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ARAB TIMES

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024 / RABEE'AL THANI 5, 1446 AH

emergency number 112

NO. 18717

16 PAGES

150 FILS



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Monday the Ambassadors of Tanzania, Mexico, Brazil, Uzbekistan, Georgia and Vietnam who handed over their credentials during a ceremony at Bayan Palace. Senior state officials attended the ceremony. (KUNA)

Opinion

Expedite implementation of Amiri reform workshop

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

THE reason we highlight the positive effects of the courageous actions ordered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad is that many Kuwaitis believe the current state of affairs is intolerable due to the ongoing political and economic turmoil, which has begun to negatively impact society as a whole.

These bold steps would not have been possible without Amir's conviction that Kuwait needs a force capable of reforming its untapped potential, something that was often overlooked in parliamentary and governmental calculations. Without intervention, the country was inviting issues that could threaten social and developmental stability and further burden the national economy.

These measures represent a turning point for the Council of Ministers, which will enable it to fully exercise its role, especially now that it is free from the parliamentary hegemony that significantly burdened all authorities. This interference extended even to the judiciary and manifested as a form of coercion against all authorities.

As we discussed yesterday, this situation has led to the creation of several laws based on political agendas, influence, and private interests. This recurring issue has allowed a certain segment of society to seize opportunities for personal gain in order to maintain the status quo.

The detrimental effects on beneficiaries became evident with the cancellation of the local agent, as their grievances began to surface in an attempt to undermine progress. When His Highness ordered measures to curb the chaos, these individuals started exerting pressure through social media in an effort to disrupt the Amiri directives.

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Call to diversify

Oil reliance poses risks to Kuwait's economy: expert

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Dr. Sadiq Al-Bassam, an economic expert and head of the Accounting Department at Kuwait University, has emphasized on the urgent need for Kuwait to diversify its sources of income, warning that the national economy remains dangerously reliant on oil, which still constitutes over 80 percent of state revenues.

In a statement to Al-Seyassah daily, Dr. Al-Bassam posed the critical question: "Is it reasonable for oil to continue as the primary driver of our economy indefinitely?"

He advocated for a renewed focus on privatization, urging the government to reassess its approach and invite international companies to invest in Kuwait and stressed that while privatization would introduce new revenue streams, it is essential to safeguard the rights of workers in affected agencies and departments.

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MoFA photo

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya with US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara.

FM, US envoy discuss ties

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Al-Yahya met on Monday with US Ambassador to Kuwait Karen Sasahara in his office at the Ministry's headquarters.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the historic bilateral ties, strategic cooperation and ways to strengthen relations between Kuwait and the US on all levels.

They also discussed the latest international and regional developments. (KUNA)

Gaza Strip in ruins after Israel's yearlong assault

Aggression leading entire region to war: Jordan



Kuwait's Defense Minister receives Malaysian Defense Minister.

Ministry of Defense photo

Kuwait, Malaysia discuss boosting military cooperation, defense ties

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah discussed with Malaysian Defense Minister Mohammad Nordin ways to bolster bilateral military ties between the two nations.

This came in a press release from the Defense Ministry, Monday, where the Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef re-

ceived minister Nordin and his accompanying delegation at the Ministry headquarters.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef emphasized the deep ties and friendship between the two countries as both sides commit to developing these relations in a way that serves their common interests, especially in the military field.

On his part, Minister Nordin expressed his pleasure for visiting Kuwait and praised the strong relations between the two nations, affirming Malaysia's desire to enhance the military partnership to achieve stability and security for both countries.

Continued on Page 5

KHAN YOUNIS, Oct 7, (Agencies): The Gaza Strip is in ruins. There are hills of rubble where apartment blocks stood, and pools of sewage-tainted water spreading disease. City streets have been churned into dirt canyons and, in many places, the air is filled with the stench of unrecovered corpses.

Israel's yearlong offensive against Hamas, one of the deadliest and most destructive in recent history, has killed more than 41,000 people, a little over half of them women and children, according to local health officials. With no end in sight to the war and no plan for the day after, it is impossible to say when - or even if - anything will be rebuilt.

Even after the fighting stops, hundreds of thousands of people could be stuck living in squalid tent camps for years. Experts say reconstruction could take decades.

"This war is destruction and misery. It would make the stones cry out," said Shifaa Hejjo, a 60-year-old housewife living in a tent pitched on land where her home once stood. "Whoever sees Gaza ... It will make them cry."

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Women achievers share insights at 'Breaking Barriers'

'Empowerment goes beyond achieving justice'

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: World Bank Director for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Dr. Safaa Al-Kogali has reaffirmed the bank's dedication to empower women across the globe, not just its employees.

In her speech at the discussion session that the Women's Social and Cultural Association organized recently with the theme, "Breaking Barriers: Stories of Women in Leadership"; Al-Kogali stated: "We firmly believe that empowering women goes beyond achieving justice."

She also emphasized that the World Bank is a bank for knowledge and the exchange of experience. She said the World Bank supports its 189 member-states in creating and implementing policies and programs that allow women to participate equally in the development of their economies and societies; primarily working with governments, parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

She affirmed that "the organization is a fundamental

driver of innovation and comprehensive societal progress, in addition to being a guarantee for women's effective participation in all sectors of the State to achieve sustainable development, as well as social and economic growth." She cited Kuwait's leadership in empowering women at the Gulf level; considering their participation in various Kuwaiti entities and bodies, including the legislative and executive authorities.

She stressed the need to develop a multi-faceted approach to empower women economically; encompassing legal reforms, social change, and effective participation of the public and private sectors.

She believes that empowering women drives the wheel of sustainable development and ensures that all citizens benefit from economic growth in the State of Kuwait. She said the World Bank, as a partner of Kuwait since 1962, is committed to supporting the country in its development journey, as well as empowering women and youths to play a vital role in this journey.

Continued on Page 5

'Local products key to Kuwait food security'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, has emphasized the critical role of supporting national products to bolster Kuwait's food security and enhance local production capabilities.

Speaking during the opening of a new Farmers Union outlet in the Fahd Al-Ahmad area, located in Ahmadi Governorate, Dr. Al-Huwailah noted that this initiative is part of broader efforts aimed at expanding markets for locally grown agricultural products and ensuring a sustainable supply of quality produce.

In her press statement, Dr. Al-Huwailah praised the dedication of Kuwaiti farmers in supporting national food security, commending their ability to consistently produce high-quality crops that contribute to the country's agricultural output. She acknowledged the vital role these farmers play in ensuring a stable and reliable food supply, which is especially important given global challenges related to food shortages and climate change.

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NewsWatch

KUWAIT CITY: Dubai's Crown Prince and the UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, accompanied by an official delegation, is set to depart to Kuwait on Tuesday on an official visit. (KUNA)

KUWAIT CITY: Jazeera Airways has announced the immediate cancellation of all flights to Iran due to unexpected geopolitical developments and airport closures, reports Al-Jarida daily.

The airline has urged passengers to stay updated on the status of their flights through the Jazeera Airways website or by contacting customer service at 177 for local inquiries.

Local

Gov't to uproot encroachments, illegal markets set up in desert
— See Page 2

Business



Gulf Bank launches 10th Ajjal program
— See Page 8

Features

Saudi Arabia's first female ranger unit hits 5,000 milestone
— See Page 11

Day by Day

THE government faces a significant challenge in effectively defending its decisions, particularly when it comes to addressing rumors, such as those surrounding end-of-service issues.

The main problem lies in the delayed responses from the authorities. By the time the government addresses these rumors, they have already spread like wildfire, allowing misinformation to proliferate and leading individuals to fabricate details and create narratives that stray far from the truth.

To mitigate this issue, it is crucial for the government to appoint an active and responsive spokesperson dedicated to promptly addressing circulated information. This spokesperson should be responsible for swiftly either confirming or denying rumors to ensure that accurate information reaches the public without delay.

This proactive communication strategy is a common practice in advanced countries, where timely responses help maintain public trust and prevent misinformation from taking root.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:25	Asr	14:57
Sunrise ..	05:44	Maghrib ..	17:27
Zohr	11:36	Isha	18:44

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 06-30 km/h.
By Night: Rather hot to mild and humid with light to moderate

Weather

southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h with a chance for mist forming over some areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	37	23
Kuwait Airport	38	20

Abdaly	39	19
Bubyan	36	19
Jahra	40	24
Failaka Island	34	17
Salmiyah	37	28
Ahmadi	36	19
Jal Aliyah	38	22
Nuwaisib	37	32



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Malaysia Dato' Sri Muhammad Khalid bin Nour Al-Din.

PM receives Malaysian defense minister

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah with the attendance of First Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah, received Malaysian Defense Minister Dato' Sri Muhammad Khalid bin Nour Al-Din and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, both sides touched

on the bilateral ties between the two countries and ways of boosting cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Head of the Prime Minister's Office, Abdulaziz Al-Dakhlil, the Chief of Staff of the Army, Lieutenant General Pilot Bandar Salem Al-Muzain, and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah, and the Ambassador of Kuwait to Malaysia, Rashid Mohammad Al-Saleh.

Kuwait panel explores optimal use of treated water

By Mohammad Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The committee for determining the uses of treated water, formed by Minister of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy Dr. Mahmoud Boushahri and headed by Director of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Dr. Mishaan Al-Otaibi, held its first meeting yesterday in the presence of Minister Dr. Mahmoud Boushahri, Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mishaan, and representatives from various government agencies.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Dr. Al-Otaibi said, "The committee is focused on studying the optimal uses of treated water, ensuring all produced quantities are utilized effectively, and minimizing any surplus. The committee will explore the uses of treated water for agriculture, tree planting, and other uses in residential areas. The minister intended for the committee to have an executive role in its decision-making. It would go beyond merely developing visions and recommendations. The committee plans to submit its reports to the Public Services Committee in the Council of Ministers and initiate practical steps to maximize the benefits of treated water."

He revealed the potential benefits of optimally utilizing treated water, including alleviating the pressure on fresh water supplies produced by the Ministry of Electricity and Water, which incurs large production costs. This approach would also have positive environmental and agricultural impacts, contributing to food security and other areas that the committee can raise with the Services Committee. In a separate context, the Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy announced its participation in the "Dream House" exhibition, which is taking place from October 7 to 12 at the Mishref



KUNA photo
Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy, Dr. Mahmoud Bushehri, and Minister of Public Works, Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan chaired the meeting.

exhibition grounds. This event focuses on meeting individual needs in construction and housing equipment.

Through its participation, the ministry aims to educate visitors about the importance of responsible consumption of electricity and water resources. It will provide basic information for creating energy-efficient and water-saving homes. It also stressed the need to adhere to the Energy Conservation Code R6 and promote the use of high-efficiency devices for saving water and electricity.

Gov't to uproot encroachments, illegal markets set up in desert

Zero tolerance for slums: Minister Al-Mishari

By Inaas Awad

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Minister of State for Municipal and Housing Affairs Abdullatif Al-Mishari has confirmed the concerted efforts of Kuwait Municipality and various State agencies like the ministries of Interior, Defense and Finance; Environment Public Authority (EPA) and Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), to preserve State properties, demolish encroachments on these properties and remove debris, while stressing the need to strictly apply the law on violators.

In a press statement on the sidelines of the field campaign to remove encroachments on State properties in the desert areas in the southern part of the country (Wafra Road 306) which was launched Monday with the theme, "Preserving State Property is a National Responsibility"; Al-Mishari announced "we have started the campaign to remove encroachments in the desert areas from South to North."

He said the campaign includes organizing the use of the desert areas and grazing for livestock and livestock owners; as specific places will be allocated for them, through the registration of each livestock owner in order to know who is exploiting these places and anything else will be removed.

On the other hand, head of the team tasked to demolish encroachments on State properties Abdullatif Al-Jaber revealed the campaign was launched in cooperation with different ministries and State institutions.

He added the duration of the campaign is 90 days initially, stressing that violators must take the initiative to remove the illegal structures to avoid legal accountability.

\$5 mn to telecast 'Gulf 26' matches

By Mohammad Al-Muslih
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Ministry of Information is preparing to directly contract with a company to purchase the broadcasting rights for the Gulf Cup matches of the "Gulf 26" football championship for USD 5 million.

Informed sources explained that the ministry, based on the organizing laws, has communicated with the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT), confirming that the majority of its members support the direct contract, pending completion of the necessary approvals from other regulatory authorities.

The ministry aims to secure the rights to broadcast this important sports championship, which viewers in all Gulf countries are eagerly anticipating.

Other Voices

King Hamad's Award ... The dream has come true

By Sheikhha Hessa Al-Sabah

The Kingdom of Bahrain is tweeting outside the flock. That is how I have always thought, tracking the wise policy of His Majesty and Excellency King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, may God protect and bless him, especially His Majesty's humanitarian project to spread the values of tolerance, brotherhood, and constructive interfaith dialogue. This has been a sustainable approach since the beginning of His Majesty's accession, ruling the sisterly kingdom, the land of civilization and ancient history.

