Additionally, the Prime Minister addressed the evolving landscape of labor markets due to rapid advancements in electronic technologies.

He warned that these markets are on the brink of radical transformation, with the International Monetary Fund projecting that up to 40 percent of traditional jobs worldwide could be affected by the increasing reliance on artificial intelligence applications.

Despite these daunting challenges, Madbouly expressed cautious optimism regarding the resilience of the global economy.

He noted that, despite the adverse effects of central banks' interest rate hikes on various economic sectors, particularly international trade, there is hope for stability and improvement in global economic performance.

As the session unfolded, the discussions highlighted the urgent need for Arab nations to collaborate and innovate in their economic strategies, ensuring that they not only navigate the current crises but also position themselves for future growth and sustainability in an increasingly complex world.

Kuwait real estate sees lowest transaction values in five years

Real estate transactions drop 28% in 2023

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: In a recent Financial Stability Report, the Central Bank of Kuwait revealed concerning trends in the local real estate sector for 2023, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The report highlighted that this year marked the lowest average value of real estate transactions in the past five years. The report detailed a significant decline in both the value and total number of transactions, attributing this downturn to a gradual increase in local interest rates that began in early 2022.

The value of real estate transactions plummeted by approximately 28 percent, dropping to 2.74 billion dinars, well below the average of previous years.

Furthermore, the growth rate of residential real estate prices also faltered, with the average price growth across the six governorates dwindling to about 3.5 percent -- a stark contrast to the 16 percent increase observed in 2022. The sluggish performance of the real estate market played a crucial role in this decline.

The report indicated that the residential sector, despite still commanding the largest share of the total traded value, saw its share decrease from 50 percent in

2022 to 47 percent in 2023.

This shift was primarily due to a drop in the number of residential real estate transactions, which fell from 6,008 in 2022 to 4,357 last year -- the lowest level since 2016.

The residential sector alone experienced a 30 percent decline, equivalent to 1,323 units, leading to a three-percentage-point decrease in its share of total trading compared to the previous year.

The Central Bank's findings revealed that the average value of annual real estate deals over the last five years was 366,000 dinars. In contrast, investment and commercial real estate recorded significantly higher averages of 701,000 dinars and 2.776 million dinars, respectively.

This disparity highlights the sensitivity of the total volume of real estate deals to fluctuations in the more liquid residential sector.

Regionally, the report pointed out varying impacts of the market slowdown. The Capital Governorate, which had seen a remarkable price increase of 23 percent in 2022, faced the most substantial adjustment in 2023, with prices decreasing by 2 percent.

While slight price increases were noted in other governorates, residential land prices in the Capital Governorate dropped by around 12 percent.

This decline is believed to be influenced by rising construction costs, which have the potential to sustain prices for built homes while investors' expectations

regarding the forthcoming implementation of the Anti-Monopoly Law for Residential Real Estate, issued in late 2023, may also have played a role in the sharp adjustments in land prices.

The law introduces a fee of 10 dinars per square meter for undeveloped residential land exceeding 1,500 square meters, which will incrementally increase each year.

Looking ahead, the Central Bank of Kuwait anticipates a shift away from tight monetary policies by the end of 2024, as inflation rates begin to decline from their peak levels.

This is expected to contribute to a return to stability in global growth trends. However, geopolitical tensions continue to pose significant risks to these growth prospects.

The upcoming US presidential election, along with elections in several other major countries, is likely to heighten uncertainty in global markets, increasing the likelihood of payment defaults due to rising credit costs over the past two years.

On a national level, the report indicated that Kuwait's economy is expected to remain resilient, bolstered by a balanced approach to monetary policy from the Central Bank, paired with robust government spending.

The recent developments in the internal political landscape are anticipated to accelerate the necessary structural economic reforms.

General index falls 1.20%

Boursa sees significant drop

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA): The Boursa Kuwait closed Wednesday with the general index falling by 86.19 points, or 1.20 percent, landing at 7,070.52 points.

A total of 447.2 million shares were traded in 23,775 cash transactions, amounting to KWD 76.5 million (USD 233.3 million).

The main market index dropped by 71.29 points, or 1.13 percent, closing at 6,246.43 points. This was through 338 million shares traded in 14,417 transactions, valued at KWD 39.4 million

(USD 120.17 million). The premier market index also fell by 94.30 points, or 1.22 percent, reaching 7,630.37 points, with 109.2 million shares traded through 9,358 transactions worth KWD 37.12 million (USD 113.2 million).

Additionally, the Main 50 index saw a decline of 64.86 points, or 1.04 percent, closing at 6,146.45 points, with 258 million shares traded through 10,198 transactions valued at KWD 29.5 million (USD 89.9 million).

Stock market sees 52.2 pct surge in individual liquidity

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Kuwait Stock Exchange has experienced a remarkable shift in market dynamics, marked by a significant increase in individual liquidity, reports Al-Jarida daily.

From the beginning of the year until the end of September, individual liquidity surged by an impressive 52.2 percent, with the total value of individual purchases reaching 3.48 billion dinars.

This substantial figure stands out, particularly against the backdrop of declining activity among investment funds, which have recorded purchases of only 52.55 million dinars since January.

This trend suggests that liquidity is robust across the board -- among individuals, institutions, and the private sector.

As companies improve their performance and business activities, the influx of liquidity is expected to rise steadily. In the realm of institutional investments, the activities of companies have also seen growth, rising by 35.1

percent to reach 4.5 billion dinars. Despite a noticeable increase in speculative trading, sources from investment firms and regulatory bodies emphasize that similar, if not more intense, speculation is occurring across global markets, including in leading financial centers.

This speculation serves as a vital market driver, creating investment opportunities. The varying assessments and outlooks of individual investors largely influence decision-making, whether they are pursuing short-term gains or long-term strategies.

In practical terms, the shift towards individual and institutional investments has overshadowed traditional investment portfolios.

From January to September, the volume of portfolio purchases decreased to 337,061 dinars, a decline of 8 percent compared to 363,021 million dinars in the same period last year.

Kuwait oil prices plummet \$3.42 to \$70.90 pb, reports KPC

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2, (KUNA): Kuwait crude oil plunged USD 3.42 during Tuesday's trading to reach USD 70.90 per barrel compared with USD 74.32 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Wednesday.

Benchmark Brent futures rose USD 1.86 to USD 73.56 pb and West Texas Intermediate gained USD 1.66 to USD 69.83 pb. Oil prices increased by three per-

cent yesterday following rising geopolitical tension in the Middle East amid fears oil exports might be affected.

Oil markets are under pressure due to projected drop especially by China, where data showed a drop in industrial activities for the five-month running.

Digital platform will provide one-stop shop for Zone companies & investors

EBRD selects Transfora as Egypt SCZONE digitalization partner

CAIRO, Oct 2: The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has selected Transfora, a leading provider of business process automation, to develop a digital operations platform for the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZONE), a key milestone in the Egyptian government's effort to transform the Zone into a global logistics and trade hub.

The SCZONE's multi-year year contract with Transfora is being funded by the EBRD, a multi-lateral bank that promotes the development of the private sector and entrepreneurial initiative in 36 economies across three continents.

Under terms of the contract, Agility will deliver Transfora, a 360-degree enterprise management platform that the SCZONE will use to manage inquiries from prospective investors and key investor documentation. Transfora also will be used to generate reports and analytics, and to manage the deployment of over 60 e-services offered by the SCZONE's one-stop shop to both potential and existing investors.

Agility Economic Zones will connect SCZONE authorities, customs officials and regulators with investors, carriers, logistics-services providers, shippers and companies that have manufacturing, assembly and processing operations in the zone.

"We are very pleased to engage Agility to support the SCZONE in its digital transformation journey, representing a key milestone in enhancing the investment climate and competitiveness of both the Zone and Egypt leading to attracting high-quality foreign direct investment and job creation," said Khalid Hamza, Director of



Agility Logo



Transfora Logo

Egypt for the EBRD.

Crucial backing from the EBRD and Egyptian government will enable rapid deployment of the Transfora platform. Automation of zone operations are expected to significantly improve efficiency in trade flows and compliance, in addition to elevating standards and improving data collection.

SCZONE Chairman Waleid Gamal El Dien said: "We are keen to enhance partnerships and cooperation with EBRD, Agility, Transfora, and all the concerned parties to ensure the creation of a competitive and attractive business environment for investments in targeted projects. That is especially true where it concerns digitizing all investor and logistics services. They contribute to the effectiveness of the integration philosophy between ports and industrial zones adopted by SCZONE, especially the One-Stop-Shop service that aims to maximize the benefit from SC-

ZONE's capabilities, create a conducive business environment and simplify administrative procedures by re-engineering more than 60 services. This cooperation will allow us to elevate standards, improve data collection, and strengthen our overall structure."

Waleed Khoury, VP of strategic Projects at Agility and CEO of Transfora, said: "The advantage of Transfora is that it's a low-code enterprise digitalization platform that integrates with simple-to-complex, line-of-business systems in the cloud and on-premise. It is easy for stakeholders to use, modify and customize. And it is accessible through both desktop and mobile devices."

Transfora is owned by Agility, a multi-business owner and operator with significant investments in the SCZONE and Egypt. Since 2022, Agility's Agility Economic Zones subsidiary has been the SCZONE's modernization and development partner. Agility Economic Zones is implementing the SCZONE's strategic vision in services, logistics and industrial zone support and has established customs and logistics centers in the zone. It is working to automate and integrate customs processes and operations for customs departments and other government agencies.

Wael Khalifa, CEO of Agility Economic Zones, said: "The SCZONE sits at the crossroads of global trade. Adoption of the Transfora platform will enhance its efficiency and rapid development as a global center for maritime transport and logistics services, an industrial gateway and the link between East and West. The companies investing in the zone see it as a manufacturing and trade engine of the future."



EBRD and Egyptian government fund SCZONE's digital operations overhaul.

Accolades enhance bank's record of achievements

ABK wins six prestigious awards from Global Finance



Ahmad AlDuwaisan, Abdulaziz Jawad, Khalil Al-Qattan and Sager Albenali pose for a group photo after receiving the awards.



Global Finance award



Part of the event.



Massive attendance

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is proud to announce that it has won six prestigious awards from Global Finance, solidifying its position as a leader in the banking sector. The awards include: Best Consumer Digital Bank in Kuwait; Best Consumer Digital Bank in the Middle East; Best Mobile Banking Adaptive Site in Kuwait; Best in Transformation in Kuwait; Best User Experience (UX) Design in Kuwait; and Best User Experience (UX) Design in the Middle East.



Ahmad AlDuwaisan



Abdulaziz Jawad



ABK logo

Ahmad AlDuwaisan:

■ This confirms our commitment to enhancing our operations and maintaining a strong competitive position in Kuwait's banking landscape.

Abdulaziz Jawad:

■ There is no doubt that these awards demonstrate the innovation of our team and their substantial achievements.

achieved through prudent planning and a strategic focus on innovation. "We are dedicated to keeping pace with the rapid changes in the banking industry to ensure our customers receive exceptional service and to

position ABK as their preferred banking partner." He added that these awards reflect the Bank's leading position amidst Kuwait's highly competitive banking sector. It also serves as testament to the professionalism of its employees, and the Bank's strive to invest in developing their capabilities and enhance their ability to use digital technologies to bring about positive change in serving all customer segments and meeting their diverse requirements and needs.

On his part, Jawad emphasized, "These awards are evidence of our excellence and commitment to improving customer service. We are dedicated to innovating new solutions for a seamless banking experience while maintaining the highest levels of security and reliability. Furthermore, it is a reflection of our commitment to offering simpler banking services to offer individuals and corporates with a worthwhile experience."

Jawad added, "We are keen to provide the best banking solutions according to the highest levels of quality and speed, and we work to study customers' needs in order to meet them in the best possible way. There is no doubt that these awards demonstrate the

innovation of our team and their substantial achievements."

He also noted that ABK recently launched an updated website and is in the final stages of developing its mobile application, designed to enhance digital services for customers around the clock. By prioritizing customer needs and leveraging market insights, ABK aims to attract and engage a diverse clientele. This is part of its five-year strategy which insists on conducting research to attest to the success of the Bank's initiatives across various segments and sectors.

In closing, Jawad expressed gratitude to Global Finance for recognizing the Bank's efforts, emphasizing ABK's commitment to achieving further milestones and contributing to the evolution of the banking industry in Kuwait. ABK remains dedicated to participating in local and regional events to enhance its competitive position and build trust with institutions worldwide.

Tensions escalate in the Middle East

Hong Kong shares soar, while other Asian markets retreat

NEW YORK, Oct 2, (AP): Hong Kong shares soared while other Asian markets retreated on Wednesday as tensions escalated in the Middle East.

Oil prices extended gains after Iran fired dozens of missiles into Israel, potentially raising the risk of disruptions to supplies. That news overshadowed an upbeat report showing U.S. job openings rose unexpectedly in August as the American labor market continued to show resilience.

But regional trading was thin, with mainland Chinese markets closed for a weeklong national holiday.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 lost 2.2% to 37,808.76. It has retreated since the ruling Liberal Democratic Party chose Shigeru Ishiba to lead the government, replacing Fumio Kishida, who stepped aside on Tuesday. Higher energy prices in Japan, which relies heavily on imported oil, gas and coal to power its industries, would add to Ishiba's burdens as he works to pep up the economy.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng roared 5.7% higher to 22,320.76, riding a wave of investor enthusiasm over recent moves by Beijing to rev up the Chinese economy with policies aimed at reviving the ailing property sector and supporting financial markets.

With Shanghai and other markets in China closed, trading crowded into Hong Kong. Hong Kong-traded shares in China Vanke, one of many real estate developers squeezed by a crackdown on borrowing that pushed the industry into a slump, jumped 10%. Longfor Holdings Group snapped up 19.8% and appliance maker Midea surged 4.2%.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged 0.1% lower to 8,198.20 and the Kospi in Seoul lost 1.2% to 2,561.69.

On Tuesday, U.S. stocks retreated from their records, with the S&P 500 dropping 0.9% to 5,708.75. The Dow dropped 0.4% to 42,156.97, and

the Nasdaq composite lost 1.5% to 17,910.36.

White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan called Iran's missile attack a "significant escalation," although he said it was ultimately "defeated and ineffective."

Israel is not a major producer of oil, but Iran is, and the potential for a wider conflict could affect other, neighboring producers of crude. The price for a barrel of benchmark U.S. crude rose as much as 5% before settling 2.4% higher. Brent crude, the international standard, rallied 2.6%.

Early Wednesday, U.S. crude was up \$1.02 at \$70.85 per barrel. Brent crude climbed \$1.01 to \$74.57 per barrel.

On Tuesday, oil-and-gas producers logged some of Wall Street's biggest gains. ConocoPhillips rose 3.9%, and Exxon Mobil climbed 2.3%.

Shares of defense contractors also rallied. Northrop Grumman rose 3%, and RTX added 2.7%. RTX partners with Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems to make the "Iron Dome" air defense system that Israel's government uses.

Most U.S. shares fell.

The all-time high that the S&P 500 set on Monday was its 43rd of the year so far. Stocks had been jumping on hopes the U.S. economy can continue to grow despite a slowdown in the job market, as the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates to give it more juice. The Fed last month lowered its main interest rate for the first time in more than four years, and it's indicated it will deliver more cuts through next year.

The dominant question hanging over Wall Street is whether the cuts will ultimately prove to be too little, too late after the Fed earlier kept rates at a two-decade high in hopes of braking on the economy enough to stamp out high inflation.

US job openings rise to 8 million as labor market remains sturdy

Layoffs fell in August

WASHINGTON, Oct 2, (AP): U.S. job openings rose unexpectedly in August as the American labor market continued to show resilience.

The Labor Department reported Tuesday that employers posted 8 million vacancies in August, up from 7.7 million in July. Economists had expected openings to be virtually unchanged. Openings were up in construction and in state and local government.

Layoffs fell in August. But the number of Americans quitting their jobs - a sign of confidence in their job prospects - slid to the lowest level since August 2020 when the economy was reeling from COVID-19 lockdowns.

Job openings have come down steadily since peaking at 12.2 million in March 2022, but they remain above where they stood before the coronavirus pandemic hit the American economy in early 2020. When the economy



Auto mechanic Willie Chung works on a vehicle at the Express Auto Service Inc., in Chicago, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024. (AP)

roared back with unexpected strength from COVID-19 lockdowns, companies scrambled to find enough workers to keep up with customer orders.

The overheating economy caused

an outburst of inflation, and the Federal Reserve responded by raising its benchmark interest rate 11 times in 2022 and 2023. Inflation has come down - from a peak of 9.1% in June

2022 to 2.5% in August.

The economy proved surprisingly resilient in the face of the Fed hikes, averting a widely forecast recession. But the job market has gradually lost momentum. Hiring averaged just 116,000 net new jobs a month from June through August - the weakest three-month average since mid-2020.

When the Labor Department releases its jobs report for September on Friday, it is expected to show that employers added 143,000 jobs last month and that the unemployment rate remained at a low 4.2%, according to a survey of forecasters by the data firm FactSet.

The Fed, satisfied with the progress against inflation and worried about the cooling job market, last month cut its benchmark rate by a hefty half percentage point, the central bank's first and biggest rate cut since March 2020.

"Job openings had a big gain, and while these numbers are volatile, it's likely employers see falling interest rates spurring the economy and may want to staff up," said Robert Frick, economist with the Navy Federal Credit Union.

French, US cos investing \$10b to extract oil in Suriname

PARAMARIBO, Suriname, Oct 2, (AP): France's TotalEnergies and U.S. hydrocarbon company APA Corp. plan to invest \$10 billion to extract oil off the coast of Suriname in a historic investment for the South American country, officials announced Tuesday.

The first oil is expected by mid-2028, with an anticipated production of 220,000 barrels per day, according

to TotalEnergies CEO Patrick Pouyanné, who flew to Suriname to personally announce the investment, the country's largest to date.

The so-called GranMorgu project focuses on an offshore area believed to contain some 700 million barrels of oil. It is adjacent to a successful ExxonMobil project in waters belonging to neighboring Guyana.

"Today is a historic day for Suriname," said a jubilant President Chan Santokhi, calling it "a day that will determine our future."

TotalEnergies will partner with APA Corp, a holding company for Apache Corporation, a Texas-based hydrocarbon exploration business, and Staatsolie, the local national oil producer representing the Surinamese

government.

Staatsolie plans to issue bonds in 2025 to finance its participation, since it is entitled to a 20% stake under the production sharing contract. The company secured an initial \$175 million payment and is now in talks with banks and planning a bond offer to complete a second payment, Jagesar said.

Inflation in Europe falls below 2% and opens the way for faster rate cuts

FRANKFURT, Germany, Oct 2, (AP): Inflation in the 20 countries that use the euro fell to 1.8% in September, below the European Central Bank's target of 2% for the first time in more than three years as falling energy prices give consumers relief from a burst of inflation that at one point reached into double digits.

Tuesday's official figure coupled with an anemic growth outlook could pave the way for faster interest rate cuts from the ECB, which has already trimmed rates twice.

Inflation fell from 2.2% in August, according to European Union statistics agency Eurostat. The last time inflation hit the ECB's 2% goal was in June 2021 when it was 1.9%.

Economists have started to consider the possibility of a

rate cut at the bank's Oct. 17 meeting. A few weeks ago, the expectations were that the central bank would wait until December before lowering borrowing costs again for consumers and businesses.

The bank must juggle the need to make sure inflation is under control, which would mean waiting longer to lower rates, against concerns over slow economic growth, which would argue for swifter cuts.

Higher central bank interest rate benchmarks combat inflation by raising rates throughout the economy, making it more expensive to borrow and spend. That reduces demand for goods and pressure on prices. But that also slows economic activity.

The ECB, U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks rapidly raised rates to combat a burst of inflation that broke out as the economy rebounded from the pandemic, straining supplies of parts and raw materials, and after Russia invaded Ukraine. Now those rates are being scaled back; the Fed cut by an outsized half-percentage point at its last meeting.

The invasion led Russia to cut off natural gas pipeline supplies to Europe, spiking energy prices there and raising fears that Russia oil would be lost to the global market. Those strains have largely eased and inflation is low enough that central banks are cautiously trimming rates to keep the economy chugging.

The ECB might not be able declare final victory over in-

flation quite yet. Economists expect inflation to tick slightly higher before the end of this year, and some underlying measures of inflation such as services prices are still high enough to instill caution. Bank President Christine Lagarde has said the bank is not committing to a future rate cut schedule but will take decisions meeting to meeting based on incoming economic data.

Energy prices provided much of the relief in Tuesday's figure, falling by 6%. Inflation was below target in the eurozone's biggest economy, Germany, at 1.8%, and well below the target in No. 3 economy Italy at 0.8%. Low inflation in Germany, however, is in part a reflection of weak growth in that economy.

Largest sporting event of its kind in Kuwait, will be held on Dec 14th with participation of special needs contestants

NBK announces details of NBK Run 2024, celebrating 30th anniversary

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) held a press conference at its headquarters yesterday morning to announce the details of the NBK Run 2024, which is scheduled for December 14th. The event was attended by executives from the bank and the organizing company, representatives of the strategic partners of this major sporting event and covered by various media outlets.

In her speech at the conference, Manal Al-Mattar, Head of Group Corporate Communications at National Bank of Kuwait said, "This year, NBK proudly celebrates 30 years of the NBK Run, which is a major social sporting event organized on annual basis."

"The NBK Run has become a symbol of social cohesion, rather than just a sporting event, and a message to everyone to lead a healthy and active lifestyle. This aligns with NBK's firm belief that sport is not only a way to improve physical well-being but also to promote positive values like cooperation, determination and perseverance, therefore, the bank is keen on organizing this race every year, being a platform to promote these values, and it gives participants the opportunity to enjoy an experience full of enthusiasm and fun," she remarked.

"I would like to take this opportunity to point out that the NBK Run, which is considered the largest sporting event of its kind in Kuwait given its massive public participation and extensive media coverage year after year, will allow in its upcoming version different age groups and genders to participate in different challenges in the 5km and 10km categories, according to their physical abilities. This will foster challenge and competition among the participants. To enhance competitiveness and excitement, we will be offering valuable prizes for the winners and participants, as well as special draws for the public, ensuring a fun experience for all," she continued.

New Categories

Al-Mattar highlighted that NBK has added 3 new categories for participants in the NBK Run 2024, to allow wider segments to participate in this spectacular event. "Under-scoring its pioneering position as one of the most socially responsible institutions in Kuwait, and in a step to engage different sectors of society in this major event, and to foster its leading efforts in extending all means of support to people with special needs, the bank announced that NBK Run 2024 will be different from the previous versions, by including introducing 3 new categories for the people with special needs for both men and women, including wheelchairs, blind and prosthetic limbs, with the starting point being from Kuwait Towers for a distance of 5 km," she explained.

"The participation of people with special needs in this year's race is an initiative of one of the leading petrochemical companies, EQUATE, which was keen to include this segment to the participants and provided valuable prizes for the winners: KD 500, KD 400 and KD 300 for the first, second and third place winners respectively, in each of the three categories, for both men and women," she added.

Al-Mattar thanked the strategic partners who joined NBK Run this year in recognition of the importance of this long-standing and successful race and their role in supporting the community. She also expressed her thanks to all those who helped in organizing this race, including teams, sponsors, and especially government institutions who help us spread awareness on



Abdullah AlOmani, Sundus AlShatti, Faisal Al Mosawi, Ahmed Al-Majed, Manal Al-Mattar, Sandi Nassar, Luwla Al-Munaifi, Khalid Al-Mutawa and Abdul Wahab Al Qenaai

Al-Mattar:

- The NBK Run has become a symbol of social cohesion, rather than just a sporting event
 - This year, NBK proudly celebrates 30 years of the NBK Run, a major social sporting event organized on annual basis
 - Valuable prizes for the winners and participants, as well as special draws for the public, ensuring a fun experience for all
 - Introducing 3 new categories for the people with special needs for both men and women for 5 km, with the initiative of EQUATE
 - We thank our strategic partners, sponsors, and government institutions who help us spread awareness on the importance of sport
- ### Al-Majed:
- NBK Run is the oldest sporting event in Kuwait, and a trailblazer for similar sporting events
 - At Suffix, we take pride in continuing to partner with NBK in organizing this

major social sporting event

Nassar:

- Al Babbain Group will be giving away an all-new Nissan X-Trail 2024 in a draw for contestants

Al Shatti:

- Ooredoo will provide iPhones, Apple Watches, Shamel plan subscriptions and a draw on a Platinum Line worth KD 5,000

Al-Munaifi:

- Adding the special needs category is qualitative leap, and EQUATE will provide cash prizes for the winners

Al-Mutawa:

- The sponsorship aligns with AAW's support of the national vision for sustainable healthy living

Al Qenaai:

- We are pleased with the continued strategic partnership between CHIPS and NBK

AlOmani:

- Touristic Enterprises will provide 16,000 entry tickets to its facilities for all contestants

Winners' prizes:

- KD 1,000, KD 700, and KD 500 for top three winners in both the men's and women's 10 km categories
- KD 500, KD 400, and KD 300 for top three winners in both the men's and women's 5 km categories
- KD 500, KD 400, and KD 300 for top three winners in both the men's and women's 3 special needs categories

"The new version of the NBK Run will witness a new achievement and a qualitative leap by adding the special needs category. EQUATE will sponsor participants in this category in 3 groups: Wheelchairs, Blind and Prosthetics users, where EQUATE will provide cash prizes for the winners," mentioned Luwla Al-Munaifi, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Programme at Equate Petrochemical Company.

Al-Munaifi emphasized that the aim of adding this category is not a mere contest to win, but to integrate people with special needs into society and promote inclusion, adding: "We aim to bring change through this race to the lives of this category to contribute more effectively to the development of society."

She added that this year, EQUATE has recruited a number of people with special needs to be part of its team, which has had a positive impact on the company's work environment.

"The NBK Run is not an ordinary event, but one of the largest events in Kuwait, and we are pleased with our continued strategic partnership with NBK," noted Khalid Al-Mutawa, Corporate Relations Manager at Ali AbdulWahab Al Mutawa Commercial Company.