Actually, I feel happy and proud as I witness the activities of King Hamad's Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence, under the leadership of the Board of Trustees, headed by Dr. Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa, may God protect him. The cause of such pride and contentment is that the Kingdom's rational policy in spreading the values of tolerance has not been affected by the troubled situations in the Middle East, and the wars erupting here and there, fulfilling the wisdom: "It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

Perhaps the latest royal decision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa to set King Hamad's Award for Peaceful Coexistence, last August, is a continuation of His Majesty the King's endeavor for promoting human values, and dialogue of civilizations, as well as rejecting extremism in all its forms, and enhancing coexistence among nations all over the world. The idea of this award, with all its details, was present in my mind when I visited the Kingdom of Bahrain. I had already planned its principles and objectives in a draft and presented it to the concerned authorities in the Kingdom last April.

Then, the royal decision came to set the award, and turn the dream into a reality, thanks to the efforts of His Majesty the King, may God protect and bless him. I consider this royal decision as my second award after I was honored to come to the good land of the Kingdom in November 2016, to attend the fourth session of the Gulf Forum for Political Media, under the title "Media and Gulf Identity," organized by Bahrain Institute for Political Development, when I won first place in the Journalism Award, on the topic "Culture of Difference and Civil Peace".

I attended the event, accompanied by my late son, Sheikh Nasser Sabah

Fahd Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, may God forgive him and rest his soul in peace, to be honored by His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, may God protect him. I highly value this honor because it came as a coronation for my efforts, beliefs, and writings, on the necessity of spreading tolerance and rejecting hatred and extremism, especially since this honor came from the Kingdom of Bahrain, my second homeland.

The endeavor of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, may God protect and bless him, during his blessed reign, has focused on promoting and consolidating the principle of human brotherhood. It is not possible to include all details in this article, but let's mention some examples: His Majesty's establishment of King Hamad's Center for Peaceful Coexistence; the inauguration of King Hamad's Chair for Interfaith Dialogue, at the Italian University of Sapienza; the declaration made by the Kingdom of Bahrain in the United States, along with launching of King Hamad's Global Center for Interfaith Dialogue in Los Angeles; and establishing King Hamad's Center for Cyber Peace, to promote tolerance and coexistence among young people; the World Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, in November 2022, under the title "East and West for Peaceful Coexistence", attended by His Eminence the Grand Imam, Sheikh of Al-Azhar, Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb, His Holiness Pope Francis, Pope of the Vatican, and dozens of prominent figures, representatives of 79 countries, to discuss the contemporary challenges, such as climate change, the global food crisis, and spreading tolerance values between East and West.

In fact, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, may God protect and bless him, has devoted the Kingdom's efforts to serve this great purpose, which is the practical application of God's caliphate on earth, by spreading prosperity and laying the foundations of human civilization; as there is no life without tolerance, cooperation, and human brotherhood.

In light of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the war machine that never stops, we are in dire need of wise and rational leadership, spreading awareness in society, that there are no actual winners in wars and extremist conflicts, whereas peace and peaceful coexistence are inevitably victorious for everyone.

May God protect and bless His Majesty and Excellency King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, may God protect and bless his blessed endeavor in maintaining global and regional peace and security. May God guide his steps and may God protect the sisterly Kingdom of Bahrain, and grant it security, safety, and prosperity, under the wise rule of His Majesty.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of Housing Abdullatif Al-Mishari visits the vast desert areas to inspect encroachments, slums set up on State land.

130,000 expats deported in 4 years: Mol

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Director of the Deportation Department Brigadier Jassim Al-Mishbah says approximately 130,000 expatriates have been deported in the past four years, reports Al-Jarida daily.

Following a visit to the old deportation prison (Talha) in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, an order was given for the immediate transfer of detainees to the juvenile building, which will be equipped in four phases.

The first phase, designated for men, has been completed, with

90 percent of the building now ready. This facility has the capacity to accommodate up to 1,000 detainees.

He stressed that the new building meets the required specifications and has a capacity exceeding 1,400 detainees, compared to approximately 900 in the old facility.

Al-Mishbah indicated that deportees are permitted to contact their families via landlines, and if an international call is needed, a prison phone is provided from the secretariats for this purpose, adding that detainees can meet with

their embassy representatives in a designated office.

Regarding the deportees' airport procedures, he said they previously entered through the same gates as regular passengers, but now, in collaboration with airport authorities, a dedicated gate has been established to ensure that necessary procedures are followed, allowing deportees to board without mixing with regular passengers.

Meanwhile, the women's section will remain unchanged for now, with plans to transfer them within the next two months.

Sheikha Nabila lauds leadership role in promoting education, innovation

By Susan Nasser

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Sheikha Nabila Salman Al-Hamoud, a distinguished member of the Board of Directors of the Al-Saad Foundation for Knowledge and Scientific Research, delivered an impactful opening speech at the forum titled 'Education of the Future: Innovation and Technology for Sustainability' held under the patronage of the Foundation's Chairperson, Sheikha Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah.

The event commemorated 25 years of the Foundation's relentless efforts in promoting education and innovation.

In her address, Sheikha Nabila praised the pivotal role of Kuwait's political leadership in fostering progress in the realms of science and technology, stating that this unwavering support not only instills pride but also cultivates an environment conducive to innovation.

She emphasized that such backing paves the way for a brighter and more sustainable future, underscoring the necessity for collaboration in advancing knowledge.

Journey

Reflecting on the Foundation's quarter-century journey, Sheikha Nabila noted that it has successfully established a platform that empowers talented female students from across the Arab world to showcase their creativity and contribute to the advancement of knowledge.

She highlighted that under the leadership of Sheikha Fadia Al-Saad, the Foundation has worked tirelessly to confront challenges, supported by a dedicated team and resolute determination.

Sheikha Nabila also announced the renewal of the partnership between the Al-Saad Foundation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) until 2029, emphasizing that this collaboration represents the Foundation's steadfast commitment to education and sustainability and confirms its international recognition for ongoing efforts in these fields. Dr. Abeer Al-Ameeri, the scientific coordinator of the forum, elaborated on the event's significance as a catalyst for a more profound understanding of future education's characteristics.

She explained that the forum, which focuses on innova-



KUNA photo
Sheikha Nabila addressing the gathering.

tion and sustainability, gathers leading minds from across the Arab region to explore new educational horizons, aiming to achieve a qualitative transformation in the sector.

Dr. Al-Ameeri acknowledged the pioneering role of Kuwait's political leadership in promoting education, technology, and sustainability, reflecting the state's dedication to advancing its educational system. The forum's agenda includes discussions on various pertinent topics such as sustainable digital transformation, data governance, privacy in the digital society, and the essential creative skills required for effective education. Additionally, it addresses challenges related to technological investments in education.

Dr. Salem Al-Malik, President of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, contributed via a virtual platform, pointing out Kuwait's foresight in launching the Future Generations Fund 50 years ago, signifying a deep understanding of the future's demands.

He emphasized the intertwined nature of education and upbringing, stressing the family's crucial role as a partner in the educational process. Dr. Al-Malik further predicted a future where artificial intelligence and virtual technologies will dominate education, necessitating curriculum development and specialization to prepare children for emerging job markets.

Students stipends hiked by 50 pc

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Ministry of Higher Education reaffirmed its commitment to the Cabinet's directive to coordinate with the Ministry of Finance to increase the financial allocations for students studying abroad by 50 percent, ensuring that the adjustment is implemented without any deviation from the specified amount, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a detailed statement, the Ministry clarified that upon reviewing the disbursements, it was observed that some of the approved values did not align with the 50 percent increase outlined in the Cabinet's decision.

This discrepancy was highlighted by the Financial Controllers Authority, Con-

sequently, the allocations were adjusted to precisely match the amounts specified in the ministerial decision, ensuring that all payments comply with the exact amounts approved for students in their respective scholarship countries.

The Ministry emphasized its ongoing dedication to safeguarding the interests of all its scholarship students, both male and female.

It underscored that it remains committed to closely monitoring their progress abroad, supporting them throughout their educational journey until they achieve the qualifications necessary to enter the labor market and contribute to the development and prosperity of Kuwait.

'GCC states need to unite against external influence in ME politics'

THE decision by Elon Musk to allow X platform (formerly Twitter) users to upload videos and images depicting the harrowing events in Gaza opened a significant discourse surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," columnist **Abdulrahman Walid bin Salama**, wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"This move catalyzed a shift in global public sentiment, garnering widespread sympathy for the Palestinian cause as more individuals became aware of the harsh realities faced by those in Gaza.



Bin Salama

However, this surge of support appeared to wane following Musk's special invitation from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to visit Israel and visit the conflict zones. Consequently, the coverage and discussion of these issues on the platform diminished.

"Musk's acquisition of the platform for \$44 billion was initially framed as an endeavor to enhance free speech and public discourse. However, the dynamics shifted dramatically when the topic of Israeli interests came into play.

"Musk's recent engagement with US Congress and his attentive presence during Netanyahu's address signal a potential alignment with pro-Israeli sentiments, raising concerns about the neutrality of the platform in the context of such a contentious issue.

"This situation reflects a broader trend wherein the geopolitical landscape has evolved significantly. We are no longer witnessing the America of previous decades -- there appears to be a palpable shift in the balance of power, with Zionist influence exerting considerable control over US foreign policy.

"This influence seems to overshadow the authority of the American president, who, despite leading the most powerful nation, appears to be operating within a framework heavily shaped by external interests. 'The divine scripture reminds us, 'And we decreed to the Children of Israel in the Scripture, 'You will surely cause corruption on the earth twice, and you will surely reach [a state of] great haughtiness.'" (Al-Isra': 4).

"The actions of Israel, marked by arrogance and tyranny, suggest a pattern of historical cycles that, according to some interpretations, may be approaching a critical juncture.

"Moreover, the Israeli lobby and Mossad have significantly influenced American political decisions, employing tactics ranging from enticement to intimidation. Their influence extends beyond politics; they have also been pivotal in promoting societal changes, including the normalization of homosexuality and pornography, as well as shaping the media landscape.

"In academia, they have contributed to the spread of atheism among educated elites, promoting ideologies that may undermine traditional faiths.

"The overarching aim of these strategies appears to be distancing Christians from their faith, thereby rendering them vulnerable and easier to manipulate. Individuals devoid of a strong belief system are often susceptible to external influences, making them easier targets for control.

"What can be done? "In light of these developments, it is imperative for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to recognize and address the de facto control exerted by external entities. A unified Gulf Intelligence Council could serve as a strategic response, leveraging both soft and hard power to counter this influence.

"The GCC can draw inspiration from the United Arab Emirates, which has successfully carved out a significant role in global politics throughout the twenty-first century. The UAE's proactive stance has earned it recognition and respect from major world powers, demonstrating the effectiveness of strategic engagement in international relations.

"Additionally, the GCC must prioritize the establishment of robust industries, enhancing self-reliance in critical areas such as medical, pharmaceutical, military, and food sciences.

"Strengthening these sectors will bolster regional autonomy and diminish dependence on external sources.

"Increased awareness and collective action among GCC member states can foster a more united front, creating a ripple effect across broader Arab and Islamic communities.

The fragmentation and individual efforts have historically contributed to regional weakness, leaving nations vulnerable to external manipulation and control.

"Ultimately, the path forward lies in unity, resourcefulness, and a strategic approach that prioritizes both individual and collective goals.

"Only through collaboration can the GCC countries enhance their standing in the international arena and safeguard their sovereignty against external pressures. The pursuit of knowledge, self-sufficiency, and regional cohesion will be pivotal in shaping a resilient future for the Gulf and the broader Arab world.

"The Jews live in all countries of the world, their appearance does not differ from the style, shape and appearance of the citizens of the country in which they live, and therefore it is very easy for them to enter into every political, cultural or economic system, and they are recruited with all ease.

"The Mossad's infiltration of Hezbollah and Iran in this shameful manner, and the targeting of senior leaders without fear of any reaction, is nothing but damning evidence of the weakness and fragility of this system, and that the resistance axis project is nothing more than a verbal speech, and has failed miserably.

"The severity and harshness of the axis of resistance and defiance, as they claim, only appears against the weak Muslims in each of the Arab countries, such as Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen."

Also:

"During my visits to several large shopping malls with multi-storey parking facilities, I have observed numerous violations committed by visitors," columnist and former deputy director-general of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) **Iqbal Al-Ahmed** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"Some visitors park their vehicles in spaces reserved for the elderly, while others in areas not designated for parking. Additionally, there are those who park on the sidewalks of these parking lots without any apparent consequences from mall authorities, who seem to lack regular patrols to monitor these violations.

"I was particularly astonished to see a young man, seemingly in good health, park his vehicle in a place designated for the disabled.

"When I expressed my disbelief with a shake of the head, he merely smiled, as if he was proud of his actions. This was disheartening, especially since many older individuals driving nearby adhered to the parking rules that he disregarded.

"Individuals who demonstrate such a blatant lack of common sense and respect for the law need oversight and accountability.

"I say to the management of shopping malls: 'Why aren't there designated personnel patrolling these parking areas to document violations, including photographing license plate numbers and reporting them to the General Traffic Department at the Ministry of Interior?'"

"Installing surveillance cameras in crucial areas, such as the parking area meant for the disabled and sidewalks can provide valuable evidence of violations for enforcement.

"Moreover, clear warning signs detailing the penalties for violations should be posted at all parking entrances. Many individuals may continue to flout these rules because they believe they can do so without repercussions, both within the mall and beyond.