He explained that AAW's participation in sponsoring the race through its brands Intersport and Joe & The Juice does not only aim to promote a healthy lifestyle and sports, but also reflects the company's support of the national vision for sustainable healthy living and Kuwait Vision 2035.

"We are pleased to sponsor this

the importance of sport and its role in promoting public health.

Al-Mattar concluded her speech by inviting everyone, from sports enthusiasts to professionals, to participate in this race that combines sporting competition with a festive atmosphere, saying: "I invite everyone to register and participate in the NBK Run to create a day full of challenge and positivity. With your participation and support, this event will be a success."

Clear Impact

On his part, Ahmed Al-Majed, Executive Manager at the Suffix Company for Sports Events Management, expressed the company's pride in continuing to partner with NBK in organizing this major social sporting event, which year after year proves its excellence and success in attracting large numbers of participants from all segments of society.

"NBK Run is the oldest sporting event in Kuwait, and it was a trailblazer for many entities to organize similar sporting events, as well as a source of inspiration for us," he added.

He said that sports events in the

GCC countries are usually organized with the sponsorship of government, while in Kuwait, the private sector is leading the organization of these events, underscoring its belief that sport is a key factor to develop societies, and that it has become culturally and economically impactful, and much more.

"At Suffix, we look forward to providing all capabilities for participants and spectators to spend an enjoyable social sporting day, and always aim to organize outstanding events that help raise the bar of sporting events in Kuwait and the region," he concluded.

Greater Corporation from Strategic Partners

The NBK Run 2024 will be different from previous versions, as there will be greater collaboration from strategic partners who will provide valuable prizes for the winners, participants as well as spectators.

"We at Al Babbain Group are delighted to participate for the 15th year in this important sporting event, as our sponsorship of the NBK Run comes as part of our CSR activities

and our belief in the importance of promoting a healthy lifestyle in the community, and we encourage our employees and family members to join and participate in this race," said Sandi Nassar, Senior Customer Experience Specialist at Al-Babbain.

"Al Babbain Group will be giving away an all-new Nissan X-Trail 2024, as contestants in the NBK Run will be eligible to enter the draw to win the car once they register for the race," she added.

"We are proud of our strategic partnership with NBK over the past years, especially as the NBK Run is a spectacular event with massive participation from all segments of society. In line with our social responsibility, we are happy to participate and sponsor important events organized by NBK," commented Sundus AlShatti, Director Digital Service of Ooredoo - Kuwait.

She said that Ooredoo will be giving away prizes during NBK Run this year, including iPhones, Apple Watches, Shamel plan subscriptions, as well as a draw on a Platinum Line worth KD 5,000, which participants will qualify for once they register.

Under Diraya campaign

KFH warns customers of 'unidentified links'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) advises customers to constantly stay cautious and encourages them to activate security settings on their devices when sharing personal information and important details online.

Additionally, KFH urges customers to refrain from clicking unverified links received from unidentified numbers, and particularly links received from the customer's known contacts as their accounts might be hacked and targeted.

In its statement, KFH invites customers to remain alerted and avoid responding immediately to messages received at suspicious timings. The Bank reaffirmed the importance of not rushing in providing personal and financial information or the OTP to any party, whether online, or through SMS, a phone call.

KFH continuous its efforts to support Diraya financial and banking awareness campaign launched by the Central Bank of Kuwait in collaboration with Kuwait Banking Association. These efforts are manifested through awareness campaigns, social media



messages and videos that shed light on customers' rights, rules and regulations, information safety and security against intrusion and combating financial fraud. They also detail the process of filing complaints and safeguarding customers' rights.

By supporting the campaign objectives, KFH aims to strengthen its pioneering role in banking awareness and provide customers with the maximum-security standards when using the banking products and services.

Continuing to offer most compelling offers for customer satisfaction

KIB announces exclusive financing offer on latest Chery models in collaboration with Alghanim Motors Company

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has announced an exclusive financing offer on the latest Chery models. The offer includes profit-free Musawama financing with a five-year repayment period, a 10-year or one million km warranty on the car, as well as free maintenance for up to 50,000 km or three years, subject to the terms and conditions of the offer. This initiative reflects the Bank's commitment to meeting the needs and aspirations of its customers and complements KIB's efforts to provide top-level financing offers that ensure customer comfort. It also underscores KIB's continuous effort to enhance its partnership with the local Chery dealer, Alghanim Motors Company.

On the occasion of launching this special offer, Head of the Central Sales Unit - Retail at KIB, Abdulaziz Al-Shammari, said: "At KIB, we remain committed to a key aspect of our comprehensive strategy: strengthening our partnerships with the most renowned car dealers in Kuwait. This is exemplified by our new collaboration with Alghanim Motors, which contributes to our ongoing success in offering financing deals that cater to a wide range of



KIB's Abdulaziz Al-Shammari

modern vehicles." He added: "These initiatives empower both KIB customers and non-customers to select options that best meet their needs and aspirations when choosing KIB's competi-

tive financing offers, particularly for cars that are highly sought after in the local market due to their high quality and competitive prices."

It is worth noting that KIB offers its customers a more efficient and flexible shopping experience by enabling them to request and track financing easily and comfortably. The Bank provides flexible financing ranging from KD 300 to KD 25,000, payable over three to 60 months, without the need for salary transfer. This makes KIB the ideal choice for a wide range of customers and non-customers, both citizens and residents alike.

Under its main slogan, "Bank for Life," KIB continues its diligent efforts to develop its diverse banking and financing services and products. These efforts ensure the availability of the best solutions, facilities, and offers that meet the various requirements and needs of its customers, especially when it comes to fulfilling their desire to acquire the latest car models, particularly Chery vehicles.

About KIB

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State

major sporting event and continue the strategic partnership with NBK," said AbdulWahab Al Qenaai, Public Relations Manager at CHIPS.

"At CHIPS, we always seek to integrate technology and electronics with sports, especially since electronics is closely related to all sports," he added, wishing success to all strategic sponsors and participants in the NBK Run this year.

"We are pleased with our strategic partnership with NBK in this sporting event, which is the largest in Kuwait, and to host the race on the Sea Front, which is a key touristic destination in Kuwait, adjacent to the landmark Kuwait Towers," quoted Abdullah AlOmani, Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications at Touristic Enterprises Company.

Al-Omani highlighted that the Sea Front was developed to provide a sporting environment and places for running, walking and cycling, pointing out that the first phase of the Sea Front development project was inaugurated last February, while the second and final phase will be inaugurated next February.

He added that TEC's 2024-2025 Strategy aims to strengthen its partnership with the creative and inspiring private sector, and our sponsorship of the NBK Run comes in this context, noting that the company will provide 16,000 entry tickets to its facilities and parks (Winter Wonderland and South Sabahiya Park) to all contestants in NBK Run this year.

Al Mosawi: People with special needs are excited to participate in the race

Speaking at the press conference, Faisal Al Mosawi, holder of 3 Guinness World Records including the fastest wheelchair-using scuba diver in the world, extended thanks to NBK and EQUATE, as well as the strategic sponsors of the NBK Run 2024, for taking the initiative to include people with special needs.

Al Mosawi stressed that this meaningful initiative stands out with the fact that the participation of people with special needs will not be honorary, noting that promoting competition by honoring the winners creates a sense of inclusion in the community, and the positive impact will extend beyond the end of the race.

He said that through his communication with some people with special needs, he found that they were very happy and enthusiastic to participate in the race.

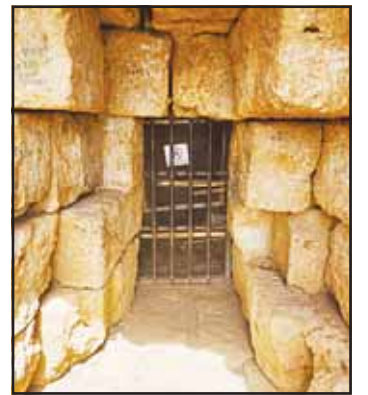
Early Registration

NBK has already opened early registration for the 2024 NBK Run starting from September 18th to October 5th through the "Suffix" website, offering special discounts on race fees. Following this period, registration will continue at regular prices until all slots are filled.

The race will start at 8:30 a.m. on December 14th, featuring two distances, both beginning and ending at Kuwait Towers. The 10 km route will proceed towards Souq Sharq, then turn and follow the Gulf Road, reaching 200 meters before the intersection with Green Island, before returning to Kuwait Towers.

The second distance of the race is 5 km, starting from Kuwait Towers and heading towards Souq Sharq. Competitors will then turn and continue running until they reach the intersection at Kuwait Army Club.

The race will honor the top three winners in both the 7men's and women's 10 km categories with cash prizes of KD 1,000, KD 700, and KD 500, respectively. The top three winners in the men's and women's 5 km categories will receive KD 500, KD 400, and KD 300, respectively.



KUNA photos
Photos of the Mauritanian royal mausoleum in the heights of Sidi Rached, west of Algiers.

Royal Mausoleum of Mauritania ... an ancient Algerian testament of love

The Algerian national landmark the Royal Mausoleum of Mauritania, locally known as the Roman Tomb, had been a source of rich historical and archeological value to Algerian history.

The Royal Mausoleum was an ancient Numidian archeological site located on a hilltop on the coast 261 meters above sea level in Sidi Rached, West of the capital Algiers, where it has an advantageous view of the sea,

becoming an asset to seafarers and fishermen alike.

The Mausoleum was designed as a circular building with a circumference of 185.5 meters, 60.9 meters in diameter, and 32.4 meters in height, surrounded at the bottom by 60 Ionic columns, and four hidden doors.

The history behind the Mausoleum was originated by the Numidian King

Juba II in the first century AD, immortalizing his beloved late wife Cleopatra Selene, an offspring of Queen Cleopatra of Pharaonic Egypt.

The Royal Mausoleum's construction serves as a resting place for his wife and a testament of King Juba's affections towards her, gifting her this architectural wonder where he would be laid to rest by her side for all eternity. (KUNA)

Native sports drama

Film

'Rez Ball' wins out with poignancy and heart

A scrappy young team of underdogs — in both sports and life — must find a way to unite and win that big championship. Can they do it? How many times have we seen that story, and who among us couldn't write the ending right now?

That may be just what you're thinking as you settle into "Rez Ball," the latest entry in the canon of inspirational youth sports movies, and the sub-canon of inspirational youth basketball movies. And yes, there's a lot you can predict from the outset, not to mention lines you could have pre-written, word for word.



James

But that doesn't mean your heart won't be caught up in this deeply felt, poignantly told story from Navajo country, especially when the last player takes that last shot in those final seconds — never mind some heavy-handed moments. And it bears mentioning that the basketball pedigree is impeccable here, with none other than **LeBron James** producing.

Energy

So many movies begin promisingly and fail to stick the landing. "Rez Ball," directed by Navajo filmmaker Sydney Freeland (the title is shorthand for "reservation ball") is quite the opposite, a movie whose ending lifts the rest of the film up with it.

Indeed, there's a palpable sense of fresh energy — visual, and emotional — the minute our underdog team, the Warriors from the fictional town of Chuska, New Mexico, arrives at the state championships in Albuquerque. But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

Freeland and co-writer Sterlin Harjo, their script inspired by Michael Powell's book "Canyon Dreams," begin with a flashback. Young boys Nataanii and Jimmy are playing basketball in happier times. We move to their high school years. They're both skilled players — especially Nataanii, whose height, grace and speed have made him a local hero.

But life has taken a dark turn. Nataanii (Kusem Goodwind) sat out the previous season because of the deaths of his mother and sister at the hands of a drunken driver, a tragic but not uncommon occurrence in the community. But despite falling into depression, Nataanii has returned for the new season.

The team's coach, Heather (Jessica Matten), is a former WNBA player who grew up locally and has her own complicated history, as does Jimmy's mother, Gloria, a

former high school star who fell on hard times.

Trouble rears its head in only the second game, against Santa Fe Catholic, a cocky team that crushes the Warriors. Much worse is the fact that Nataanii hasn't shown up and nobody's heard from him. After the game, the team is delivered devastating news that threatens their ability to continue.

And it puts the pressure squarely on Jimmy, now the captain. Gradually, they coalesce into a workable unit. In an early team-building exercise, coach Heather tasks the boys with herding some escaped sheep on her grandmother's land. She also engages an assistant coach who puts an emphasis on Navajo spiritual traditions. Under Jimmy, the team also embraces the clever idea of calling their plays in Navajo, to thwart their rivals.

Things go well but then fall apart, on court and off, at a critical moment in the season. And though the team makes it to state playoffs at the famous "Pit" — the 15,000-seat university arena in Albuquerque — there's a real question as to "which" Chuska Warriors will show up.

It's a moment of truth for Jimmy — played by the appealing Kauchani Bratt (nephew of Benjamin) — who must not only rally his team, but triumph over the pessimism his bitter mother imparts to him, especially about basketball. Gloria (Julia Jones) tells him she doesn't come to his games because she doesn't want to see him fail. Another gem from Mom: "The higher you go, the greater the fall."

Authenticity

Such lines would land with more authenticity if Gloria had been given a deeper backstory. The off-court life of Heather, too, is given cursory treatment. Two appealing girlfriend characters also get short shrift. The filmmakers clearly have one focus, which is to impart drama through basketball. And the game scenes are the best ones, with director Freeland, cinematographer Kira Kelly and a cast of newcomers — not to mention a basketball choreographer — joining to produce some exciting on-court moments.