"It's also concerning to see vehicles parked on sidewalks and residential areas for days on end. As a vigilant citizen, I often photograph these offenses and submit them to the General Traffic Department, which sometimes responds promptly -- a practice that deserves commendation.

"Why can't local police stations take a more proactive role in monitoring main streets in residential areas and issuing immediate fines for such violations?"

"A collaborative approach between the General Traffic Department and local police stations could significantly enhance the enforcement of parking regulations. With community cooperation and vigilant oversight, we can reduce these violations. Knowing that multiple agencies are monitoring compliance may deter potential offenders.

"Our joint efforts, respecting the roles of various authorities while legally addressing these issues, will greatly benefit Kuwait. As the saying goes, 'People who cooperate will not be humiliated'. Together, we can uphold the law and maintain the integrity of our community spaces."

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes**

CED handled 2,637 reports in last 8 months: Maj-Gen Al-Awaihan

About 30 persons sent to prison daily over drugs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Director General of the General Department of Correctional Facilities Brigadier General Fahd Al-Obaid revealed that approximately 30 individuals are sent to prison on a daily basis due to drug use and trafficking, reports **Al-Jarida** daily.

He explained that most prison issues stem from drug use, especially with the current influx of 30 drug-related cases daily being four times the number of cases for other crimes. This alarming rate has led to the allocation of five wards specifically for those accused of drug offenses, and the establishment of a dedicated facility for the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts.



Maj-Gen Al-Awaihan

Also, the smuggling of phones into prisons has significantly decreased due to surprise inspections and thorough security campaigns.

Brigadier General Al-Obaid said, "Money can entice some security personnel, but the law and regulations are impartial. Some have been imprisoned for selling a single phone for KD 4,000. This situation led to the need to rotate prison security staff regularly to prevent close attachments between guards and inmates that could compromise discipline."

He also highlighted a reluctance among security personnel to work in correctional institutions,

describing the environment as unappealing and burdensome.

Brigadier General Al-Obaid said, "If a course were announced to train security staff for taking up prison duty, no one will apply, due to the challenging conditions and strict regulations associated with the role."

Meanwhile, the Director of the Central Prison Administration Colonel Nasser Al-Musallam denied the existence of any "VIP" prisoners, insisting that all inmates are treated equally under the law without discrimination.

He revealed that the Directives from the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior, and Minister of Defense Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef affirm the importance of applying same standards for all inmates, and ensuring there is no discrimination between different categories or individuals.

Colonel Al-Musallam explained that classification within the prison is based on the nature of the crime, and not on the inmate's status or position prior to sentencing. Certain groups, such as lawyers, judges, and members of the ruling family, are placed in isolation due to the sensitivity of their roles. For example, it would be inappropriate to house a judge with the criminals he had sentenced to prison.

Regarding the concept of a repentant ward, Colonel Al-Musallam explained that this area includes inmates selected by a committee composed of representatives from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Interior. Inmates placed in this ward

undergo rehabilitation to qualify for the Amiri pardon. Their names are then submitted to the Public Prosecution along with a certificate attesting to their good conduct and behavior.

In the meantime, Director General of the General Department of Criminal Evidences Major General Eid Al-Owaidan revealed statistics issued by the Public Prosecution for the period from the beginning of this year until the end of August, reports **Al-Rai** daily.

In a press statement, Major General Al-Owaidan explained that 2,637 reports were handled, covering incidents ranging from accidents to fires during the aforementioned period. The Forensic Medicine Department handled 232 deaths resulting from various accidents, as there were 128 fatalities due to traffic accidents, 21 from drug overdoses, 74 cases of death by suicide, and eight murder victims.

The crime scene departments dealt with 585 reports in Ahmadi Governorate, 168 in Mubarak Al-Kabeer, 457 in Jahra, 751 in Hawally and the Capital, and 543 in Farwaniya.

The Fire and Explosives Department handled 153 cases.

Major General Al-Owaidan said, "Our team is working at full capacity and plays a vital role in uncovering crimes, identifying the deceased, and determining the causes of death or injury with complete accuracy. We are also actively engaged in a national project to take the biometrics of all citizens and residents, which will enhance our ability to handle any tasks assigned to us."

'Mentally-ill' arrested over murder of his family driver in Rahiya desert

Court quashes life imprisonment in drug trafficking case

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: A mentally-troubled Kuwaiti citizen has been arrested for murdering his family driver in Rahiya desert, and referred to the concerned authorities.

According to security sources, the murder was uncovered by the Criminal Investigation Department, in collaboration with the Jahra Security Directorate.

They explained that a Kuwaiti citizen had reported to police officers about witnessing an individual in a disoriented state disposing of his dishdasha in a garbage container in Saad Al-Abdullah, and provided them with the latter's car plate number.

In response, police officers from the Jahra Security Directorate, along with detectives, rushed to retrieve the dishdasha and conduct investigations, and identified the vehicle owner, who turned out to be a Kuwaiti citizen in his thirties. They also discovered that he was admitted in the psychiatric hospital.

Upon being brought from the hospital for questioning, the suspect confessed to killing the family driver and disposing of the body in Rahiya desert. Forensic experts were dispatched to the crime scene, where the suspect guided them to the location of the body.

Detectives, using records of available surveillance cameras, confirmed that the victim and the suspect went out together but the suspect returned alone, which corroborated the suspicion of foul play.

The suspect has been referred to

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Traffic and Operations Sector, under the field supervision of Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic and Operations Affairs at the Ministry of Interior Major General Yousef Al-Khudda, has been actively carrying out security and traffic campaigns with the aim of enhancing traffic safety and security on both internal and external roads in all governorates, reports Al-Anba daily.

Last week, campaigns held by the General Traffic Department resulted in the issuance of 42,245 traffic citations, and the arrest of 36 juveniles for driving without licenses, who were subsequently referred to Juvenile Prosecution. In addition, 43 individuals were referred to the General Traffic Department for committing serious violations.

During the period from September 28 to October 4, these efforts led

to the seizure of 80 vehicles, some of which were wanted by the judiciary or reported as stolen. Traffic officers also referred three individuals to the General Department for Combating Narcotics for possessing illegal substances, and sent 92 vehicles and 50 motorcycles to the impound garage. The campaigns further identified six violators of residency laws and six expatriates who were reported as absconding.

Statistics from the General Traffic Department reveal that patrol teams dealt with 1,753 accidents for the purpose of trafficking.

In the grounds for its ruling, the higher court pointed out it was not reassured by the decision of the incident officer in terms of the proof he cited in his investigation report or his testimony during the investigations of the Public Prosecution.

It also pointed out that the accused was not arrested while selling or buying narcotics through an entrapment arranged by the incident officer. It added that there was no intent to trade in narcotic substances, stressing the ruling on such a case can be made without the need to follow up as long as the evidence is strong.

Lawyer's case set for Oct 28: The Court of Appeals has adjourned to October 28 the case

GTD's weekly statistics

to the seizure of 80 vehicles, some of which were wanted by the judiciary or reported as stolen. Traffic officers also referred three individuals to the General Department for Combating Narcotics for possessing illegal substances, and sent 92 vehicles and 50 motorcycles to the impound garage. The campaigns further identified six violators of residency laws and six expatriates who were reported as absconding.



Dir-Gen Al-Khudda

Statistics from the General Traffic Department reveal that patrol teams dealt with 1,753 accidents

last week, which included 209 accidents that resulted in injuries and 1,544 traffic incidents. The total number of reports handled by General Traffic Department patrols and emergency police patrols reached 2,698.

According to a security source, the Capital Traffic Department led in the number of citations issued, with a total of 10,260 citations. Following closely was the Hawally Traffic Department with 7,380 citations, and then Mubarak Al-Kabeer Traffic Department with 2,988 citations, and the Highway Department with 5,262 citations. The Farwaniya Traffic Department issued 6,080 citations, the Jahra Traffic Department 3,778 citations, the Special Tasks Department of the General Traffic Department 1,847 citations, and the Ahmadi Traffic Department 4,439 citations.

filed against a lawyer who was convicted and sentenced to four-years imprisonment with hard labor, along with the confiscation of his devices and the closure of his social media account, for posting statements on his X account to incite to overthrow the ruling regime and defame the Amir, and misusing his smartphone.

The Public Prosecution has accused the lawyer of inciting violence and calling for the overthrow of the ruling regime, misusing his smartphone, and defaming Amir through messages he posted on his social media account.

However, the accused denied the charges, asserting during the court session that he did not post those messages on his X account, and that his account had been hacked, leaving him unaware of who posted those messages.

3 held for drug possession

Expat wanted for dodging 3-yr jail sentence arrested

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Farwaniya security patrols referred an expatriate, in his 30s, to the Sentence Enforcement General Department at the Ministry of Interior for failure to serve a three-year prison term for committing financial crimes, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source said the expatriate was arrested at a checkpoint, where the security patrols got suspicious after noticing signs of fear and confusion in his demeanor. This prompted the officers to search his security records and they discovered he is wanted by law for evading a prison sentence imposed on him in relation to the financial cases filed against him.

Narcotics seized: Ahmadi traffic patrols arrested a 44-year-old man after discovering that he was in possession of narcotics when they stopped him for speeding, reports **Al-Anba** daily.

A security source disclosed that the officers were patrolling the roads in Ahmadi recently when they noticed a speeding Japanese-made car. They chased the car and saw the man throwing a bag on the side of the road. They forced him to stop; and then they checked the bag, which contained an undisclosed quantity of narcotics. He was referred to the concerned authority for questioning and other legal measures.

Meanwhile, Farwaniya support patrols referred two expatriates to the Drug Control General Department at the Interior Ministry after arresting them in Jeeb Al-Shuyoukh for selling narcotics with an undisclosed quantity of shabu and chemical substances in their possession.

Part of 6th Ring Road closed: The General Traffic Department has announced the complete closure of two branches of the Sixth Ring Road for traffic heading from Ahmadi on King Fahd Road toward Al-Masilah and Jahra, reports **Al-Seyassah** daily.

This closure will remain in effect until October 10. Additionally, the branch of the Sixth Ring Road coming from Jahra towards King Fahd Road and heading to Kuwait City will also be closed until October 8.

Motorists are advised to plan their routes accordingly and seek alternative pathways to avoid potential delays caused by these road closures.

WEDDINGS, UPTO 140

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LOCAL

Farwaniya Council approves food storage, fire force relocation sites

Regulatory reforms proposed for investment zones

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Farwaniya Committee of the Municipal Council approved three out of the five items on its agenda during its meeting on Sunday, which was headed by the Deputy President of the Mu-

nicipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi.

The approved items were:

■ The Cabinet's decision regarding the report from the Government Performance Follow-up Agency, which calls for the establishment of strategic storage areas for food and other purposes in Omariya, covering an area of 1,000 square meters.

■ The request from the Kuwait Fire Force to allocate a site in Sayhad Al-Awazem, north of the Seventh Ring Road, as an alternative to the site relinquished in Rai, which will benefit the Ministry of Finance in paying the actuarial deficit of the Public Institution for Social Security.

■ The request to add plot No. 115 in Khaitan Block 7.

The committee reserved a letter from the Ministry of Interior regarding the committee's meetings.

It referred to the executive body for further study, the second transaction in the report from the Government Performance Follow-up Agency concerning the provision of strategic storage areas for food and other purposes in Ardiya Industrial Area, covering a total area of 1,000 square meters.

Meanwhile, Municipal Council member Sherifa Al-Shalfan on Sunday submitted a proposal to amend Item 18 in Table No. 2 of the requirements for permitted commercial uses in investment properties in the building regulations, and the requirements and specifications for investment housing buildings in and outside Kuwait City.

Al-Shalfan suggested the addition of certain conditions to prevent problems in the future; such as obtaining approval from the Structural Planning and Organization Department based on a study of the number of similar uses in the area, and the extent that the area can withstand changing the required use and submitting an approved traffic study.

In the introduction to her proposal, Al-Shalfan stated that some investment areas have witnessed congestion of commercial projects stipulated in the building regulations; which allow changing the use of investment housing plots for commercial use like medical clinics, restaurants, schools and others, without technical and organizational controls.



Opening of the third student exhibition.



Part of the exhibition works.



KUNA photos



Kuwaiti delegation participating in the Arab Capitals Youth Forum.

KUNA photo

19th Arab Youth Meeting kicks off in Jordan

The 19th Arab Youth Meeting began on Sunday in Jordan, themed "Youth, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence" in collaboration with the Arab League, with participation of Kuwait's Youth Affairs Ministry.

In the opening speech, Jordanian Minister of Youth Yazan Shdeifat -- on behalf of the Prime Minister Jaffar Hassan -- stated that Jordan is keen on hosting this event, noting that it offers Arab youth a platform to exchange experiences and knowledge in the fields of technology and artificial intelligence.

He also underscored the royal patronage that prioritizes Jordanian youth, particularly in technology and artificial intelligence, and praised Jordan's national youth strategy for

supporting innovative projects in these fields.

The Arab League's representative Faisal Ghassan emphasized the League's commitment to promoting initiatives that enable Arab youth to work toward a better future.

He noted that despite the current challenges in the region, the Arab League remains committed to ensuring the continuation of this event, reaffirming the League's support for Palestinian youth.

The Kuwaiti delegation's head Aseel Al-Enezi described the event as an exceptional opportunity for Arab youth to develop skills in modern technology and artificial intelligence, as well as highlighted the growing demand for AI-driven jobs. (KUNA)



Al-Mutairi

'Your Decision, Your Stability'

PAAET hosts 3rd student exhibition

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Director of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Dr. Hassan Al-Fajjam officially launched the third student exhibition titled "Your Decision, Your Stability" which was organized by the Deanship of Student Affairs under the patronage of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Acting Minister of Education Dr. Nader Al-Jalal. The exhibition will run until October 8 at PAAET's theater in Shuwaikh.

Dr. Al-Fajjam affirmed the commitment of PAAET to ensuring stability for both male and female students from the time of their enrollment until their graduation.

He revealed that the exhibition brings together all of PAAET's departments, colleges, and institutes in one location for providing students with guidance and advice.

Dr. Al-Fajjam encourages all students to attend the exhibition to find answers to their questions and access the resources they need.

In this regard, the Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Abdullah Al-Ajmi explained that the exhibition is a continuation of PAAET's efforts to engage with male and female students.

With the title of "Your Decision, Your Stability", it reflects the journey students undertake from the moment they decide to join PAAET until their graduation.

The exhibition answers all common inquiries, such as obtaining an ID, applying for social rewards, eligibility for excellence awards, and information about rare specializations. It also provides insights into the various departments of colleges and institutes, as well as labor market entities.

Several organizations, both from within and outside PAAET, participated in the exhibition. All colleges and institutes were represented, along with several departments and sections dedicated to student support. External participants included the Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences, the Al-Kharafi Center for the Activities of the Disabled, the Ministry of Interior, the Public Authority for Disability Affairs, Boubyan Bank, the National Bank of Kuwait, the Public Institution for Social Security, the Public Authority for Manpower, and the Civil Service Commission, among others.

The exhibition was attended by several leaders from PAAET, a number of ambassadors of Arab countries, and a large group of male and female students.

Supporting voices in Arabic literature

Winners of Al-Babtain Foundation 19th poetry creativity announced

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation has announced the winners of the 19th Poetry Creativity Competition, designed to support poetry and poets, promote the Arabic language, and emphasize the cultural significance of poetry in Arab societies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Saud Al-Babtain, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, expressed the organization's commitment to enhancing the Arabic language and empowering poets, particularly youth, to explore new horizons in poetic expression.

He stated, "Through this competition, the Foundation seeks to support the Arabic language, poetry, and poets, enabling them to articulate their thoughts and feelings in our beautiful Arabic language. We believe that poetry is a sophisticated tool for expressing ideas and emotions, and we are dedicated to providing all necessary support to ensure that Arabic poetry continues to flourish."

The competition witnessed a high level of innovation and creativity among the submissions, reflecting a promising future for Arabic poetry. Al-Babtain congratulated all the winners, emphasizing that these awards align with the Foundation's goals and were established to promote poetic talent.

The following are the winner of the competition:

Best Collection Award -- Algerian poet Latifa Hassani received this award for her collection titled "The Butterfly's Philosophy," accompanied by a prize of \$20,000.

Best Poem Award -- Egyptian poet Abdel Moneim Al-Aqabi won for his poem "Mirrors of Time," receiving \$10,000.

Best Youth Collection Award -- The award was given to Jaafar Hijjawi from Jordan for his collection "Runner Around My Father's Palm," with a prize of \$10,000.

Best Youth Poem Award -- Amr Al-Bata



Al-Seyassah photo

Saud Al-Babtain, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation.

from Egypt was recognized for his poem "Until Life Ends," receiving a prize of \$5,000.

Creativity Award in Poetry Criticism -- This prestigious award, worth \$40,000, was jointly awarded to Dr. Ahmed Al-Jawa from Tunisia for his book "Lyricism and Issues of Commitment in the Recent Poems of Mahmoud Darwish" and Dr. Wabih Romyeh from Syria for his book "Poetry and Memory: Intertextuality between Arabic Poetry in the Twentieth Century and Pre-Islamic Poetry."

Appreciation Award for Creativity in Poetry -- Kuwaiti poet Dr. Khalifa Al-Waqian received this award, valued at \$50,000, in recognition of his extensive poetic career and significant contributions to the art form.

The competition attracted wide participation from across the Arab world between May 1 and December 31, 2023, highlighting the Foundation's dedication to fostering poetic creativity and promoting the Arabic language.

This year's competition witnessed 905 entries -- a wide turnout from critics, veteran poets and young people, which reflects the importance of this competition as a major platform for encouraging poetic creativity.

News in Brief

Water supply stable: Assistant Undersecretary for Operations and Water Maintenance at the Ministry of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy Eng. Fahd Al-Dhafiri confirmed that the water network is stable and the ministry is working hard to ensure ample supply of water throughout the country, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a statement to the daily, Al-Dhafiri revealed the country is implementing various projects to increase the strategic water reserves; citing as examples the water tanks project in Mutla'a and the Funaitees water reservoirs.

He said the ministry is using the latest technologies to monitor leaks and improve water network efficiency, in addition to training the national workforce in utilizing such technologies.

He stressed "there is no shortage of water. The ministry is keen on securing water sources in all regions to prevent

weakness or interruption of water supply."

Crafts institute approved: Kuwait Municipality has approved the establishment of a training institute for handicrafts at the Sadu House, reports Al-Jarida daily.

In a letter, the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) requested the addition of a 232-square-meter training facility at the Sadu House, located in Qibla Block 15 overlooking the Arabian Gulf Street.

As per the technical opinion, the institute will specialize in teaching handicrafts and engravings related to Sadu. Only one training institute will be permitted and the activities of shops listed in ministerial Resolution No. 435/2022 and its amendments will apply to the remaining areas of the Sadu House.



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Minister of Health, Ahmadi Governor and KFH Chairman in attendance

KFH participates in inauguration of new Al Salam Hospital in Ahmadi

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Under the patronage and attendance of Kuwait Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi, the new Al Salam Al Ahmadi Hospital, a subsidiary of Kuwait Finance House (KFH), was officially opened. The hospital is located in Mahboula and covers an area of 5,300 square meters.

The event was attended by the Governor of Al-Ahmadi, his Excellency Sheikh Homoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, KFH Chairman, Hamad Abdulmohsen Al Marzouq, KFH Acting Group Chief Executive Officer, Abdulwahab Iesa AlRushood, KFH-Kuwait Chief Executive Officer, Khaled Yousef AlShamlan, Al Salam Chairman, Fawaz Al Enezi, Al Salam Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ayman Al Mutawa, in addition to a number of officials in the private and public healthcare sector.

Minister of Health

On this occasion, Minister of Health, Dr. Ahmed Al-Awadi said: "I am delighted to participate in the opening of Al Salam Hospital in Mahboula. This distinguished addition to the private healthcare sector represents a significant opportunity to highlight the integration and cooperation between the private and public sectors in Kuwait."

Al-Awadi commended KFH's social role and contribution to the development of the healthcare system. He extended his thanks to KFH's Board of Directors, Dr. Ayman Al Mutawa, as well as the medical and administrative personnel.

Governor of Al-Ahmadi

Governor of Al-Ahmadi, his Excellency Sheikh Homoud Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah lauded the opening of the hospital as a distinguished medical facility that further enhances the capabilities and resources of Kuwait's healthcare sector, particularly in Ahmadi Governorate.

"I am delighted to attend the inauguration of this state-of-the-art facility, which marks a significant step in advancing healthcare services and offering the best medical care to the community. It also plays a vital role in



Left: The Minister of Health, Hamad Al-Marzouq, and the Governor of Al-Ahmadi at the opening ribbon cutting. Right: A group photo of the officials participating in the opening.



Left: Hamad Al-Marzouq honored the Governor of the Capital, in the presence of the Minister of Health and Dr. Ayman Al-Mutawa. Center: Hamad Al Marzouq honored Minister of Health. Right: A tour of the hospital departments.



elevating the healthcare system in Kuwait," he remarked.

KFH Chairman

Meanwhile, KFH Chairman, Hamad Abdulmohsen Al Marzouq, emphasized the KFH's commitment to supporting Kuwait's efforts to strengthen the healthcare sector, driven by its belief in the importance of healthcare and a keen understanding of the challenges that lie in its development.

He said: "Our goal is to help align healthcare services with the evolving needs and aspirations of people, ensuring their satisfaction and their access to

world-class healthcare services."

Al Marzouq underscored the essential role of the private sector in complementing government plans and policies, in addition to achieving Kuwait's development goals. He added that in addition to being a critical necessity, healthcare is a cornerstone of economic activity, with social and developing implications, noting that enhancing the quality of healthcare is paramount to society.

He expressed his confidence in the hospital's influence on the ongoing efforts to enhance the health sector in Ku-

wait with the latest technology and staffed by an exceptional medical and nursing expertise. Additionally, he highlighted the hospital's distinguished factors that include its capacity, advanced medical equipment and convenient access from different areas.

He continued: "Today, we are proud to open Al Salam Al Ahmadi Hospital, one of the most distinguished and advanced medical projects in Kuwait and the region. The hospital combines operational excellence with innovative design, establishing itself as a vital healthcare institution in a key area of Kuwait."

He went on to say that KFH takes pride in its partnerships and contributions to strategic development projects, reaffirming its leadership position and continuing its social and economic role in driving progress, prosperity, and sustainable development within the community.

CEO of Al Salam Hospitals

Al Salam Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ayman Al Mutawa, emphasized that this action is part of an ongoing effort to improve healthcare services in Kuwait. The hospitals are working to broaden their services and prioritize

the use of modern medical technologies and advanced facilities. Al Mutawa explained that this project is a key component of a carefully planned strategic initiative to enhance healthcare for both citizens and residents.

Al Mutawa mentioned that the idea of establishing the hospital was initiated in 2018, following a comprehensive study on the feasibility of creating an advanced hospital to serve the region as part of Al Salam Hospitals' expansion plan. He highlighted that the opening of Al Salam Al Ahmadi Hospital in Mahboula is a continuation of the journey of Al Salam Al Asima Hospital which began in 1964. The hospital has met all necessary construction and medical requirements in preparation for operation and accepting patients. Al Mutawa emphasized that Al Salam Hospitals always aim to provide comprehensive healthcare with a focus on delivering top-quality care in line with international standards, with the ultimate goal of improving the healthcare sector in Kuwait.

The hospital has fully integrated medical facilities that feature state-of-the-art equipment to deliver precise and efficient medical services. These facilities include operating and maternity wards, as well as luxurious suites designed to offer comfort and privacy to patients.

In addition to having 98 beds and 9 operating rooms, Al Salam Ahmadi Hospital also offers advanced delivery rooms, support departments like radiology and laboratory, as well as a pediatric and physiotherapy department. The hospital has a twinning agreement with the largest physiotherapy center in the Netherlands for its physiotherapy department, and a dermatology department with cutting-edge equipment to treat skin and body issues.

Dr. Ayman Al-Mutawa highlighted that Al-Salam Hospitals consistently aims to deliver the finest healthcare services, dedicated to delivering a high-quality care in line with global standards, to enhance the healthcare industry in Kuwait.

Expedite

Continued from Page 1

However, the reform process has begun, and it must continue at an accelerated pace to prevent these factions from regrouping and inciting people against the government.

We have long stated that genuine development, particularly in large-scale initiatives, begins with a clear understanding of the nation's goals. Unfortunately, the so-called deep state intervenes with the aim to seize control of every institution while inflating expenses through corrupt investments and placing its allies in key positions in institutions.

It must be acknowledged that Kuwait is the only country that relies on this ineffective model for tenders and projects. This has contributed to several decades of developmental delays, especially as other countries have long since eliminated the local agent and begun assigning projects directly to foreign or local companies.

As a result, costs have been greatly reduced, and corruption has been curtailed. This shift has also eradicated the kickbacks that were previously funneled toward private, political, and social interests.

To avoid returning to the previous abnormal situation, it is essential to adhere to the Amiri orders and implement the decision-maker's vision. This includes considering constitutional amendments and reviewing all laws that could facilitate development.

As we stated yesterday and reiterate today, the reform workshop must be expedited, even if it requires enlisting the expertise of legal and constitutional specialists from abroad who have substantial experience in these matters.

Every country needs expert guidance at some point in order to recover from stagnation, particularly when exposed to the chaos that Kuwait experienced after liberation, which threatened social, political, and economic stability.

Gaza Strip

Continued from Page 1

The Israeli occupation dropped 85,000 tons of explosives and committed 3,654 massacres during a year of war and aggression on Gaza, and the number of martyrs reached 51,870, said the government media office in Gaza on Monday.

In a press statement after a year of aggression on Gaza, the total number of children killed reached 16,927 and the number of women climbed to 11,487, it added.

It also pointed out that the occupation killed all members of 902 Palestinian families and erased their names from the civil registry, while the number of journalists who were martyred since the beginning of the Israeli aggression reached 176 journalists.

The media office stated that the percentage of extensive destruction caused by the Israeli occupation reached 86 percent in all governorates of the Strip, including the total destruction of 187 shelters, 814 mosques, and 3 churches.