Luckily, Bratt inhabits Jimmy with charm and ease. (A Native performer with varsity basketball experience, he and other actors had to prove their ball skills before being cast.) And so it comes down to Jimmy, at the end, with his hand on the ball at that crucial moment.

We won't tell you what happens. And even if you're sure you know, is that really the point?

"Rez Ball," a Netflix release, has been rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association "for thematic elements including suicide, teen drug/alcohol use, language and some crude references." Running time: 111 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. (AP)



Above: This image released by Netflix shows Kusem Goodwind as Nataanii, (left), and Kauchani Bratt as Jimmy, in a scene from the film 'Rez Ball.' (AP)



Kauchani Bratt and Sam Griesel as Mason, in a scene from the film 'Rez Ball.' (AP)

Variety

NEW YORK: Daniel Day-Lewis is coming out of retirement, seven years after his last movie, for a film directed by his son **Ronan Day-Lewis**.

The project was announced Tuesday by Focus Features and Plan B, who are partnering on "Anemone." The film, Ronan Day-Lewis' directorial debut, will star his father along with **Sean Bean** and **Samantha Morton**. The film was co-written by the two Day-

Lewis.

Earlier Tuesday, Daniel Day-Lewis and Bean were spotted driving a motorbike through **Manchester, England**, stoking intrigue about his impending return to acting. After making **Paul Thomas Anderson's** 2017 film "Phantom Thread," the 67-year-old had said he was quitting acting.

"All my life, I've mouthed off about how I should stop acting, and I don't know why it was different this time, but the impulse to quit took root in me, and that became a compulsion," he told *W*

Magazine in 2017. "It was something I had to do." (AP)

HOUSTON: An attorney said Tuesday he is representing 120 accusers who have come forward with sexual misconduct allegations against **Sean "Diddy" Combs**, the hip-hop mogul who is awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. Houston attorney **Tony Buzbee** said he expects lawsuits to be filed within the next month, with most expected to be filed in **New York** and **Los**

Angeles. Buzbee described the victims as 60 males and 60 females, and that 25



Day-Lewis



Combs

were minors at the time of the alleged misconduct. One individual alleged he was 9 years old when he was abused, Buzbee said. The allegations cover a period from 1991 to this year.

"This type of sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation should never happen in the **United States** or anywhere else. This should have never been allowed to go on for so long. This conduct has created a mass of individuals who are injured, scared and scarred," Buzbee said at a news conference.

Following the announcement of the accusations in **Texas**, an attorney for Combs said the performer "cannot address every meritless allegation in what has become a reckless media circus."

"That said, Mr. Combs emphatically and categorically denies as false and defamatory any claim that he sexually abused anyone, including minors," attorney **Erica Wolff** said in a statement. "He looks forward to proving his innocence and vindicating himself in court, where the truth will be established based on evidence, not speculation." (AP)



Louis Vuitton



Chanel



Chanel



Chanel



Louis Vuitton

Above: Models wear creations as part of the Louis Vuitton and Chanel Spring/Summer 2025 collection presented Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, in Paris. (AP)

Obituaries

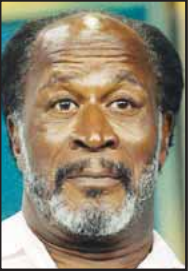
Frank Fritz dies at 60

John Amos, patriarch on 'Good Times,' dies at 84

LOS ANGELES, Oct 2, (AP): **John Amos**, who starred as the family patriarch on the hit 1970s sitcom "Good Times" and earned an Emmy nomination for his role in the seminal 1977 miniseries "Roots," has died. He was 84.

He died Aug. 21 of natural causes in Los Angeles. Amos' publicist, Belinda Foster, confirmed the news of his death Tuesday.

He played James Evans Sr. on "Good Times," which featured one of television's first Black two-parent families. Produced by Norman Lear and co-created by actor Mike Evans, who co-starred on "All in the Family" and "The Jeffersons," it ran from 1974-79 on CBS.



Amos

"That show was the closest depiction in reality to life as an African American family living in those circumstances as it could be," Amos told Time magazine in 2021.

Among Amos' film credits were "Let's Do It Again" with Bill Cosby and Sidney Poitier, "Coming to America" with Eddie Murphy and its 2021 sequel, "Die Hard 2," "Madaea's Witness Protection" and "Uncut Gems" with Adam Sandler. He was in Ice Cube and Dr. Dre's 1994 video "Natural Born Killaz."

Family

Amos' "Good Times" character, along with wife Florida, played by Esther Rolle, originated on another Lear show, "Maude." James Evans often worked two manual labor jobs to support his family that included three children, with Jimmie Walker becoming a breakout star as oldest son J.J.

Such was the show's impact that Alicia Keys, Rick Ross, the Wu-Tang Clan are among the musicians who name-checked Amos or his character in their lyrics.

"Many fans consider him their TV father," his son Kelly Christopher Amos said in a statement. "He lived a good life. His legacy will live on in his outstanding works in television and film as an actor. My father loved working as an actor throughout his entire life. He was my dad, my best friend, and my hero."

The elder Amos and Rolle were eager to portray a positive image of a Black family, struggling against the odds in a public housing project in Chicago. But they grew frustrated at seeing Walker's character being made foolish and his role expanded.

"The fact is that Esther's criticism, and also that of John and others - some of it very pointed and personal - seriously damaged my appeal in the Black community," Walker wrote in his 2012

memoir "Dyn-O-Mite! Good Times, Bad Times, Our Times."

After three seasons of critical acclaim and high ratings, Amos was fired. He had become critical of the show's white writing staff creating storylines that he felt were inauthentic to the Black characters.

"There were several examples where I said, 'No, you don't do these things. It's anathema to Black society. I'll be the expert on that, if you don't mind,'" he told Time magazine. "And it got confrontational and heated enough that ultimately my being killed off the show was the best solution for everybody concerned, myself included."

Amos' character was killed in a car accident. Walker lamented the situation. "If the decision had been up to me, I would have preferred that John stay and the show remain more of an ensemble," he wrote in his memoir. "Nobody wanted me up front all the time, including me."

Amos and Lear later reconciled and they shared a hug at a "Good Times" live TV reunion special in 2019.

Amos quickly bounced back, landing the role of an adult Kunta Kinte, the centerpiece of "Roots," based on Alex Haley's novel set during and after the era of slavery in the U.S. The miniseries was a critical and ratings blockbuster, and Amos earned one of its 37 Emmy nominations.

"I knew that it was a life-changing role for me, as an actor and just from a humanistic standpoint," he told Time magazine. "It was the culmination of all of the misconceptions and stereotypical roles that I had lived and seen being offered to me. It was like a reward for having suffered those indignities."

Frank Fritz, part of a two-man team who drove around the US looking for antiques and collectibles to buy and resell on the reality show "American Pickers," has died.

He died Monday night at a hospice facility in Davenport, Iowa, said Annette Oberlander, a longtime friend. She said he was 60, not 58, as some websites and news sources said.

She said she was at his bedside, as was Mike Wolfe, who starred with Fritz for more than a decade on the History Channel program.

"The same off camera as he was on, Frank had a way of reaching the hearts of so many by just being himself," Wolfe said in an Instagram post mourning the loss of his friend.

In "American Pickers," Fritz and Wolfe visited mainly small towns and rural areas in search of items. They often would crawl through dusty barns and crowded garages, flashlight in hand to dig out items that they could resell at an antique shop in Iowa.

Fritz often was drawn to antique toys, and he would banter in a good-natured way with sellers as they sought to arrive at a price.

Fashion

Nyong'o talks diversity in fashion

Chanel revisits iconic elements in Paris

PARIS, Oct 2, (AP): A giant empty cage greeted Chanel's guests at its return to the Grand Palais on Tuesday. Though perhaps not intentionally symbolic, the décor seemed to capture the current state of the house itself: a majestic structure empty of creative direction. With Virginie Viard's recent departure, Chanel finds itself at a crossroads, as the fashion world eagerly awaits the appointment of a new creative leader.

Meanwhile, in a powerful step toward embracing diversity, Chanel announced Lupita Nyong'o as its newest ambassador. The appointment of the Oscar-winning actor, who is Kenyan Mexican, comes at a pivotal moment for the French fashion house that had faced criticism in the past for its lack of inclusivity. This move follows the widely-lauded appointment of British-Indian Leena Nair as Chanel's global chief executive in 2022, making her the only woman of color at the helm of a major luxury brand.

Here are some highlights of spring-summer ready-to-wear shows:

The spring collection delivered many familiar elements from Chanel's vast repertoire - chiffon capes, slit skirts, embroidered transparent shirt dresses, trench coats adorned with multicolored feather prints, aviator jackets with Peter Pan collars, total pink or blue tweed looks, and the iconic little black dress that Chanel herself introduced to the world. Tweed, jersey, faille, transparent embroidery, sequins, fringe, pastel knits, and sparkling platform shoes all made an appearance, forming a showcase of the house's signatures.

Narrative

Yet despite the breadth and richness of the offering, something was amiss. There was little cohesion, and at times, the collection lacked the unmistakable soul that once characterized Chanel's shows. A series of foulard-printed gowns seemed out of place - as if borrowed clumsily from another narrative altogether.

With a snip of scissors, Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel freed women from their corsets. Today, Chanel itself needs liberation. The applause at the end of the show, which featured designs that often felt uninspired, was distinctly muted, with critics visibly shifting in their seats.

Chanel is unquestionably a fashion juggernaut, and it will weather this moment of transition. However, there is no overstating the importance of the decision the house now faces. Chanel must find a designer who can reshape and redefine its vision for the future. The industry is rife with speculation. Potential successors include Daniel Roseberry, known for his dramatic work at Schiaparelli, Marc Jacobs, a seasoned classicist with Paris experience, and Nadège Van-



Hilary Swank wears a creation as part of the Miu Miu Spring/Summer 2025 collection presented Tuesday, Oct. 1, in Paris. (AP)

hée, the skilled designer from Hermès.

Responsibility (cross head)

Nyong'o shared her excitement and the deep sense of responsibility accompanying the new role. "It's a great honor," she said. "Chanel is a legacy brand with a long history. And to be the newest face of it feels monumental. I feel very, very proud and excited to take this new journey with a brand that I think is dynamic and always feminine and regal."

Nyong'o's appointment comes as a breath of fresh air in an industry criticized for lack of diversity and reluctance to change. The number of Black designers leading heritage houses remains alarmingly low - currently only Balmain's Olivier Rousteing and Louis Vuitton men's designer Pharrell Williams hold such positions in Parisian legacy brands.

For Nyong'o, joining Chanel is about more than wearing beautiful clothes - it's about contributing to a narrative shift in fashion. "The message that I bring naturally and deliberately to the role is that things have changed. And we don't want them to go back to what they once were," she said.

Nyong'o drew inspiration from watching a recent documentary about Bethann Hardison, the iconic model and activist who was at the forefront of pushing for diversity in fashion during the 1960s and 1970s. Hardison, who rose to prominence after her appearance at the historic 1973 Battle of Versailles - a groundbreaking fashion show that brought American designers into the spotlight - became one of the first high-profile Black models and an outspoken advocate for change.

Hardison's tireless efforts led to

significant gains for Black models in the past, but the subsequent regression underscored how fragile those victories could be. Her fight for inclusivity in fashion serves as both a cautionary tale and a source of inspiration for Nyong'o, who now finds herself continuing Hardison's legacy.

"It took a step back, so for me that was testament to the fact that it takes consciousness. It's a conscious effort that has to be made on a daily basis and in present time. You don't fix it once and then hope it stays that way," Nyong'o added. She sees Chanel's decision to name her as an ambassador as part of a broader, deliberate declaration: "I feel like these movements that Chanel is making are part of declaring a desire to represent a more realistic world. And I'm proud to be one of those faces that is sending that message."

Elegant

The importance of visibility in reshaping perceptions cannot be understated. Now, she imagines a little girl somewhere, watching her in a Chanel campaign, seeing someone who looks like her - someone who is elegant, celebrated, and valued.

"I would hope that there is a message for little girls," she continued. "My work as an actor and as an author, as a podcast maker, and now as a brand ambassador, is to change that by just occupying the space."

The luxury sector has frequently been accused of tokenism and superficial diversity efforts - making short-term gestures without genuine long-term change. Nyong'o is determined to make her role count, embodying the idea that representation must come with influence and purpose.

French fashion once again showcased its formidable strength at Nicolas Ghesquière's spring collection for Louis Vuitton, blending savoir-faire with cultural resonance. "French fashion is a formidable soft power, radiating a tradition of savoir-faire, an art de vivre - a cultural singularity," the house said, and the designer delivered a spectacle that seemed like yet another grand culmination of the house's journey across time, space, and style.

If anyone can redefine fashion by dipping into the nursery wardrobe, it's Miuccia Prada. This season, Miu Miu, Prada's irreverent and intellectual baby sister, examined early youth - and with it, the liberating simplicity and honesty it brings to thinking and dressing.