Reports also indicated that the Palestinian economy has suffered huge material losses estimated at millions of dollars after the bombing of industrial facilities, municipalities, civil defense headquarters, infrastructure, roads, schools, universities, and shops, in addition to the closure of crossings and the occupation's control over goods entering Gaza.

Oil reliance

Continued from Page 1

According to Dr Al-Bassam, the government should divest itself from activities that are not part of its core functions, allowing private entities to manage these sectors while the state retains oversight. This approach would ensure profitability without imposing undue financial burdens on citizens.

Privatization, he argued, would strengthen Kuwait's financial and investment standing, generating revenues for the state and relieving the government of managing non-essential facilities.

Dr. Al-Bassam further highlighted the need to address issues plaguing the private sector, calling for expansion in heavy and medium industries rather than focusing solely on small-scale ventures. Given Kuwait's strategic location, Al-Bassam noted, the country has significant potential to become a hub for exporting industrial products.

As a specialist in accounting, Dr. Al-Bassam offered insights into Kuwait's financial structure, explaining that the general budget encompasses the state's revenues and expenditures for a specific fiscal year, sometimes resulting in a deficit that is covered through reserves or borrowing.

However, he cautioned that the broader financial situation includes other crucial factors, such as the trade balance, sovereign wealth funds, public debt, and the balance of payments.

'Empowerment

Continued from Page 1

On the other hand, Municipal Council member Architect Sherifa Al-Shalfan considers her appointment at the council, along with three other women, a "historic step" in the country. She explained that for the first time in Kuwait's history, women occupy four out of six seats at the council – a quarter of the total number of council members.

She said this reflects the vision of the political leadership on empowering Kuwaiti women, and providing them with opportunities to showcase their capabilities and vast experience in working according to a conscious vision that supports the realization of sustainable development goals.

She enumerated the most remarkable achievements of women at the council as follows: approval of Kuwait Code for People with Disabilities and the law on sorting waste at the source.

She clarified that women still face

challenges on the way to getting what they deserve. Despite their political presence, women still have a lot to give; hence, the support of the family including the husband is an important element to push them towards achieving their goals and strengthening their presence in the political arena, she added.

Sanaa Al-Qamias, CEO of Amnia – a non-profit company for collecting plastic and raising public awareness on the significance of recycling – talked about the challenges and difficulties she faced in establishing the company with her friend Farah Shaaban, the most important of which are the novelty of the sector and the lack of desire from both men and women to enter and venture into it.

Recalling a comment by someone she knows in 2015 about her desire to establish a company to collect and recycle plastic, she was told: "the longest mustache could not handle her." She disclosed this phrase served as a motivation for her to break the glass barrier that society places on women to limit their capabilities, which basically does not exist, as it is a psychological barrier that can be broken with determination.

She confirmed that her company has been awarded international certificates of appreciation and global recognition for its efforts in raising environmental awareness and recycling plastic waste.

On the professional challenges she faced, Al-Qamias cited changing the culture of consumption and land filling and transforming it into a struggle to survive, to build and make the most of damaged materials, remain the biggest challenges she faced in her journey to promote environmental sustainability and convince society of its importance.

'Local products

Continued from Page 1

"The quality of local agricultural products is a testament to the hard work and innovation of our farmers," Dr. Al-Huwailah said, expressing her deep appreciation for their ongoing efforts.

She reiterated that the Ministry of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs is fully committed to supporting initiatives that enhance the value and competitiveness of local products in the market. The minister also emphasized the need to continue improving agricultural practices and expanding support systems for farmers in order to meet growing demands and secure a stable food future for Kuwait.

Kuwait, Malaysia

Continued from Page 1

The two officials discussed ways to develop bilateral cooperation between Kuwaiti and Malaysian Ministries of Defense, and exchanged views on prominent developments in regional and international areas, the statement added.

This visit came in the framework of strengthening military ties and unifying efforts to achieve common defense goals.

The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Bandar Al-Muzain, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Meshal Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Army Major General Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Ambassador to Malaysia Rashed Al-Saleh, along with several senior army leaders. (KUNA)

KCA reviews major global mergers and acquisitions

Significant deals under scrutiny

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The Kuwaiti Competition Authority announced that it has received five requests related to economic concentration processes, as revealed in a series of posts on the social media platform "X" (formerly Twitter), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

These requests involve acquisitions and mergers spanning multiple industries and countries, reflecting the increasing globalization of business activity monitored by the Authority.

One of the significant requests involves Chamonix Investments Poland, which seeks to acquire 42 percent of the shares of Cormark.

Simultaneously, Chamonix Investments plans to acquire the remaining 58 percent of Cormark in Poland, consolidating full ownership of the firm. Another request pertains to

Porsche Retail Group Limited, which aims to acquire the business and assets of the agencies holding the franchise rights to sell cars under Garden Seschelst Cars Limited in the United Kingdom.

Additionally, the Authority is reviewing a proposed merger between Al-Ikhlal International Holding and Iskan General Trading and Contracting, marking a major move within the Kuwaiti market.

On the international front, the German defense and automotive company Rheinmetall AG, through its subsidiary Rheinmetall American Vehicles, has submitted a request to acquire 100 percent of CB Prime Holdings LP, based in the United States.

In another cross-border transaction, NBC Apparel from the United States seeks to acquire a 35 percent stake in the capital of PFL Holding Limited in the United Arab Emirates.

These requests highlight the active role of the Kuwaiti Competition Authority in overseeing economic concentration activities and ensuring compliance with competition laws to maintain market integrity.



JOINT OPERATIONS WAFRA

SAUDI ARABIAN CHEVRON INC. (SAC) - KUWAIT GULF OIL COMPANY



Joint Operations (Saudi Arabian Chevron Inc. / Kuwait Gulf Oil Company), announces the under-mentioned Public Tenders for procurement of material.

Kuwaiti and Saudi Merchants, registered with either Company wishing to participate in the under-mentioned Tenders are invited to collect the Tender documents from Blanket Purchasing Section, Purchasing & Logistic Division, Administration Building, Ground Floor, Joint Operations, Wafra, during the official working hours from 8 October 2024 up to 14 November 2024 for a non-refundable fee mentioned against tender.

Tender Fees to be deposited in the National bank of Kuwait (NBK) Account No. 1001132057. Saudi Suppliers can collect the tender documents from Saudi Arabian Chevron office in Al-Khobar Telephone No.: (013) 8645104 - Fax No.: (013) 8985436

The closing date for the following Tender will be on **Monday, 25 November 2024 @ 09:00 AM.**

S.NO.	TENDER NO.	MATERIALS	CONTRACT PERIOD	FEES (IN KD)
1	BPT # 260 / 24	BLANKET PURCHASE TENDER FOR INSTRUMENTATION FITTINGS & VALVES ITEMS	3 YRS	15
2	BPT # 259 / 24	BLANKET PURCHASE TENDER FOR CONTROL VALVES, ON-OFF VALVES & PRESSURE SAFETY VALVES	3 YRS	100
3	BPT # 257 / 24	BLANKET PURCHASE TENDER FOR M/S FLOWSERVE ITEMS	3 YRS	50
4	BPT # 263 / 24	BLANKET PURCHASE TENDER FOR STRUCTURAL MATERIALS	3 YRS	100

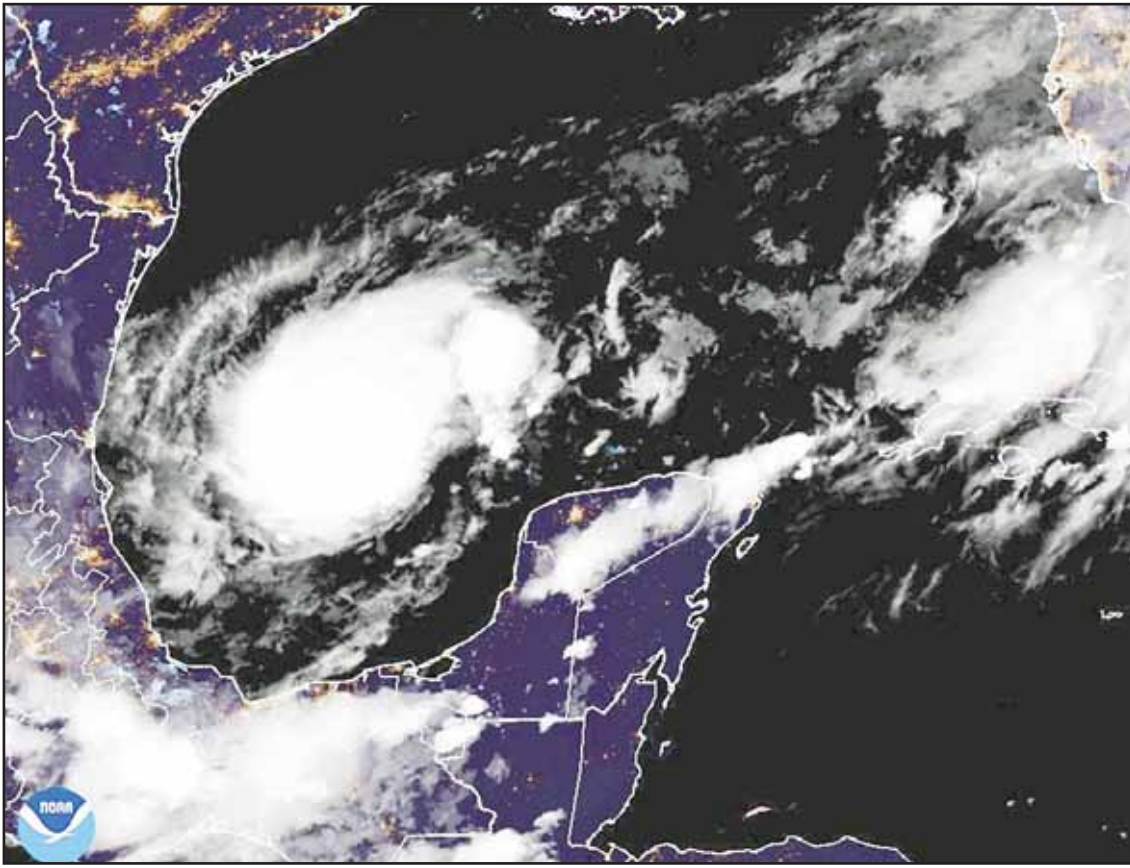
Notes:

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

For additional information, you may contact:

Telephone No.: **23983639** - Ext : **3042 - 2569**

INTERNATIONAL



This satellite image from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration taken at 11:36 pm ET on Oct 6, shows Hurricane Milton. (AP)

Hurricane Milton strengthens into Category 4

Milton rapidly strengthened into a Category 4 hurricane Monday on a path toward Florida population centers including Tampa and Orlando, threatening a dangerous storm surge in Tampa Bay and setting the stage for potential mass evacuations less than two weeks after a catastrophic Hurricane Helene swamped the coastline.

The storm is expected to stay at about its current strength for the next couple of days, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said. Helene was also a Category 4 at

landfall in northern Florida. A hurricane warning was issued for parts of Mexico's Yucatan state, and much of Florida's west coast was under hurricane and storm surge watches.

Milton had maximum sustained winds of 150 mph (240 kph) over the southern Gulf of Mexico, the hurricane center said. Its center could come ashore Wednesday in the Tampa Bay area, and it could remain a hurricane as it moves across central Florida toward the Atlantic Ocean. That would largely spare other states ravaged by He-

lene, which killed at least 230 people on its path from Florida to the Appalachian Mountains.

The Tampa Bay area is still cleaning up extensive damage from Helene and its powerful surge. Twelve people perished, with the worst damage along a 20-mile (32-kilometer) string of barrier islands from St. Petersburg to Clearwater. Florida Gov Ron DeSantis said Monday that it was imperative that messes from Helene be cleaned up ahead of Milton's arrival so they don't become dangerous flying projectiles. (AP)

National debt could increase under Harris – new analysis

WASHINGTON, Oct 7, (AP): No one is likely to be happy with the projected higher deficits laid out in a new analysis of Kamala Harris' and Donald Trump's economic plans.

The analysis released Monday by the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget suggests a Harris presidency could increase the national debt over 10 years by \$3.5 trillion. That's even though the vice president's campaign insists her proposed investments in the middle class and housing would be fully offset by higher taxes on corporations and the wealthy. Her campaign policy guide states that Harris is "committed to fiscal responsibility - making investments that will support our economy, while paying for them and reducing the deficit at the same time."

The same analysis says former president Trump's ideas could heap another \$7.5 trillion onto the debt and possibly as much as \$15.2 trillion. That's even though he suggests growth would be so strong under his watch that no one would need to worry about deficits.

The 34-page report released by the fiscal watchdog group puts a spotlight on the issue of government borrowing that will confront the winner of November's election. Total federal debt held by the public now tops \$28 billion and is expected to keep climbing as revenues can't keep up with the growing costs of Social Security, Medicare and other programs. The analysis noted that the expense of servicing that debt in dollar terms has "eclipsed the cost of defending our nation or providing health care to elderly Americans."

Drawing on the candidates' speeches, campaign documents and social media posts, the analysis warns bluntly: "Debt would continue to grow faster than the economy under either candidates' plans



Democratic presidential nominee US Vice President Kamala Harris speaks during an event at the Redford Township Fire Department North Station in Redford Township, Mich on Oct 4. (AP)

and in most scenarios would grow faster and higher than under current law."

Neither candidate has meaningfully stressed budget deficit reduction in their pitch to voters. But multiple analyses show a clear difference of Harris being much more fiscally responsible than Trump.

Harvard University professor Jason Furman, who was the top economist in the Obama White House, estimated in an opinion article for The Wall Street Journal that Harris' plans could cut

deficits by \$1.5 trillion or raise them by \$1.5 trillion. Meanwhile, his estimates show that Trump's plans would increase deficits by \$5 trillion, though that figure does not include his plans to charge no taxes on overtime pay and scrap the limit on deductions of state and local taxes.

There are other estimates by The Budget Lab at Yale and the Penn Wharton Budget Model that also show Harris would be better at keeping the deficit in check.

Republican win could knock out Dems

Trump ramps up his campaign in Wisconsin

JUNEAU, Wis., Oct 7, (AP): Donald Trump's fourth scheduled stop in eight days in Wisconsin is a sign of his increased attention as Republicans fret about the former president's ability to match the Democrats' enthusiasm and turnout machine.

"In the political chatter class, they're worried," said Brandon Scholz, a retired Republican strategist and longtime political observer in Wisconsin who voted for Trump in 2020 but said he is not voting for Trump or Democratic nominee Kamala Harris this year. "I think Republicans are right to be concerned."

Trump's latest rally was planned for 2 p.m. Central time Sunday in Juneau in Dodge County, which he won in 2020 with 65% of the vote. Jack Yuds, chairman of the county Republican Party, said support for Trump is stronger in his part of the state than it was in 2016 or 2020. "I can't keep signs in," Yuds said. "They want everything he's got. If it says Trump on it, you can sell it."

Wisconsin is perennially tight in presidential elections but has gone for the Republicans just once in the past 40 years, when Trump won the state in 2016. A win in November could make it

impossible for Harris to take the White House.

Trump won in 2016 over Democrat Hillary Clinton by fewer than 23,000 votes and lost to Democrat Joe Biden in 2020 by just under 21,000 votes.

On Tuesday, Trump made his first-ever visit to Dane County, home to the liberal capital city of Madison, in an effort to turn out the Republican vote even in the state's Democratic strongholds. Dane is Wisconsin's second most-populous and fastest-growing county; Biden received more than 75% of the vote four years ago.

"To win statewide you've got to have a 72-county strategy," former Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican, said at that event.

Early arrivals filled the airplane hangar where Trump was to speak and the crowd spilled out onto the tarmac of the airport, far exceeding the available seating.

"Make sure we turn out because guess what, I've been to Madison," said U.S. Rep. Scott Fitzgerald, who is from Juneau. "I've been to liberal Madison and they're going to show up. We need to do the same thing because we are the firewall to keep this country indepen-

dent and free."

Trump's campaign and outside groups supporting his candidacy have outspent Harris and her allies on advertising in Wisconsin, \$35 million to \$31 million, since she became a candidate on July 23, according to the media-tracking firm AdImpact.

Harris and outside groups supporting her candidacy had more advertising time reserved in Wisconsin from Oct. 1 through Nov. 5, more than \$25 million compared with \$20 million for Trump and his allies.

The Harris campaign has 50 offices across 43 counties with more than 250 staff in Wisconsin, said her spokesperson Timothy White. The Trump campaign said it has 40 offices in the state and dozens of staff.

Harris rallied supporters in Madison in September at an event that drew more than 10,000 people. On Thursday, she made an appeal to moderate and disgruntled conservatives by holding an event in Ripon, the birthplace of the Republican Party, along with former US Rep Liz Cheney of Wyoming, one of Trump's most prominent Republican antagonists.



Republican presidential nominee former US president Donald Trump departs after speaking during a campaign rally at Dodge County Airport on Oct 6 in Juneau, Wis. (AP)



In this photo taken from video released by the Moscow City Court Press Service, Stephen Hubbard, a US citizen accused of fighting as a mercenary in Ukraine against Russia stands in a glass cage during a court session in the Moscow City court in Moscow, Russia on Oct 7. (AP)

Russia sentences 72-year-old American to nearly seven yrs

MOSCOW, Oct 7, (AP): A Russian court on Monday sentenced a 72-year-old American to nearly seven years in prison for fighting as a mercenary in Ukraine.

Prosecutors said Stephen Hubbard signed a contract with the Ukrainian military after Russia sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022 and he fought alongside them until being captured two months later.

He was sentenced to six years and 10 months in a general-security prison. Prosecutors had called for a sentence of seven years in a maximum-security prison.

Hubbard, from the state of Michigan, is the first American known to have been convicted for fighting as a mercenary in the Ukrainian conflict.

The charges carried a potential

sentence of 15 years, but prosecutors asked that his age be taken into account and that he had admitted guilt, Russian news reports said.

Arrests of Americans have become increasingly common in Russia in recent years. Concern has risen that Russia could be targeting US nationals for arrest to use later as bargaining chips in talks to bring back Russians convicted of crimes in the US and Europe.

The U.S. and Russia in August completed their largest prisoner swap in post-Soviet history, a deal involving 24 people, many months of negotiations and concessions from other European countries, which released Russians in their custody as part of the exchange. Several US citizens remain behind bars in Russia following the swap.

America

Bear attacks man in Colorado:

A black bear with three cubs attacked a man in his Colorado home after they crashed in through a sliding glass door and he was unable to get them to leave.

State wildlife managers killed all four bears after the attack Thursday night in Lake City, a southwestern Colorado town of 400 people. The man's injuries were significant, but he didn't need to go to a hospital, Colorado Parks & Wildlife said in a statement Saturday.

"It's certainly lucky we didn't have a fatality because it was close," Colorado wildlife officer Lucas Martin said in the statement.

The 74-year-old man tried to shoot the adult female bear out with a kitchen chair, but it knocked him into a wall and clawed at him, the wildlife agency said.

The bear injured the man's head, neck, arms, shoulder, abdomen and calf before he and his wife escaped to a bedroom.

A sheriff's deputy chased the bears out, and medical responders treated the man at his house. His identity wasn't released.

Wildlife managers suspect the bears were accustomed to people because of

recent reports of bears in the area raiding homes in search of food.

They found the four bears near the couple's house and killed them, standard practice to stop problem bears that associate people with food. (AP)

Ohio crash kills 5:

An early morning crash involving two cars on an Ohio road killed five people and critically injured another person, authorities said.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol said a car heading northeast on Route 28 struck a car that had been trying to cross the road shortly after 1:30 a.m. Sunday in Goshen Township. Troopers said the two vehicles ended up in a ditch and an embankment.

Authorities said the crash claimed the lives of both drivers, Mathew Penny, 25, of Cincinnati and Dustin McDole, 43, of Goshen. Also killed were two occupants of Penny's vehicle, Chloe Love, 19, of Loveland and Dezman Jernigan, 18, of Goshen, as well as McDole's passenger, Andrea Iery, 42, of Pleasant Plain.

All were pronounced dead at the scene by the Clermont County coroner's office, authorities said. McDole and Iery were wearing seatbelts at the time of the crash, officials said.

An 18-year-old Milford resident who was also in Penny's car was taken to UC Medical Center with what the highway patrol described as "life-threatening injuries." (AP)

Boys charged in assault:

Two boys, ages 12 and 13, were arrested Saturday in connection with an assault on former New York Gov. David Paterson and his stepson, police said.

Paterson, 70, and his stepson, Anthony Sliwa, 20, were attacked around 8:30 p.m. Friday while they were out for a walk on Manhattan's Upper East Side. They were treated at a hospital for minor injuries to the face.

Paterson, who is legally blind, also sustained injuries to his body.

The two boys were both charged with gang assault. Police did not identify them by name because they are minors. Authorities have said at least five people were involved in the attack. They sought help from the public to learn more about the assault.

Paterson, a Democrat, served as governor from 2008 to 2010, assuming the post after Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned in a prostitution scandal. He was the state's first Black governor. (AP)



In this photo taken from video released by Russian Defense Ministry Press Service on Oct 6, a Russian Army 'Grad' self-propelled 122 mm multiple rocket launcher fires rockets toward Ukrainian positions at an undisclosed location. (AP)

'War is in a very important phase'

Ukraine military strikes Russian oil hub

KYIV, Ukraine, Oct 7, (AP): Ukraine's military claimed it struck a major oil terminal Monday in Crimea that provides fuel for Russia's war effort as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the war has entered a key phase.

Both sides are facing the issue of how to sustain their costly war of attrition - a conflict that started with Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and that shows no signs of a resolution.

Ukraine's General Staff said on social media that the oil terminal in Feodosia, on the south coast of the Russia-occupied Crimea Peninsula, has been supplying the Russian army with fuel and that the strike was part of an on-going effort to "undermine the military and economic potential of the Russian Federation."

Russian-installed authorities in the city of Feodosia on the coast of the Black Sea reported a fire at the terminal on Monday morning but did not say what might have caused it.

Ukraine has increasingly targeted

rear areas that are essential for Russia's onslaught, now deep into its third year. It has developed long-range drones that have hit oil depots and refineries as well as armories.

Ukraine's aim is to impair Russia's ability to support its front-line units, especially in the eastern Donetsk region where the main Russian battlefield effort is stretching weary Ukrainian forces.

Kyiv is still awaiting word from its Western partners on its repeated requests to use the long-range weapons they provide to hit targets on Russian soil.

Developments on that question could come next weekend at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, when defense leaders from the 50-plus partner nations that coordinate military aid to Ukraine are due to meet.

The conflict has largely been a war of attrition, which requires large amounts of ammunition. Late on Sunday, Zelenskyy said the war is in "a very important phase" as the Ukrainian army works hard to hold the bigger

Russian forces at bay in the east while also holding ground in Russia's Kursk border region, which it captured two months ago.

Ukraine needs to "put pressure on Russia in the way that's necessary for Russia to realize that the war will gain them nothing," Zelenskyy said in a video statement.

"We will continue to apply even greater pressure on Russia - because only through strength can we bring peace closer," he added.

Meanwhile, Russia fired six missiles of various types and 74 Shahed drones at Ukraine overnight, Ukraine's air force said.

Missile debris fell in three districts of Kyiv, causing minor damage to civilian infrastructure and starting a fire, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. He said nobody was hurt. Three missile fragments fell on a kindergarten, he said without elaborating.

Russia's Defense Ministry said it shot down almost two dozen Ukrainian drones overnight.

INTERNATIONAL

NZ ship catches fire and sinks

Fuel spill 'highly probable': Samoa

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, Oct 7. (AP): A fuel spill is "highly probable" after a New Zealand navy ship grounded, caught fire and sank off the coast of Samoa, the Pacific island nation's acting prime minister said late Sunday.

All 75 people on board the HMNZS Manawanui were taken to safety on life boats. The ship, one of only nine in New Zealand's navy, was the first the country has lost at sea since World War II.

Officials in Samoa are assessing the environmental impact in the area where the ship sank on Sunday morning, acting Prime Minister Tuala Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio said in a statement.

The vessel's passengers - including civilian scientists and foreign military personnel - evacuated in "challenging conditions" and darkness, New Zealand's Chief of Navy Rear Admiral Garin Golding told reporters. The vessel was about a mile from shore when it grounded on a reef and began taking on water, and it took five hours for the first survivors to reach land, he said.

Authorities in Samoa said a few passengers were treated for minor injuries after some walked across the

reef to safety.

New Zealand will hold a court of inquiry into the loss of the ship. The cause of the accident is not known, but Defence Minister Judith Collins told 1News on Monday that she had been told a loss of power to the vessel had led to its grounding.

The specialist dive and hydrographic vessel had been in service for New Zealand since 2019, but was 20 years old and had previously belonged to Norway, Collins said. It was surveying a reef off the coast of Upolu, Samoa's most populous island, when it ran aground on the reef.

Photos and videos taken from the shore appeared to show the ship listing before disappearing completely below the waves, with a large plume of smoke rising where it sank. Collins said Sunday that she did not expect the vessel could be salvaged.

"This is a ship that unfortunately is pretty much gone," she told reporters.

There was "a lot of fuel" on the ship and efforts had turned to assessing the potential environmental impact, Collins told Radio New Zealand Monday. New Zealand "would obviously have to front up" if there was a spill, she added.



In this image released by New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), HMNZS Manawanui arrives in Funafuti Lagoon, Tuvalu, on Sept. 7, 2022. (AP)

Countries deepen security cooperation

Philippines and South Korea elevate ties to strategic partnership

MANILA, Philippines, Oct 7. (Agencies): South Korea and the Philippines, each faced by increasingly hostile rival nations, elevated their ties to a strategic partnership on Monday, including broader defense and security cooperation between the two US treaty allies.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, who is on a state visit to the Philippines, and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced the upgrade in overall relations after talks in Manila.

Under the strategic partnership, the two countries agreed to strengthen cooperation between their coast guards. Yoon also pledged to help modernize the Philippine military.

The two leaders discussed regional issues such as territorial disputes in the South China Sea and tensions on the Korean Peninsula, they said.