Prada called in a remarkable cast, including Alexa Chung, Willem Dafoe, Cara Delevingne, and Hilary Swank - household names from every corner of the artistic universe, as comfortable in front of the camera as they were here, treading the Miu Miu boards.

Prince Harry visiting Lesotho, where he's 'a warrior'

MASERU, Lesotho, Oct 2, (AP): Prince Harry is visiting the tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho, where he co-founded a youth charity in 2006 in honor of his late mother, Princess Diana.

The Duke of Sussex began his visit Tuesday by meeting with young people and sharing experiences around an evening campfire. He was due to have a private event on Wednesday.

Harry, who turned 40 last month, is also due to visit Johannesburg in neighboring South Africa on the four-day trip to southern Africa, his first to the region in five years. His wife, Meghan Markle, and children Archie and Libelb did not travel with him.

Harry co-founded the Sentebale charity with Lesotho's Prince Seeiso initially to help young people affected by HIV/AIDS. It works in Lesotho and Botswana and has evolved into an organization that supports children and young people

as they face various challenges related to health, inequality and climate.

Prince Seeiso, 58, called Harry his younger brother, and reminded everyone that Harry had an African title that Seeiso had previously bestowed on him. Seeiso said Harry was also known as "the warrior" in Lesotho.

Sentebale means "don't forget me" in the Sesotho language, and the princes established it in memory of both their late mothers.

"We are building a force of young advocates and when they are empowered to use their voices, the strength of their impact will be immense," Harry said to the young people and others connected to his charity gathered around the campfire. "You might not always realize how significant your influence is, but if it changes even one person's life, it's worth it."



Britain's Prince Harry, (left), shakes hands with Lesotho's Prime Minister Sam Matekane, on Wednesday, Oct. 2, while visiting the tiny mountain kingdom where he co-founded a youth-focused charity in 2006 in honor of his late mother, Princess Diana. (AP)

HEALTH/SCIENCE

Epidemiologists explain how to protect yourself

Fungal infections known as valley fever could spike this fall: experts

By Jennifer Head, University of Michigan; Alexandra K. Heaney, University of California, San Diego, and Simon Camponuri, University of California, Berkeley

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

As the climate warms, the southwestern US is increasingly experiencing weather whiplash as the region swings from drought to flooding and back again. As a result, the public is hearing more about little-known infectious diseases, such as valley fever.

In May 2024, about 20,000 people attended a music festival in Buena Vista Lake, California. In the months that followed, at least 19 developed valley fever, and eight were hospitalized from their infection. This outbreak follows a dramatic increase of more than 800% in valley fever infections in California between 2000 and 2018.

In 2023, California reported the second-highest number of valley fever cases on record, with more than 9,000 cases reported statewide. And between April 2023 and March 2024, California provisionally reported 10,593 cases - 40% more than during the same period the prior year.

Valley fever is the common name for a disease called coccidioidomycosis, which is an infection caused by pathogenic fungi from the Coccidioides genus. The fungi are primarily found in arid soils of the southwestern United States, as well as parts of Central and South America.

When the fungus has access to moisture and nutrients, it grows long, branching fungal chains throughout the soil. When the soil dries out, these chains fragment to form fungal spores, which can be stirred up into the air when the soil is disturbed, such as by wind or digging. Airborne spores can then be inhaled and cause a respiratory infection.

Cases of valley fever are typically highest in California's southern San

Joaquin Valley and southern Arizona, but they have been increasing outside of these regions. Between 2000 and 2018, the incidence of valley fever cases increased fifteenfold in the northern San Joaquin Valley and eightfold along the Southern California coast. And between 2014 and 2018, incidence increased by more than eightfold along the central coast.

Because of these trends and the virulence of the pathogen that causes valley fever, it is listed as a priority pathogen by the World Health Organization. Historically, fungal infections have received very little attention and resources. By creating this list, the WHO is hoping to galvanize action surrounding listed pathogens, including getting more resources for research as well as the development of new treatments.

Environment

After inhaling fungal spores from the environment, Coccidioides initially infects the lungs, causing symptoms like mild to severe cough, fever, difficulty breathing, chest pain and tiredness. Valley fever symptoms can resemble other common respiratory infections, so it's important for people to get checked by a doctor if they've experienced prolonged symptoms, particularly if they have been given antibiotics that are not responding to.

In California and Arizona, an estimated one-third of community-acquired pneumonia cases - or pneumonia acquired outside of the hospital - are caused by valley fever. However, only a fraction of community-acquired pneumonia cases get tested for it, so it's likely the number of valley fever cases is significantly higher. Among diagnosed cases, half experienced symptoms for two months or more before being diagnosed. In 5% to 10% of cases, the fungus can spread from the lungs to other parts of the body, such as the central nervous system, liver and bones, causing meningitis or arthritis-like symptoms. These cases can be severe and possibly fatal.

Antifungal treatment is available, and early diagnosis and treatment is

critical for better outcomes.

Valley fever cases can occur year-round, but in California, cases reported via surveillance systems tend to increase starting in August and September, peak in November and return to background levels in January and February.

Researchers believe that patients are likely exposed to the fungus in the summer and early fall months, typically one to three months prior to their diagnosis. This delay accounts for time between when patients are exposed, develop symptoms and are diagnosed with the disease. While cases peak in the fall on average, seasonal strength and timing varies regionally.

Our research shows that this seasonal surge in the fall is especially strong following wetter winters and that alternation between dry and wet conditions is associated with increased incidence in fall months. Valley fever cases in California nearly doubled following wet winters that occurred one and two years after the 2007-2009 and 2012-2015 droughts.

In 2023, California experienced a similar transition, with an extreme drought occurring between 2020-2022 followed by heavy precipitation in the winter of 2022-2023.

This transition was followed by a near-record spike in cases in 2023. The state experienced another wet winter during the 2023-2024 wet season, furthering concern about continued high risk for valley fever in 2024.

Our research team recently developed a model to forecast valley fever cases that will occur between April 2024 and March 2025 in California. We forecast that the state is likely to see another spike in cases during the fall and winter of 2024, on par with the spike in 2023.

During high-risk periods, clinicians should consider valley fever as a potential diagnosis. This is especially true when evaluating a patient presenting with valley fever symptoms or a respiratory illness who lives in, works in or traveled to an endemic or emerging region. (AP)

New alternative to surgery

PAE helps men with enlarged prostate

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct 2, (AP): In 2012, Dr. Jafar Golzarian performed the first prostate artery embolization (PAE) in the US. Today, he is confidently performing PAE on an outpatient basis at North Star Vascular & Interventional.

"We now have two decades of solid clinical data on PAE," says Golzarian. "Men now have a viable alternative to prostate surgery for benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), or enlarged prostate."

BPH affects half of all men aged 50-61 and 90% of men over 80. As the prostate grows, it pushes against

the urethra and blocks urine flow. The most common symptoms are urinary frequency, especially at night, and the inability to empty the bladder. Most men with this condition are unhappy and do not wish to live their lives with it.

Dr. Golzarian says PAE is an excellent non-surgical alternative to TURP-transurethral resection of the prostate - a technically difficult surgery wrought with side effects like chronic urinary problems, retrograde ejaculation, impotence and erectile dysfunction.

"TURP surgery removes part of

the prostate gland," Golzarian says. "While some consider it the gold standard, it has a high complication rate of 24.74%. Additionally, up to 14.5% who have TURP will require another surgery within 5 years."

Dr. Golzarian contends that PAE is an excellent option for most because it shrinks the prostate gland without surgery, the associated risks and lengthy recovery. During the outpatient procedure, imaging guides a very small catheter through the bloodstream to the artery that supplies blood to the prostate.

Microparticles are then injected into

New clues offered

NASA finds CO2 on Pluto's moon

NEW YORK, Oct 2, (AP): NASA's Webb Space Telescope has identified new clues about the surface of Pluto's largest moon.

It detected for the first time traces of carbon dioxide and hydrogen peroxide on the surface of Charon, which is about half Pluto's size.

Previous research, including a flyby from NASA's New Horizons spacecraft in 2015, revealed that the moon's surface was coated by water ice. But

scientists couldn't sense chemicals lurking at certain infrared wavelengths until the Webb telescope came around to fill in the gaps.

"There's a lot of fingerprints of chemicals that we otherwise wouldn't get to see," said Carly Howett, a New Horizons scientist who was not involved with the new study.

The research published Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications.

2.5% volume loss recorded

Swiss glaciers are receding again

GENEVA, Oct 2, (AP): The volume of Switzerland's glaciers shrank again this summer, compounding the negative impact of climate change after a devastating two-year run that depleted the ice by more than 10%, scientific experts reported Tuesday.

The cryosphere observation team at the Swiss Academy of Sciences reported that high temperatures in July and August, combined with the heat-absorbing impact of reddish-yellow dust blown northward from the Sahara Desert onto Swiss glaciers, led to a loss of 2.5% of their volume this year.

The shrinkage came despite "extremely favorable" conditions through June, the academy said, thanks to 30% more snowfall in the preceding winter compared to average levels, meaning that the glaciers had an extra layer of protective covering of snow - before temperatures rose.

"August saw the greatest loss of ice recorded since measurements began," the academy said in a statement summarizing the findings.

"The retreat of the glacier tongues and their disintegration continue unabated as a result of climate change," it said, adding that the 2.5% loss of volume was higher than the average levels



A lake of meltwater has formed on the tongue of the Rhone Glacier near Goms, Switzerland, June 13, 2023. (AP)

over the last decade.

Experts at the Glacier Monitoring in Switzerland network, known as GLAMOS, said that more than half of the glaciers it monitored completely lost their snow coverage throughout the summer.

Several topmost measurement points on glaciers, such as Plaine Morte and Gries in the south and Silvretta in the east, recorded melt rates of a meter or more, the network said in a report for the Swiss Academy of Sciences.

GLAMOS cited three factors: "very high" average air temperatures in July and August; good weather in those months in which there was no fresh snow; and southwesterly winds in the winter and spring that dumped the Saharan dust onto the Alps, causing a warming effect on the ice.

Switzerland is home to the most glaciers of any country in Europe, and saw 4% of its total glacier volume disappear last year. That was the second-biggest decline in a single year on top of a 6% drop in 2022.

Children under 5 face more health risks

Partner violence harms kids: study

SYDNEY, Oct. 2, (Xinhua): The children of mothers who experience intimate partner violence (IPV) are more likely to suffer from poor health outcomes, an Australian research has found.

In a new study, a team of researchers led by the Menzies School of Health Research at Charles Darwin University (CDU) revealed the impact of IPV on child health. They found that children younger than five years whose mothers experienced IPV were more likely to develop acute respiratory infection, diarrhea and be under-nourished.

The risk of poor health outcomes was much higher among children whose mothers experienced multiple types of violence, the research found.

Researchers from institutions in-

cluding CDU, the University of Sydney, the Australian National University and University of Queensland examined data from 238,060 children younger than five living across 37 sub-Saharan African countries.

It was the first study to comprehensively analyze the link between a mothers' experience of physical, emotional and sexual violence and co-occurrence and the subsequent effect on their child's health.

"Research into the impacts of exposure to violence on children's health and development is essential for understanding possibilities for prevention," Gary Robinson, director of the Menzies School of Health Research Center for Child Development and Education, said

in a media release on Tuesday.

The research said that sub-Saharan African countries need to prioritize the development and implementation of strategies encompassing IPV preventive measures and support for affected families.

"Countries in the sub-Saharan Africa region, including Chad, Comoros, Gabon, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Burundi, South Africa, and Liberia, merit specific attention due to heightened risks of adverse childhood outcomes associated with IPV," the study said. A multidisciplinary approach that integrates health care, social services and legal frameworks is paramount to mitigate the wider impact of IPV, the research said.

Chemical can cause lower IQ in kids

Fluoride in drinking water poses enough risk to merit EPA action

NEW YORK, Oct 2, (AP): A federal judge has ordered the US Environmental Protection Agency to further regulate fluoride in drinking water because high levels could pose a risk to the intellectual development of children.

US District Judge Edward Chen cautioned that it's not certain that the amount of fluoride typically added to water is causing lower IQ in kids, but he concluded that mounting research points to an unreasonable risk that it could be. He ordered the EPA to take steps to lower that risk, but didn't say what those measures should be.

It's the first time a federal judge has made a determination about the neurodevelopmental risks to children of the recommended US water fluoride level, said Ashley Malin, a University of Florida researcher who has studied the effect of higher fluoride levels in pregnant women.

She called it "the most historic ruling in the US fluoridation debate that we've ever seen."

The judge's ruling is another striking dissent to a practice that has been hailed as one of the greatest public



A student drinks from a water fountain at an elementary school in California on Sept 20, 2023. (AP)

health achievements of the last century. Fluoride strengthens teeth and reduces cavities by replacing minerals lost during normal wear and tear, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Last month, a federal agency determined "with moderate confidence" that there is a link between higher levels of fluoride exposure and lower IQ in kids. The National Toxicology Program based its conclusion on studies involving fluoride levels at about twice the recommended limit for drinking water.

The EPA - a defendant in the lawsuit - argued that it wasn't clear what impact fluoride exposure might have at lower levels. But the agency is required to make sure there is a margin between the hazard level and exposure level. And "if there is an insufficient margin, then the chemical poses a risk," Chen wrote in his 80-page ruling Tuesday.