Marcos said in an opening statement that "as the geopolitical environment is only becoming more complex, we must work together to achieve prosperity for our peoples



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (second right), and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol (second left), pose for pictures as Kim Jong-Uk (left), Commissioner General of the Korea Coast Guard, and Ronnie Gil Gavan, Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard, hold up signed agreement during a meeting at the Malacanang Palace on Oct 7 in Manila, Philippines. (AP)

and to promote a rules-based order governed by international law."

Philippine and Chinese coast guard vessels have clashed repeatedly in disputed waters in the South China Sea, with Chinese ships using water cannons and dangerous maneuvers in incidents that have injured several Filipino navy personnel and damaged supply boats.

Yoon stressed the importance of peace and stability in the South China Sea, and added that the two leaders "reaffirmed that the international community will never condone North Korea's nuclear programs and its reckless provocations, as well as its illegitimate military cooperation with Russia."

Yoon said North Korea's recent disclosure of a nuclear facility was likely an attempt to grab US attention ahead of next month's American presidential election.

The Philippines is the first stop on a six-day Southeast Asia tour for Yoon which will also take him to Singapore and Laos, where he will attend a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The Philippines and South Korea on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on energy cooperation, paving the way for collaboration to conduct a comprehensive technical and economic feasibility study on the potential rehabilitation of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP).

Marcos and Yoon witnessed the signing of the MoU on cooperation in the field of energy between the Philippine Department of Energy (DOE) and Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co., Ltd. (KHNP).

Meanwhile, Philippine troops have killed three suspected rebels in a clash in Lanao del Sur province in southern Philippines, a military report said Monday.

The military said the five-minute fighting between the soldiers and at least six rebels broke out before midnight on Saturday in the outskirts of Kapai town.

Four high-powered firearms were recovered from the clash site. No government soldier was killed or wounded in the clash.



Security officials examine the site of an explosion that caused injuries and destroyed vehicles outside the Karachi airport, Pakistan on Oct 7. (AP)

Pakistani separatist group claims bombing

A Pakistani separatist group claimed responsibility for a late night bombing that targeted a convoy with Chinese nationals outside the country's largest airport, killing two workers from China and wounding eight people, officials and the insurgent group said Monday.

The attack by the Baloch Liberation Army outside the airport in the southern port city of Karachi was the latest deadly assault on Chinese here and came a week before

Pakistan is to host a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a security grouping founded by China and Russia to counter Western alliances.

The explosion, which the BLA said was the work of a suicide bomber, also raised questions about the ability of Pakistani forces to secure high-profile events or foreigners in the country. Among the wounded were also police officers who were escorting the Chinese convoy when the attack happened.

Initially, Pakistani authorities gave conflicting details and said the explosion may have been from an oil tanker but police later confirmed it was a bomb attack.

Pakistani news channels broadcast videos of flames engulfing cars and a thick column of smoke rising from the scene. Troops and police cordoned off the area. On Monday, counterterrorism officials were investigating how the attacker reached Karachi, Pakistan's largest city. (AP)



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, (right), and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu shake hands before their delegation level meeting in New Delhi, India, Monday, Oct 7. (AP)

India offers financial support to Maldives

India stepped up its development assistance to the Maldives after the two leaders held talks in New Delhi on Monday in a bid to repair strained ties that saw the president of the Indian Ocean archipelago forging closer relations with China.

After the talks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India will offer financial support to the cash-strapped Maldives in form of a \$100-million treasury bills rollover. The countries also signed a \$400-million currency swap agreement.

The two leaders virtually inaugurated a new runway of Hanimaadhoo International Airport in the Maldives, and Modi announced that work will be accelerated on the India-assisted Greater Male Connectivity Project, which aims to link key islands of the Maldives through modern transport networks.

"India is Maldives' nearest neighbour and a close friend," Modi said during a joint news conference. He said the Maldives held an important position in India's "neighbourhood

first policy."

Tensions between India and the Maldives have grown since President Mohamed Muizzu, who favors closer ties with China, was elected last year after defeating India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. Leading up to the election, Muizzu had promised to expel Indian soldiers deployed in the Maldives to help with humanitarian assistance. In May, New Delhi replaced dozens of its soldiers with civilian experts. (AP)



Independent candidate Venacio Mondlane, atop truck, attends an election rally in Maputo on Oct 6, 2024 ahead of elections to be held in Mozambique. (AP)

Mozambique heads for crucial poll amid jihadist insurgency

MAPUTO, Mozambique, Oct 7. (AP): Mozambicans will vote this week for a new president who many hope will bring peace to an oil- and gas-rich northern province that has been ravaged by a jihadist insurgency for nearly seven years.

Close to 17 million voters will vote for the next president, alongside 250 members of parliament and provincial assemblies, on Wednesday. The current president, Filipe Nyusi, is ineligible to stand again after two terms of office.

During the six week campaign period, which ended Sunday, the front-runners promised that violence in the north of the country will be their main priority, although none has laid out a plan to end it.

Mozambique has been fighting an Islamic State-affiliated group that has launched attacks on communities in the province of Cabo Delgado since

2017, including beheadings and other killings.

Some 1.3 million people were forced to flee their homes. Around 600,000 people have since returned home, many to shattered communities where houses, markets, churches, schools and health facilities have been destroyed, the United Nations refugee agency said earlier this year.

The candidates rounded off their campaigns on Sunday in the northern and central provinces, which are regarded as the highest-voting constituencies. They promised to address development issues exacerbated by the insurgency.

Daniel Chapo, the presidential candidate of Nyusi's ruling Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo), has been telling rallies that peace will allow Cabo Delgado to rebuild infrastructure.

Lat/Am

Mexican mayor assassinated:

Alejandro Arcos, mayor of the city of Chilpancingo in the southern Mexican state of Guerrero, was assassinated on Sunday, just six days after taking office, local authorities said.

"His loss has left all of Guerrero society in mourning and fills us with indignation," Guerrero state governor Evelyn Salgado wrote on social media X.

Arcos was elected in June as a representative of an opposition coalition that included the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). Following his assassination, the PRI denounced the crime as "cowardly" and called for justice.

According to PRI President Alejandro Moreno, Arcos' murder came three days after the homicide of Francisco Tapia, secretary of Chilpancingo's city council.

The state attorney general's office said it had opened an investigation into Arcos' homicide.

Guerrero, one of Mexico's poorest states, has endured years of violence related to turf wars between cartels fighting

for control of drug production and trafficking. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Rio de Janeiro mayor reelected:

Incumbent Eduardo Paes was reelected for a fourth, non-consecutive term as the mayor of Rio de Janeiro on Sunday, after winning an absolute majority of votes in the first round of Brazil's local elections.

Paes easily fought off his principal challenger, Alexandre Ramagem, the former chief of Brazil's intelligence agency under former President Jair Bolsonaro. Ramagem is being investigated as part of a wider probe into alleged spying on political opponents. He has denied the accusations.

Bolsonaro backed Ramagem, and his slight ascent in the polls in recent weeks was widely attributed to the former president's campaigning on his behalf. But in the end it proved insufficient.

Paes received the support of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. (AP)

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts		
SAUDI	- TASI	+144.58	11,913.62	DUBAI	- DFMGI	-10.80	4,395.05
JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+697.12	39,332.74				
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+86.76	7,554.68				
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+98.66	31,819.16				
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+1,380.27	84,970.06				

Business



Sarah Al-Rifaa'i speaking during GB Talks.



A group photo of the participants in the 10th Ajyal program.

Bank partners with AUK for employee development initiative

Gulf Bank launches 10th Ajyal program for high-potential employees

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: As part of its ongoing efforts to develop and enhance its employees' capabilities, Gulf Bank has launched the 10th edition of the Ajyal program, welcoming a new cohort of high potential employees with less than five years of experience at the bank. This program aims to refine their skills and support their professional and personal growth.

departments across the bank with exceptional banking professionals who can contribute effectively to strengthening the bank's position as the Bank of the Future. The program is designed to provide new employees with a deeper understanding of banking operations, enhance both their individual and organizational capabilities, and foster a culture of performance excellence by applying their learning to real-world business challenges. On this occasion, Ms. Sarah Al-Rifaa'i, Head of Talent and Business Development in the Human Resources Department at Gulf Bank,

Sarah Al-Rifaa'i

■ We are dedicated to empowering young talents by providing training and development opportunities to help them achieve their fullest potential.

highlighted the rigorous selection process for participants, which includes personal interviews and general skills assessments. Those chosen will embark on a thorough six-month learning journey aimed at developing key banking skills and preparing them to be

high-performing professionals. This training is designed to equip them to implement the bank's long-term growth strategy and continually improve the customer experience. Al-Rifaa'i emphasized the significance of empowering and training young talents to reach their full

potential, aligning their capabilities with the highest global banking standards. This approach ensures they can contribute to achieving objectives and surpassing expectations in the banking sector. She also expressed pride in observing the numerous success stories of Ajyal graduates within the bank over the years. Gulf Bank aims to be Kuwait's leading bank, fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace to deliver exceptional customer service while contributing sustainably to the community. Through its extensive branch network and innovative

digital services, the bank empowers customers to conduct banking transactions conveniently and efficiently, ensuring a seamless experience. In alignment with Kuwait Vision 2035, "New Kuwait," and its commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships, Gulf Bank is dedicated to driving robust sustainability initiatives across environmental, social, and governance (ESG) dimensions. The bank is committed to implementing strategically selected and diverse sustainability programs both internally and externally.

Kuwait's trade surplus drops 0.88% in H1 2024 amid declining exports

Exports fall by 2.85%

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The State of Kuwait's trade surplus decreased by 0.88 percent during the first half of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023, primarily due to a decline in exports, according to data from the Central Statistical Administration, reports Al-Seyassah daily. From January to the end of June 2024, Kuwait recorded a trade surplus of KD 6.76 billion (\$22.19 billion), down slightly from KD 6.82

billion (\$22.31 billion) in the first half of 2023. The drop in Kuwait's trade surplus was largely driven by a 2.85 percent decline in the value of exports during the first six months of the year, amounting to KD 12.29 billion, compared to KD 12.65 billion during the same period last year. Kuwait's exports, which are predominantly composed of oil and its derivatives, faced pressure in H1 2024. Oil-related exports, which account for 91.8 percent of the country's total exports, fell to KD 11.29 billion, down from KD 11.78 billion in

the first half of 2023. On the import side, Kuwait's market received goods worth KD 5.54 billion in the first half of 2024, a 4.97 percent decrease compared to KD 5.83 billion in the same period last year. This drop in imports also contributed to the overall reduction in trade activity. The total volume of Kuwait's trade exchange in the first six months of 2024 amounted to KD 17.83 billion, reflecting a 3.52 percent decline from KD 18.48 billion in the same period of 2023.

Main market index falls 0.47%

Boursa Kuwait general index rises 0.27% to 6,984.42 points

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Monday with its general index rising by 18.71 points, or 0.27 percent, reaching 6,984.42 points. A total of 280.16 million shares were traded through 17,195 cash transactions, amounting to KWD 69.6 million (USD 212.2 million). The main market index, however, saw a decline of 29.37 points, or 0.47 percent, closing at 6,186.01 points, with 159.2 million shares traded through 7,993 cash transactions, valued at KWD 18.7 million (USD 57

million). On the other hand, the premier market index gained 32.38 points, or 0.43 percent, to settle at 7,533.31 points. It saw a total of 120.9 million shares exchanged through 9,202 transactions, worth KWD 50.8 million (USD 154.9 million). The (Main 50) index also dropped by 38.02 points, or 0.62 percent, closing at 6,125.57 points, with 127.17 million shares traded in 5,487 cash transactions, amounting to KWD 14.4 million (USD 43.9 million).

TASI drops 3.37%, ADX declines 3.06%

GCC markets sink over 2% amid escalating geopolitical tensions

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Last week, the stock markets across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) experienced significant declines, with most indices plunging by more than 2 percent, largely driven by escalating geopolitical tensions in the region, reports Al-Jarida daily. The sharpest losses were seen in Saudi Arabia, where the main market index, TASI, dropped by a staggering 3.37 percent, losing 416.76 points. This pushed the index below the critical 12,000-point threshold, closing at 11,957.54 points. This dramatic fall wiped out the gains the Saudi market had built over the previous two weeks, leaving it in the red as it entered the fourth quarter of 2024. The primary trigger behind this region-wide market downturn was the intensifying conflict between Israel and Iran, particularly following Iran's missile strikes on Israel. These events reignited concerns that the conflict could spill over into the wider Gulf region. Investors feared that Israel's potential retaliation could target Iranian oil facilities, possibly sending global oil prices soaring. Indeed, oil prices surged by 9 percent last week, marking the largest weekly gain in two and a half years. In addition to Saudi Arabia, other GCC markets also faced sharp declines. The Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) saw a 3.06 percent drop, losing 289.71 points to close at 9,179.77 points. This brought Abu Dhabi's total losses for the year to 4 percent, as the index continued to be impacted by geopolitical tensions despite positive global market sentiment. Meanwhile, Dubai's Financial Market Index was not spared, falling by

2.55 percent, or 115.41 points, to close at 4,405.85 points. This dip reduced the market's overall gains for the first nine months of 2024 to 8 percent. Across the GCC, markets seemed more sensitive to regional unrest than to other economic factors like rising oil prices or anticipated third-quarter earnings announcements. Investors focused on mitigating risks by avoiding new investment positions amid the growing political instability. The Kuwait Stock Exchange also experienced significant losses. The general market index dropped by 2.24 percent, its largest decline in over three months, losing 160.99 points and closing at 7,036.08 points -- teetering on the edge of breaking the psychological 7,000-point barrier. The index's gains for the first nine months of the year shrank to 3.7 percent. The Premier Market Index saw an even steeper decline of 2.66 percent, or 206.89 points, ending at 7,582.95 points. Despite this, the Main Market 50 Index recorded modest gains of 0.73 percent, lifted by strong performances from heavyweight stocks like Gulf Insurance. Kuwait's market liquidity rose by 8.35 percent compared to the previous week, while trading activity jumped by 14.33 percent, signaling increased market movements. Standout performers included Wataniya DQ, which surged by 66 percent, while Gulf Insurance and other stocks like Al-Manar and Al-Oula also saw gains. However, the broader market was weighed down by losses in heavyweights like National Bank and KFH, which declined by 3.5 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively.