"Simply put, the risk to health at exposure levels in United States drinking water is sufficiently high to trigger regulatory response by the EPA" under federal law, he wrote.

An EPA spokesperson, Jeff Landis, said the agency was reviewing the decision but offered no further comment.

In 1950, federal officials endorsed water fluoridation to prevent tooth decay, and they continued to promote it even after fluoride toothpaste brands hit the market several years later.

Fluoride can come from a number of sources, but drinking water is the main source for Americans, researchers say. Nearly two-thirds of the U.S. population currently gets fluoridated drinking water, according to CDC data.

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Latham takes over as New Zealand test captain after Southee steps down

Babar Azam steps down as Pakistan white-ball captain

ISLAMABAD, Oct 2, (AP): Babar Azam revealed he had stepped down from Pakistan's white-ball captaincy on Tuesday only six months after being reappointed ODI and Twenty20 skipper by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

"I have decided to resign as captain of the Pakistan men's cricket team, effective as of my notification to the PCB and Team Management last month," Babar said on X.

"Captaincy has been a rewarding experience, but it's added a significant workload. I want to prioritize my performance, enjoy my batting, and spend quality time with my family, which brings me joy."

Babar stepped down as all-formats captain - including tests - after Pakistan failed to make the semifinals of the 50-over World Cup in India last year. Shaheen Shah Afridi led Pakistan briefly in the T20 format but was removed from the captaincy after Pakistan lost 4-1 to New Zealand. Pakistan hasn't played an ODI since the World Cup.

Mohsin Naqvi, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, reappointed Babar as white-ball captain in March, but he could only win a bilateral series against Ireland 2-1.

Pakistan drew the home T20 series against New Zealand 2-2 before losing 2-0 to England just before the Twenty20 World Cup,



In this file photo, Pakistan's captain Babar Azam waits for the coin toss before the beginning of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match between Ireland and Pakistan at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium, Lauderhill, Fla. (AP)

where Pakistan failed to reach the Super Eight stage after losing to co-host United States and arch-rival India in the group stage.

Babar, who hasn't struck a half century in his last 16 test innings, scored heavily in the recent domestic Champions Cup One-Day Tournament where he hit a century for Stallions and finished as the tournament's fourth top-scorer with 230 runs in four matches. Babar didn't lead Stallions and played under the captaincy of Mohammad Haris.

Babar led Pakistan in 43 ODIs, winning 26 and losing 15. He also captained Pakistan in 85 T20s with a win-loss record of 48-29.

Babar said it was an "honor to

lead" Pakistan, but he believed it was time for him to step down and focus on his playing role. "By stepping down, I will gain clarity moving forward and focus more energy on my game and personal growth."

Tim Southee has stepped down as New Zealand's test captain after the team's heavy loss in a two-test series in Sri Lanka.

Opening batter Tom Latham will take over the captaincy for New Zealand's three-test tour of India, with the first test starting Oct. 16 in Bengaluru.

The 35-year-old Southee took over as test captain from Kane Williamson in 2022, leading

New Zealand in 14 tests with six wins, six losses and two draws.

The veteran swing bowler has taken 382 wickets in 102 tests, placing him second on the New Zealand all-time list behind Richard Hadlee. He has 35 wickets in his 14 tests as captain and took only two wickets in the Sri Lanka series in which New Zealand lost the first test by 63 runs and the second by an innings and 154 runs.

"Captaining the Black Caps in a format that's so special to me has been an absolute honor and a privilege," Southee said. "I've always tried to put the team first throughout my career and I believe this decision is the best for the team."

Women's T20 World Cup kicks off

Australia the favorite

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 2, (AP): Bigger and better is the mantra for women's cricket as the T20 World Cup gets underway on Thursday.

The International Cricket Council is hopeful of another stellar outing for the globe's top female cricketers following the success of the 2023 edition in South Africa and building on the momentum provided by India's triumph in the men's tournament this summer.

A major stumbling block was overcome after host Bangladesh suffered political turmoil and domestic instability just months before the tournament's start. It was then moved to the United Arab Emirates with the 23 games to be played across Sharjah and Dubai. The final is on Oct. 20.

Bangladesh, which retains hosting rights, kicks off the 10-team tournament Thursday against debutant Scotland in Sharjah. Pakistan will play Sri Lanka in the evening game at the same venue.

Defending champion and firm favorite Australia is in group A along with India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

Group B comprises South Africa, England, West Indies, Bangladesh and Scotland.

Australia will be gunning for a fourth straight title, falling short in 2016 when West Indies beat them in the final at Kolkata.

"T20 World Cups are really hard to win - it's the best against the best and whoever can be most consistent or win those little moments along the way can get the job done," Australia's Alyssa Healy said in her captain's column ahead of the World Cup. "Conditions are a little unknown for us - only a few of our squad have played in the UAE before, while most of our players were involved with The Hundred prior."

Australia, which has twice won three in a row, will be wary of India's threat. Semifinalists in 2023, where they lost to Australia in Cape Town, the "Women in Blue" have improved thanks in large part to the Women's Premier League in India. It was set up to provide a platform for India's women cricketers to express themselves and gain in stature.

Led by Harmanpreet Kaur, 12 of this Indian side have played the tournament before. And three new stars in the making - Shreyanka Patil, Asha Sobhana and S Sajana - are eager for a first taste at the big stage.

"I can say this is the best team we are going for a T20 World Cup with," Kaur said in a press conference. "We have players who have been together for a long time. We know what the pressure is like and we know how to handle it."

India has never won a women's T20 World Cup. It came close in 2020, finishing runner-up to Australia, and lost in the semifinals in 2018 and 2023. For Kaur, this will be a 10th consecutive



Pakistan captain Fatima Sana, right, hands over microphone to India captain Harmanpreet Kaur, left, during a special panel session featuring captains of the 10 countries participating in the Women's T20 World Cup at Dubai International Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

tournament since 2009 and she will be keen to replicate Rohit Sharma's triumph with the Indian men's side earlier in the summer.

India starts its campaign on Friday against New Zealand and then will face Pakistan on Sunday - both games in Dubai. It plays Australia on Oct. 13.

Group A will open with a replay of the Asia Cup semifinal, where Sri Lanka beat Pakistan.

Meanwhile, England will be firm favorites to advance from Group B. It has been a bare run for the inaugural champion, and under Heather Knight again, the 2009 winners will be keen to get past the semifinals at a minimum.

"It can be an unpredictable tournament," Knight said. "It is important for us not to change how we play and approach it with a one game at a time mentality."

Opening its campaign against Bangladesh, England will be wary of the conditions. The hosts have lined up five spinners in its squad, thus indicating what's potentially in store for the three-week tournament.

South Africa, the runner-up last time, is led this time by Laura Wolvaardt and will open its campaign against West Indies.

"Reaching our first-ever World Cup final in 2023 was a big landmark moment for us. Now we would like to go that one step further and lift the trophy," Wolvaardt said.

The big question remains if anyone can stop Australia. There is further incentive to do just that - the ICC has confirmed prize money of \$2.34 million, equal to the men's tournament and an increase of 134% over what Australia received for winning in 2023.

Newcastle sets up meeting with Chelsea

NEWCASTLE, England, Oct 2, (AP): Newcastle set up a fourth-round match against Chelsea in the English League Cup by beating fourth-tier AFC Wimbledon 1-0.

Fabian Schar's coolly taken penalty in first-half stoppage time earned Newcastle a victory that was significantly more comfortable than the scoreline suggested.

The game was played a week after the third-round fixture was scheduled to take place. It had to be rearranged - and played at Newcastle's St. James' Park - after flooding

caused severe damage to the pitch at Wimbledon's Cherry Red Records Stadium.

A crowd of 51,739 watched the rearranged game.

Newcastle manager Eddie Howe made eight changes to the team which started Saturday's 1-1 draw with Manchester City in the Premier League.

Schar was one of those retained and tucked away the spot kick after Wimbledon defender Joe Pigott was adjudged to have fouled Miguel Almiron in the area.



Newcastle United's Fabian Schar, left, and AFC Wimbledon's Omar Bugiel battle for the ball during the English League Cup third round match at St James' Park, Newcastle, England, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024. (AP)

Liberty on the brink of WNBA Finals



Las Vegas Aces' A'ja Wilson (22) defends a shot by New York Liberty's Jonquel Jones (35) during the first half of a WNBA basketball semifinal game, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, in New York. (AP)

Lynx tops Sun to even semifinals

NEW YORK, Oct 2, (AP): Sabrina Ionescu and her New York teammates downplayed being on the brink of knocking off the Aces. In their mind, they haven't accomplished anything yet.

Ionescu scored 24 points and the Liberty beat Las Vegas 88-84 to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five semifinal series.

Game 3 is Friday night in Las Vegas, with the two-time defending champion Aces trying to avoid being beaten by the team they beat in the WNBA Finals last year.

History is on New York's side.

No team has rallied from a 2-0 deficit to win a best-of-five playoff series in WNBA postseason history. Only Phoenix was able to force a Game 5 in 2018 against Seattle.

The game was tied at 81 before Ionescu hit a jumper with 1:15 left to give New York a two-point lead. Both teams had chances before Ionescu fouled Tiffany Hayes with 16.9 seconds remaining off a jump ball.

Hayes hit the first of two free

throws to make it a one-point game. New York secured the rebound and Ionescu got fouled with 11.6 seconds left and also only hit one free throw to make it 84-82.

Las Vegas had a chance to tie it, but the ball went out of bounds on the sideline with 10.5 to play and after New York challenged the call that it was the Aces' ball, the officials overturned the decision and

gave the Liberty the ball. Ionescu, who had seven of the Liberty's final nine points, then hit two free throws to make it a two-possession game.

A'ja Wilson answered with a jumper with 5.6 left before Breanna Stewart hit two free throws less than a second later to seal the win.

Courtney Williams scored 17 points and Alanna Smith had 15

points to help the Minnesota Lynx offset an off night for star Napheesa Collier and beat the Connecticut Sun 77-70 to even the best-of-five WNBA semifinal series at one game apiece.

Collier, who scored 80 points in the two-game sweep of Phoenix in the first round, was held to nine points on 3-for-14 shooting. She led the Lynx with 12 rebounds and five assists, content to let her supporting cast lead the charge past a feisty opponent.

Alyssa Thomas had 18 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for the Sun, who shot just 5 for 20 from 3-point range. DeWanna Bonner scored 17 points and Marina Mabrey added 15 points on 4-for-14 shooting after she went 7 for 19 for 20 points in the opener.

Connecticut will host Game 3 on Friday and Game 4 on Sunday. Then Game 5, if necessary, would be in Minnesota on Oct. 8.

The Lynx never lost consecutive home games this season on their way to a 30-10 record for the No. 2 seed in the playoffs, and their 73-70 defeat in Game 1 clearly fueled a fierce follow-up in this persistently physical matchup that resembled football at times more than hoops.



New York Liberty's Breanna Stewart (30) drives past Las Vegas Aces' Chelsea Gray (12) during the first half of a WNBA basketball semifinal game, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, in New York. (AP)

Al-Hilal routs Al-Shorta

Indian soccer team refuses to travel to Iran

KOLKATA, India, Oct 2, (AP): India's Mohun Bagan Super Giants has refused to travel to Iran to play Tractor SC in an Asian Champions League Two match scheduled for Wednesday because of the escalating security problems in the country and region.

The Kolkata club asked the Asian Football Confederation to reschedule the match, which was due to take place in the northwestern city of Tabriz. The teams play in the continent's second-tier competition.

The organization released a statement on Tuesday that said: "The matter will be referred to the relevant AFC Committees with further updates to be communicated in due course."

In the top-tier Asian Champions League Elite, four-time champion Al-Hilal of Saudi Arabia made it two victories from two with a 5-0 win over Al-Shorta of Iraq.

Marcos Leonardo, signed from Benfica as cover for the injured Neymar, opened the scoring after 11

minutes. Aleksandar Mitrovic made it 2-0 four minutes later. Salem Al-Dawsari, Nasser Al-Dawsari and

Mohamed Kanno each scored in the second half.

Elsewhere, Qatar's Al-Gharafa of Qatar defeated Al-Ain of the United Arab Emirates 4-2.

The 24 teams in the revamped tournament are divided into two groups of 12 - one based in the west and one in the east - with the top eight from each progressing to the round of 16.

In the eastern zone, Gwangju FC of South Korea won a second game in its first appearance in Asia with a 1-0 win at Kawasaki Frontale of Japan. Jasir Asani's first-half penalty was enough.

Also from South Korea, three-time champion Pohang Steelers recovered from an opening-round loss to beat Shanghai Port 3-0. City rival Shanghai Shenhua lost by the same scoreline to Johor of Malaysia while Thailand's Buriram United won 2-1 at Australia's Central Coast Mariners.



Players celebrate their dominant win over Al-Shorta.

Al-Sulaibikhat plays Al-Salmiya

Al-Qadsiya and Kazma headline Handball Federation Cup knockout stage

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The quarter-final matches of the 56th edition of the Handball Federation Cup, postponed from last season, will conclude today at the Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall. Al-Nasr will face Al-Arabi at 6:30 PM, following a highly anticipated clash between Kazma and Qadsiya at 5:00 pm.

The Handball Cup Championship for the 2023-2024 season follows a knockout format. The semi-finals are scheduled for Saturday,

with the final match set for next Monday. The tournament draw divided the 14 participating teams into two groups.

Al-Qadsiya advanced directly to the quarter-finals as the leader of Group 2, bypassing the preliminary round. Kazma, on the other hand, qualified by dominating Al-Sahel in the preliminary round with an impressive 42-15 victory. Al-Nasr secured its spot by defeating Al-Tadamon 44-24, while Al-Arabi edged past Khaitan in a close 27-26 win.

The match between Al-Sulaibikhat and Al-Salmiya promises to

be tightly contested, as both teams are evenly matched. Al-Sulaibikhat is coached by Walid Fayrouz and boasts the professional Estonian duo Karl Tom and Denir Janima. The team prepared for the season with an external training camp in Cairo, where it played several friendlies. Al-Salmiya, coached by Yaqoub Al-Moussawi, recently held a camp in Qatar and finished second in the Arab Clubs Championship in Kuwait.

The other quarter-final between Al-Qadsiya and Kazma is expected to be a thrilling encounter. Al-Qad-

siya, runner-up in the last league and fourth in the Arab Clubs Championship, prepared for this tournament with a camp in Qatar under Croatian coach Slavko Klosa. It will rely on Montenegrin professional Vladan Lipovina and Egyptian Abdullah Farouk. Kazma, led by Serbian coach Bozo Rudic, prepared locally and fields Tunisian professionals Anwar Ben Abdullah and Mohammed Farad, who also played alongside goalkeeper Abdulaziz Al-Dhafiri in the Arab Championship with Al-Salmiya and Al-Hashd Al-Iraqi.



Players in action.

Alcaraz wins China Open



Carlos Alcaraz of Spain poses with his trophy after winning against Jannik Sinner of Italy during their men's singles finals match of the China Open tennis tournament, at the National Tennis Center in Beijing. (AP)

Spaniard makes it 3-for-3 against Sinner this year

BEIJING, Oct 2, (AP): Carlos Alcaraz won seven straight points in the decisive tiebreaker to beat top-ranked Jannik Sinner 6-7 (6), 6-4, 7-6 (3) and win the China Open on Wednesday, extending his recent mastery over his biggest rival - who is dealing with an ongoing doping case.

The third-ranked Alcaraz has now won all three of his meetings with Sinner this year, having also come out on top in semifinals at Indian Wells and the French Open.

"He could (have won) in two, I could win in two, he could win in three. It was a really close match," Alcaraz said. "Jannik, once again, he showed that he's the best player in the world, at least for me. The level that he's playing, it's unbelievable. It's a really high quality of tennis. Of shots, physically, mentally, he's a beast."

Alcaraz ended Sinner's winning streak at 14 matches and denied the Italian three straight titles after trophies in Cincinnati and at the U.S. Open.



Jannik Sinner of Italy plays a forehand return against Carlos Alcaraz of Spain during their men's singles finals match of the China Open tennis tournament, at the National Tennis Center in Beijing. (AP)

Sinner, who was the defending champion in Beijing, had to refocus after the World Anti-Doping Agency announced on Saturday that it was appealing a decision to clear him of wrongdoing following two positive steroid tests.

Alcaraz wasted a 5-2 lead in the first set and also let Sinner get back in the third after leading 4-2 before eventually edging it out after also falling behind 3-0 in the final-set tiebreaker.

Alcaraz changed both of his shoes after falling behind 2-0 in the third-set tiebreaker. He then lost one more point before going on a seven-point run that displayed why he's a threat anywhere on the court. There were inside-out forehand winners - including one on his first match point - a difficult volleyed approach shot, and a drop shot, too.

"I'm not going to lie: 3-0 down, two mini-breaks for him, so I didn't lose hope but I thought, 'OK, I have to give everything that I have just to try to give me the opportunity to be close,'" Alcaraz said. "I played great points just to make the 3-3 and after that I just think to go for it. If I lose it, at least I went for it."

Alcaraz produced 55 winners to Sinner's 30 but also had 52 unforced errors to his opponent's 31 - a sign of their contrasting styles: Alcaraz's attacking game vs. Sinner's steady baseline approach.

The match - which was played in cool conditions with the retractable roof open - lasted 3 hours, 21 minutes to make it the longest contest in tournament history (since 2004).

Sinner and Alcaraz have accounted for all four Grand Slam titles this year between them - evenly split at two each: Sinner won the Australian Open and the U.S. Open while Alcaraz won the French Open and Wimbledon.

Alcaraz improved to 6-4 in his career against Sinner after their 10th meeting in what has become tennis' top rivalry following the 60 matches between Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

"I respect you a lot as a player but even more as a person," Alcaraz told Sinner during the trophy ceremony.

Sinner congratulated Alcaraz for an "amazing" job. "Hopefully we can still play a couple of more times in the future, which I'm quite sure." "It's always a big pleasure to share the court with you."

WADA is seeking a ban of one to two years for Sinner in a case that might not be resolved before Sinner begins the defense of his Australian Open title in January. Sinner tested positive twice for an anabolic steroid in March but was not banned in a decision by an independent tribunal announced by the International Tennis Integrity Agency in August because the ITIA determined he was not to blame.

Sinner's accepted explanation was that the banned performance-enhancer entered his system unintentionally through a massage from his physiotherapist, who had used a spray containing the steroid to treat his own cut finger.

Sinner thanked his team and his family for their support.

Venezuela recalls Herrera for World Cup qualifiers

Rosario Central beats leader Velez Sarsfield

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 2, (Xinhua): Victor Malcorra, Agustin Sanz and Kevin Ortiz were on target as Rosario Central cruised to a 3-0 home win over leaders Velez Sarsfield in Argentina's Primera Division on Tuesday.

The visitors were reduced to 10 men in the 25th minute when Damian Fernandez was shown a straight red card for a bad challenge on Malcorra.

37-year-old winger Malcorra converted the resultant spot-kick before Sanz doubled the lead with a 76th-minute header.

Ortiz completed the rout by firing home five minutes from time after he was set up by Gaspar Duarte.

The result at Estadio El Gigante left Rosario Central 12th in the 28-team standings with 22 points from 16 outings. Velez maintains a three-point advantage over second-placed Talleres Cordoba.

In Tuesday's only other Primera Division fixture, Tigre was held to a 1-1 home draw by Independiente.

Girona midfielder Yangel Herrera has returned to Venezuela's squad for

World Cup qualifiers against Argentina and Paraguay, the Venezuelan Football Federation said on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old, who missed Ven-



Chelsea's Cole Palmer attends a training session at Cobham Training Centre, Surrey, England, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024. Chelsea will face Gent in the Conference League soccer match on Thursday. (AP)

ezuela's September qualifiers because of an adductor injury, scored in Girona's 1-1 draw with Celta Vigo in La Liga on Sunday.

Venezuela squad: Goalkeepers: Rafael Romo, Joel Graterol, Jose David Contreras.

Defenders: Jordan Osorio, Nahuel Ferraresi, Christian Makoun, Yiandro Raap, Delvin Alfonso, Miguel Navarro, Victor Fung, Jon Aramburu, Alexander Gonzalez, Teo Quintero, Bianneider Tamayo, Carlos Vivas, Alessandro Milani, Ruben Ramirez, Luis Balbo.

Midfielders: Jose Martinez, Tomas Rincon, Cristian Casseres, Yangel Herrera, Nicola Profeta, Telasco Segovia, Yahil Ramos, Giovanni Sequera, Bryant Ortega, Daniele Quietto, Yeferson Soteldo, Jefferson Savarino, David Martinez, Darwin Machis, Kevin Andrade, Leenhan Romero, Daniel Pereira, Eduard Bello, Daniel Pereira.

Forwards: Solomon Rondon, Jhonder Cadiz, Lorenzo D'Agostini, Jesus Ramirez.

Mexico manager Javier Aguirre has called up veterans Guillermo Ochoa,

Raul Jimenez and Andres Guardado for friendlies against Valencia and the United States later this month.

39-year-old goalkeeper Ochoa and forward Jimenez, 33, have not represented El Tri since March, having been overlooked for the Copa America in June and July.

Mexico squad: Goalkeepers: Luis Malagon (America), Guillermo Ochoa (AVS), Raul Rangel (Chivas) **Defenders:** Rodrigo Huescas (FC Copenhagen), Jorge Sanchez (Cruz Azul), Jesus Orozco (Chivas), Cesar Montes (Lokomotiv Moscow), Johan Vasquez (Genoa), Jesus Angulo (Tigres), Bryan Gonzalez (Pachuca) **Midfielders:** Edson Alvarez (West Ham United), Luis Romo (Cruz Azul), Obed Vargas (Seattle Sounders), Marcel Ruiz (Toluca), Carlos Rodriguez (Cruz Azul), Andres Guardado (Leon), Sebastian Cordova (Tigres), Orbelin Pineda (AEK Athens) **Forwards:** Diego Lainez (Tigres), Roberto Alvarado (Chivas), Ozziel Herrera (Tigres), German Berterame (Monterrey), Cesar Huerta (Pumas), Alexis Vega (Toluca), Guillermo Martinez (Pumas), Raul Jimenez (Fulham), Henry Martin (America).

Uganda's head coach names squad

Cissé ousted as Senegal coach

DAKAR, Senegal, Oct 2, (Agencies): Senegal coach Aliou Cissé, who led the team to an Africa Cup of Nations title and the past two World Cup tournaments, lost his job Wednesday with the national soccer federation citing a government request not to renew his contract.

Cissé was nearing 10 years in charge of the Teranga Lions that included reaching two AFCON finals - winning the title in 2022 - and the round of 16 at the 2022 World Cup. Senegal went to that tournament in Qatar without star forward Sadio Mané, who was injured.

The Senegalese soccer body published a letter Wednesday thanking Cissé for his work and "his brilliant results." The former Paris Saint-Germain defender had been due to hold a news conference Friday to announce his squad for upcoming qualifying games for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations.

The letter also listed reasons from the government sports ministry not to renew Cissé's contract for one year: Not reaching recent tournament objectives, the team's falling FIFA ranking, and the risk of worsening relations between the team and the Senegalese public.

It was unclear if the ministry's request conflicted with FIFA rules prohibiting government interference in the independent management of its member federations.

Senegal failed to retain its African title this year. Cissé's team was eliminated in the round of 16 in a penalty shootout by host Ivory Coast, which went on to win the title.

Uganda's head coach Paul Joseph Put has announced his squad for the upcoming 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifier matches against South Sudan.

Uganda will host South Sudan in the first leg on October 11 at the newly renovated Nelson Mandela Stadium in Kampala. The return leg is scheduled to take place four days later in Juba.

Currently, topping Group K after a 2-2 draw against South Africa and a 2-0 home victory, the Uganda Cranes aim to continue their strong form in the

upcoming qualifiers. While naming the squad on Tuesday, Put emphasized that he has assembled a strong team to secure maximum points in the two matches. "I have left out Libyan-based striker Muhamad Shaban, who is injured," explained Put.

The squad includes Uganda's rising star Travis Mutyaba, who recently signed a three-year contract with French Championnat National 2 side FC Girondins de Bordeaux. Also called up is Taddeo Lwanga, a midfielder from the Rwanda Premier League who has not featured for the national team in over two years, and Bobosi Byaruhanga, who plays for Austin II in the United States.

Uganda and South Sudan have faced each other six times since 2012, with the Cranes winning four matches and losing only once in November 2020 during the 2021 AFCON qualifiers.

Squad Goalkeepers: Isima Watenga (Golden Arrows FC, South Africa), Nafian Alionzi (Defence Forces FC, Ethiopia), Charles Lukwago (Venda FC, South Africa) **Defenders:** Gavin Kizito Mugweri (KCCA FC, Uganda), Kenneth Semakula (Club Africain, Tunisia), Isaac Muleme (Victoria Zizkov, Czech Republic), Nicholas Mwere (BUL FC, Uganda), Abdu Aziizi Kayondo (FC Slovan Liberec, Czech Republic), Bevis Mugabi (Famagusta Anorthosis, Greece), Timothy Awany (FC Ashdod, Israel), Halidi Lwaliwa (AI Ain SC, Saudi Arabia), Arnold Odong (SC Villa, Uganda) **Midfielders:** Khalid Aucho (Yanga SC, Tanzania), Bobosi Byaruhanga (Austin II, USA), Taddeo Lwanga (APR FC, Rwanda), Ronald Ssekiganda (SC Villa, Uganda), Allan Okello (Vipers SC, Uganda), Travis Mutyaba (Girondins Bordeaux, France), Saidi Mayanja (KCCA FC, Uganda) **Forwards:** Denis Omedi (Kitara FC, Uganda), Jude Ssemugabi (Kitara FC, Uganda), Shafik Kwikiriza (KCCA FC, Uganda), Rogers Mato (FC Brera Strumica), Derick Nsibambi (KCCA FC, Uganda), Steven Mukwala (Simba SC, Tanzania), Calvin Kabuye (Sandvikens IF, Sweden)



In this file photo, Senegal's head coach Aliou Cisse directs his players during the World Cup Group A soccer match between Ecuador and Senegal, at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar. (AP)

News in Brief

Britannia beats Luna Rossa:

Britain's INEOS Britannia twice defeated Italy's Luna Rossa Prada Pirelli on Wednesday to move one win away from taking on defending America's Cup champion Team Emirates New Zealand.

The pair of victories in the Louis Vuitton Cup final gave Britannia a 6-4 lead over Luna Rossa in the first-to-seven playoff series.

The winner will get to try to topple defending champion New Zealand in the America's Cup final starting Oct 12.

The first chance for Britannia to seal its victory in the Louis Vuitton Cup final will be on Friday, when two more races are scheduled.

Britannia and Luna Rossa had split race victories in the last four days of racing on the Barcelona beachfront. (AP)

Ticket sales launched:

A group of special guests gathered on Tuesday at the Jungfrau railway station, located at nearly 3,500 meters in altitude, a simple court was set up on a massive glacier. There, the Swiss women's football team, along with players from England, Germany, Denmark, and other teams, played an exhibition match amid icy rain and clouds.

The qualifying tournament began

in April, and the 15 teams joining host Switzerland will be decided through the tournament in December.

The UEFA Women's EURO 2025 will take place from July 2-27, 2025, in eight Swiss cities: Geneva, Zurich, Bern, Lucerne, Basel, St. Gallen, Sion, and Thun. This event marks the first time Switzerland is hosting the UEFA Women's EURO. The nation previously co-hosted the European Championship with Austria in 2008. (Xinhua)

Cameroon FA disappointed:

Cameroon Football Federation (FECAFOOT) on Tuesday evening expressed disappointment after FIFA banned FECAFOOT president, Samuel Eto'o, from attending national team matches for six months.

The world football governing body said on Monday that it had sanctioned the former Barcelona star after he was found guilty of "offensive behavior and violations of the principles of fair play and misconduct of players and officials" during the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup round-of-16 match between Brazil and Cameroon, held in Colombia earlier in September.

Eto'o, who has served as FECAFOOT president since 2021, is prohibited from attending men's and women's matches involving FECAFOOT teams across all categories and age groups, according to the FIFA decision. (Xinhua)



Chairman and head of the organizing committee, Duaij Al-Otaibi addressing the media.

Sports

400 shooters to compete

Crown Prince Shooting Championship set for November 8

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: The Kuwait Shooting Club recently announced that the annual His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Shooting Championship will take place from November 8 to 16, with approximately 400 male and female shooters from Kuwait, the Gulf, and other Arab countries participating.

During a press conference, the club's chairman and head of the organizing committee, Duaij Al-Otaibi, stated that the championship marks the start of the club's 2024-2025 sports season. The event will feature all Olympic shooting competitions for both men and women.

Al-Otaibi added that the championship, hosted at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Range Com-

plex, renowned as one of the finest shooting venues in Asia, will include Olympic events for flying targets (skeet and trap) with participation from Arab champions. These competitions will be part of an Arab championship held alongside the main event. Additionally, the championship will feature pistol and rifle shooting, as well as archery (compound and Olympic categories) for men, women, and juniors.

He expressed gratitude for the patronage of His Highness the Crown Prince, noting that the support has elevated the championship to one of the most significant sporting events, second only to the His Highness the Amir's International Grand Shooting Championship. Al-Otaibi emphasized that the continued backing from the

nation's leadership has enabled Kuwaiti shooting sports to achieve numerous major accomplishments.

Bashar Abdullah, Director General of the Public Authority for Sports, affirmed the organization's commitment to supporting the championship and ensuring its success in terms of organization and technical execution. He voiced confidence that the club would deliver an outstanding event.

Abdullah also highlighted the authority's dedication to strongly supporting Kuwaiti shooting sports and overcoming challenges, recognizing the efforts of the club's board of directors in fostering continuous victories.

Club secretary and tournament director, Obaid Al-Osaimi, mentioned that the organizing committee is preparing the

club's facilities to host the competitions at the highest standard, with the assistance of Kuwaiti and Arab refereeing teams.

Al-Osaimi added that the Kuwaiti national team is fully prepared for the tournament, following their excellent performance in the recent Asian Championship.

During the press conference, the Shooting Club honored the Kuwaiti national team for their remarkable achievements in the Asian Championship in Kazakhstan, where they won a total of 10 medals (5 gold and 5 silver).

Shooter Nasser Al-Muqalled, who won three gold medals in the trap and double trap events, credited his success to the thorough preparation provided by the club, including a training camp in Italy before the competition.

Kuwait faces tough challenge against Oman

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Kuwait soccer team manager Abdulrahman Al-Mousa described the upcoming match against Oman as "difficult," particularly given Oman's losses in the first two rounds of qualifiers.

The Blues are set to face the Omani team next Thursday in Muscat during the third round of Group Two qualifiers for the decisive stage of the 2026 World Cup, which will be hosted by the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Al-Mousa noted, "Oman has lost two matches and will give everything it has in this game." He emphasized that the Blues are fully aware of this and will prepare accordingly, acknowledging that their mental and physical readiness must be heightened.

He stated that the Blues performed "exceptionally well" in the first two rounds against a strong Jordanian

side and a formidable Iraqi team.

Al-Mousa also praised the new technical staff for making noticeable improvements in a short period, highlighting that Argentine coach Juan Pizzi is dedicated to sharing his strategies with the players during their daily training sessions in the current camp in the Emirates.

In related news, Kuwait Club players are set to join the Blues' camp in Dubai today, following their participation in the AFC Champions League qualifiers, where they faced Al-Hussein Irbid of Jordan yesterday in the second round.

Players Youssef Nasser, Mashari Ghannam, Saud Al-Hoshan, Fahad Al-Hajri, Mohammed Daham, Sami Al-Sanea, Faisal Zayed, and Reda Hani did not travel with the Blues to Dubai, as the camp commenced last Monday.

The national team continues its daily training sessions, with morning workouts at the Iron Hall near its accommodation in Dubai, followed by evening sessions at the Police Officers Club Stadium.



Kuwaiti team led by the coach preparing for the World Cup qualifier against Oman.



Al Qadsiya swimmers celebrate on the podium.

Dortmund runs riot against Celtic

Szczesny joins Barcelona

MUNICH, Oct 2, (AP): Karim Adeyemi starred as Borussia Dortmund ran riot against Celtic while Barcelona and Manchester City claimed their first wins in the restructured Champions League.

Adeyemi scored a first-half hat trick as Dortmund routed Celtic 7-1 at home. It was the second big win from a German team in the competition after Bayern Munich's 9-2 bashing of Dinamo Zagreb in the first matchday.

Robert Lewandowski got Barcelona off the mark as the Spanish giant eased to a 5-0 home win over Swiss team Young Boys, while his former teammate Ilkay Gundogan got City off to a 4-0 win at Slovan Bratislava. Erling Haaland scored his 42nd goal in his 41st Champions League game.

City was held 0-0 by Inter Milan in their opening game, while Barca responded to its 2-1 loss at Monaco, the team's first defeat under new coach Hansi Flick.

Mikel Arteta's Arsenal outclassed his former team Paris Saint-Germain in a 2-0 win with Kai Havertz and Bukayo Saka scoring in the first half for the Gunners. PSG coach Luis Enrique's gamble on leaving Ousmane Dembélé out did not pay off.

Arteta enjoyed a successful 18-month loan spell at PSG while still he was still a teenager at Barcelona.

Though the Dortmund team appears to have adapted to the new competition format very well - last season's beaten finalist has 10 goals from two games after starting with a 3-0 win over Club Brugge - its fans made their opposition to the reforms clear with a huge tifo slamming UEFA.

This season UEFA changed the structure of Europe's premier competition to add four more teams. The group stage was scrapped for a league system with each of the now 36 participating teams playing eight opponents once in a first phase of the competition.

UEFA claimed the changes would ensure more evenly matched games, but Tuesday's results - the big wins for Barca, City and Dortmund - appear to belie that claim.



Manchester City's Erling Haaland tries to get past Slovan's Guram Kasha during the Champions League opening phase soccer match between Slovan Bratislava and Manchester City in Bratislava, Slovakia. (AP)

There were more big wins Tuesday with Inter Milan defeating Red Star Belgrade 4-0, and tournament debutant Brest routing Salzburg 4-0 away for its second win in as many games in Europe's premier competition.

Iran forward Mehdi Taremi struck a penalty past Israel and Red Star goalkeeper Omri Glazer and set up two more goals for Inter hours after his country launched a barrage of missiles at Israel.

Senegalese forward Abdallah Sima netted twice for Brest to take his tally to three goals in two games after he scored in the French team's tournament-opening 2-1 win over Austrian champion Sturm Graz.

Also Tuesday, Bayer Leverkusen defeated AC Milan 1-0 in Germany thanks a well-worked move finished by Victor Boniface.

Daniel Braganca scored late to earn Sporting Lisbon a 1-1 draw at PSV Eindhoven.

Kaan Kairinen's brilliant free kick was enough for Prague to draw 1-1 at Stuttgart. Stuttgart fans displayed a huge choreography saying "Back in Europe" behind one of the goals. It was the German team's first Champions League match at home since a 1-1 draw with Barcelona in February 2010.

Barcelona added former Poland goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny to its squad on Wednesday to help make up for the absence of the injured Marc-Andre ter Stegen. Szczesny had retired from professional soccer in August after leaving Italian club Juventus, but he said it would be "stupid" not to accept the Barcelona offer.

He said former Poland teammate Robert Lewandowski played a big part in the signing as the Barcelona striker was "probably the very first person that called" to ask Szczesny if there was a possibility of coming out of retirement.

"It took some convincing," Szczesny said. "At the start I wasn't sure if I'm ready for new challenges, but then I spoke with my family and I spoke with my friends and everybody told me how stupid I would be if I didn't accept this. And I agreed with them."

Barcelona said the 34-year-old Szczesny arrives "in unusual circumstances but there is no doubt that his CV speaks for itself."



Arsenal's Kai Havertz, right, fights for the ball with PSG's Vitorinha during a Champions League opening phase soccer match between Arsenal FC and Paris Saint-Germain at Arsenal stadium in London, England. (AP)

Al-Qadsiya dominates swimming championship

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 2: Al-Qadsiya Secretary General and Director of Water Games, Hassan Abu Al-Hasan, commended the significant contributions made by the technical and administrative teams in the swimming program, which led to the yellow teams securing first place across all age groups from 6 to 9 years old.

Al-Qadsiya dominated various competitions and ranking tables in the current season's swimming championship.

The 6-year-old team achieved remarkable success, winning four gold medals through players Hussein Al-Qattan and Salim Nabil. The 7-year-old team also excelled, securing three gold medals and two silver medals thanks to Musaed Al-Saad, Aws Hazem, Abdullah Al-Sumait, Abdullah Al-Mutawa, and Fadel Al-Qallaf. The 8-year-old team emerged victorious with swimmers Abdul

Razzaq Al-Shammari, Yassin Al-Shishtawi, Omar Al-Ali, Nasser Mohammed, and Abdulaziz Al-Samhan earning six gold medals, one silver medal, and one bronze medal. Meanwhile, the 9-year-old team clinched first place in the championship, led by Ibrahim Mohammed, Fahd Al-Tanak, Hamad Al-Samhan, Ali Al-Hadi Al-Qallaf, Othman Buqrais, and Hussein Sarkhouh, who collectively won four gold medals and three silver medals, topping the standings for their age group.

Abu Al-Hasan praised the exceptional performances and record achievements of the yellow swimmers in various categories. He emphasized the Water Sports Department's commitment to nurturing and developing young talent, aiming to cultivate the next generation of swimmers for the club's future success.

Bilbao and Sociedad looking to build on positive Europa starts

MADRID, Oct 2, (Xinhua): Athletic Club Bilbao and Real Sociedad will make their home debuts in the Europa League on Thursday after starting their campaigns with credible draws away from home.

Athletic entertain Dutch side AZ Alkmaar after a 1-1 draw away to Roma last week in their return to European competition after six years, while Real Sociedad took the same result in Nice.

Real Sociedad were able to build on their European performance to then take their first home win of the season against Valencia in La Liga on Sunday, and they now face Belgian side Anderlecht, who kicked off their European campaign with a 2-1 victory against Hungarian outfit Ferencváros.

The good news for Real Sociedad coach Imanol Alguacil is that the club's treatment room has emptied over the past few days, and the only two players unavailable on Thursday are winger Arsen Zakharyan and right back Hamari Traore, who will miss the

season with a knee problem.

Icelandic striker Orri Oskarsson scored his first two goals since joining the club this summer against Valencia and will be handful for the Anderlecht defense, but their key player remains Japanese winger Take Kubo.

Athletic also have good news on the injury front, with Oihan Sancet and Ander Herrera returning to full training after missing the 1-1 draw at home to Sevilla at the weekend.

The return of Sancet, who is top scorer with three goals this season, would give Athletic an important link between midfield and attack, while Herrera offers extra control as a second-half substitute.

Midfielder Benat Prados is still in doubt with a muscle problem, while coach Ernesto Valverde, who has been named as Manager of the Month for September in Spain, will continue with his squad rotations, with Gorka Guruzeta, Yuri, and Dani Vivian all back in the starting 11.