ZainTECH and DATANUUM form strategic partnership to boost data-driven growth

DUBAI, Oct 7: ZainTECH, the integrated digital solutions provider of Zain Group entered a strategic partnership with DATANUUM, the comprehensive customer data enrichment, engagement and retention platform for retailers and healthcare businesses. This collaboration aims to provide innovative solutions that enhance customer data driven growth and retention capabilities for businesses across the Middle East and beyond. This partnership will leverage ZainTECH's extensive regional expertise in implementing compliant cloud infrastructures with DATANUUM's cutting edge platform, to address the growing need for data privacy and regulatory compliance in the region. This should appeal to businesses looking for robust solutions to handle data securely while optimizing customer relationships, engagement and marketing spend. Andrew Hanna, CEO of ZainTECH commented, "ZainTECH's mission is to deliver state-of-the-art digital solutions to our clients and exceed expectations while doing so. By combining DATANUUM's solutions with our services, we can offer businesses with compliant value-added technologies that support differentiation and growth." Salam Saadeh, CEO of DATANUUM said, "Partnering with ZainTECH represents a significant step forward in our mission to empower B2C businesses in the MENA region and beyond with the best data enrichment and engagement capabilities. ZainTECH's robust infrastructure and regional market presence will enable us to reach more businesses and help them transform their customer interactions. The collaboration will drive innovation and



Andrew Hanna, CEO of ZainTECH (2nd left) & Ms Salam Saadeh, CEO of DATANUUM (2nd right) with their respective senior executives.

growth for both our clients." DATANUUM was founded from the deep understanding of the daily challenges faced by businesses to consistently capture customer data, enrich it, retain customers, manage the full customer life-cycle, increase customer life-time value, while providing a consistent customer experience. The partnership will initially focus on Retail and Healthcare establishments offering several key benefits, including: 1. Data Privacy Compliance: Through helping businesses meet compliance without compromising performance.

2. Enhanced Customer Engagement and Retention: Through implementing hyper-personalized cutting-edge customer engagement and retention tools, allowing businesses to focus on growing and retaining their customer base, while driving long-term loyalty. 3. Maximized Digital Advertising ROI: Through easily and efficiently leveraging their secure customer data and behavior, businesses can decrease customer acquisition costs, improve ROI on lead acquisition marketing initiatives, while ensuring accurate attribution and performance tracking.

4. Cost Efficiency and Scalability: Through ZainTECH's scalable cloud solutions, coupled with DATANUUM's flexible engagement tools, businesses can adapt their customer strategies as they scale, optimizing both costs and performance. Together, ZainTECH and DATANUUM are committed to driving digital transformation and supporting regional businesses to unlock the full potential of their customer data in a simple, integrated and efficient manner, that will elevate customer relationships and engagement, as well as optimize marketing spend.

Kuwait plans to become financial hub with major infrastructure and housing projects

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: A recent report by Kuwait Finance House (KFH) highlighted Kuwait's ambitious plans to transform itself into a financial and commercial hub, attracting significant investments through a variety of large-scale infrastructure and housing projects, reports Al-Seyassah daily. These initiatives, spearheaded by the Ministry of Public Works and the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, aim to enhance the country's economic standing and address growing housing demands. Among the key projects are the development of smart homes and modern public buildings in several urban centers, including Jaber Al-Ahmad, West Abdullah Al-

Mubarak, and East Taima. These projects align with Kuwait's goal to meet increasing housing demands, with particular attention to fulfilling the country's 97,100 outstanding housing requests, as reported in May 2024. This marks a 1.1 percent increase since the first quarter of the year and a 6.7 percent rise year-on-year. The report also emphasized the government's efforts to support housing through partnerships with the private sector. In line with Law 118 of 2023, the Ministry of State for Housing Affairs has laid out executive regulations to establish companies that will build and economically develop residential cities. This legal framework encourages public-private partnerships to deliver housing solutions that align with Kuwait's development vision. The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) continues to make progress in providing residential plots. As of the latest data, PAHW has delivered 27,400 plots in Al-Mutlaa City, with an additional 28,300 plots ready for handover. In South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, the authority distributed 3,200 plots, with another 3,300 ready for delivery, while in Khaitan, 1,300 plots have been delivered, with 1,400 more plots also prepared for distribution.

This legal framework encourages public-private partnerships to deliver housing solutions that align with Kuwait's development vision. The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) continues to make progress in providing residential plots. As of the latest data, PAHW has delivered 27,400 plots in Al-Mutlaa City, with an additional 28,300 plots ready for handover. In South Abdullah Al-Mubarak, the authority distributed 3,200 plots, with another 3,300 ready for delivery, while in Khaitan, 1,300 plots have been delivered, with 1,400 more plots also prepared for distribution.

Scheme aimed at providing recent graduates with opportunities to experience work culture

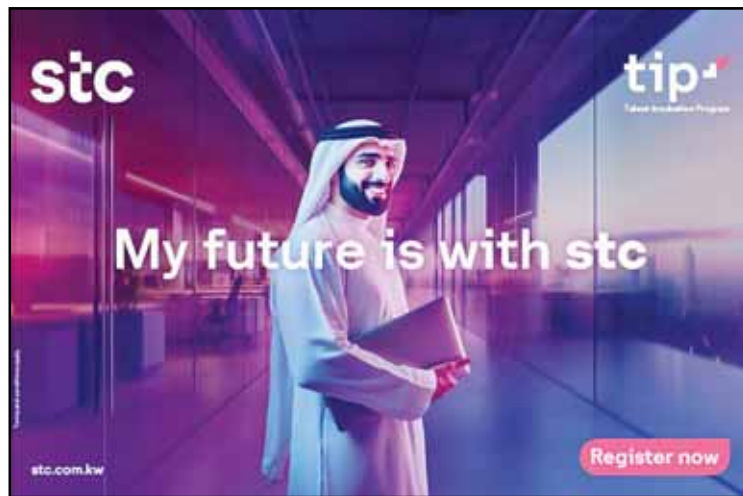
stc launches latest Talent Incubation Program to empower the youth

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Kuwait Telecommunications Company – stc, a world-class digital leader providing innovative services and platforms to customers, enabling the digital transformation in Kuwait, announced the launch of its latest program titled ‘Talent Incubation Program’ (TIP) for recent graduates. The program serves as unique and innovative initiative for young graduates to further develop their skills, while also gaining real-world experience and a chance to be hired at stc. As part of its ongoing commitment to empower the younger generation, strengthen its workforce, and the pillars under its corporate social responsibility program, the ‘Talent Incubation Program’ (TIP) strongly aligns with the various objectives set by stc to support the community and attract talent.

Al-Makhtoor:
 ■ Our goal is to shape future leaders by equipping them with essential skills and real-world experiences

The ‘Talent Incubation Program’, held over the course of one year, will provide participants with a comprehensive exposure of stc’s work culture and various departments, including an opportunity to shadow globally recognized consultants, particularly

in areas such as transformation and change management. Through this experience, the graduates will acquire the expertise needed to become future subject matter experts. They will be able to navigate different areas within the telecom industry, allowing them to play a contributing role in their future careers, whether they are hired at stc or follow any other opportunities in the industry. The program also falls in line with stc’s recent recognition as the employer of choice for engineers and IT professionals in Kuwait according to



Graduate program LED ceremony

Universum’s custom research.

As part of its strategic vision, stc highly values the importance and significance of nurturing Kuwaiti talent. The next generation will serve as the future leaders of Kuwait holding po-

sitions in critical roles across various industries such as technology, innovation, strategy, human resources, and others. Under the ‘Talent Incubation Program’, stc aspires to identify and nurture local talent by providing them

with the skills and opportunities that will shape graduates today to adapt and excel in a fast-paced and highly competitive industry.

Commenting on the launch of the program, Abdulaziz Al-Makhtoor, Acting Chief Human Resources Officer of stc, said, “Every economy relies on the next generation to take on the significant role of sustainably growing the economy and achieving new heights. We are proud to launch the ‘Talent Incubation Program’ that will empower Kuwaiti talents by providing them with an invaluable experience and advanced training that can add value to any role that they decide to pursue. Through this program, our objective is to equip these recent graduates with the skills and tools needed to succeed in their careers while positioning them as future leaders in the industry.”

Al-Makhtoor added, “As a pioneer in digital transformation, we are dedicated to ensuring that our initiatives are not only supported by the immediate needs of the Company, but also contribute to the sustainable growth of Kuwait’s workforce. Having said

that, we are committed to consistently investing in the development of Kuwait’s younger generation, while providing lucrative job opportunities for recent graduates to join stc across various professions and departments. In its ongoing pursuit to attract bright young talent, stc has organized various initiatives throughout the years that have achieved a high success rate in hiring local talents based on their performance. Considering this great achievement, we will continue to introduce such programs and platforms that empower recent graduates and enable them to gain access to market opportunities that can add value to their future careers.”

The Talent Incubation Program (TIP) is an extension of stc’s ongoing efforts to support young Kuwaiti professionals and empower them to play a key role in the country’s digital and economic future. Upon completion of the program, participants may also have the opportunity to secure permanent positions within the Company, further solidifying stc’s commitment to long-term talent development.

Spain’s solar farms proliferation

Is it energy independence plan or hindering agricultural economy?

MADRID, Oct 7, (KUNA): While the proliferation of solar farms in the Spanish countryside and rural areas is seen as a strategy to achieve energy independence via renewable natural resources, some farmers view it as a move hindering the agricultural economy, and sometimes tourism.

But before getting to this argument, one must consider the data related to the issue to see the whole picture.

According to the 2023-30 Spanish comprehensive National Plan for energy and climate, the scheme aims to achieve less dependency on imported energy resources, setting it at around 50 percent in 2023. Spain also aimed to produce 81 percent of its electricity through renewable energy resources.

The State-owned Red Eléctrica de España (Spanish Electric Network) in its 2023 annual report said that Spain managed last April to generate 50 percent of its electricity through renewable energy means, a historical precedence.

The network also indicated that renewable energy infrastructure had increased by 40 percent between 2019-23, and noted that photovoltaic power stations, i.e. solar farms, grew exponentially during the said period by 28 percent in 2023 to be exact from a year earlier. The stations provided 25,549 megawatts, a number, which excluded consumption by families and small enterprises.

To emphasize the role of photovoltaic energy in Spain, the Spanish Photovoltaic Union (UNEF) in an annual report published last September revealed that solar energy contributed over USD 19.8 billion to GDP, a 1.23 percent contribution.

This sector secured 160,400 direct and indirect job opportunities in 2023, while around 5.7 megawatts were introduced to Spain the same year, an increase of 5.7 percent from last year, which placed Spain in second place at the European level in solar energy use.

As the previous data suggested, it would be no wonder that solar farms proliferated in Spain’s rural areas and sometimes near urban regions, which also has some perks due to farmers’ long-term contracts renting lands for

photovoltaic infrastructure, so seemingly that was a win-win for the economy and the environment.

When it comes to solar farms’ production capacity, it really depends on several factors including the size of the land, the quality of solar panels and equipment, weather, obviously exposure to the sun, and much more.

A five to 15 hectare of land used for solar power infrastructure might produce around five to 10 megawatts of energy, while tens of hectares of land was estimated to produce over 50 megawatts of electricity.

Rent of land especially in the southern areas of the country might be around USD 1,647 to USD 1,757 annually for one hectare and it goes down to a measly USD 549 for a hectare in the northern region.

So, what did the government do to encourage the establishment of solar farms, especially knowing that there was an increase of 166 percent between 2016 and 2023 covering 50,000 hectares of farmland. In January of 2023, the Spanish government offered new permits to establish new solar farms on 5,000 hectares to accommodate 123 projects with a production capacity of over 5,000 megawatts.

Concurrently and according to government data, there are 63,166 solar farms producing a whopping 23,649 megawatts covering only 0.2 percent of farmlands.

The Spanish government is also considering expanding solar panels to be erected in wetlands, working on a decree to utilize around 80 percent of such areas to produce electricity via solar energy barring of course any negative impact on surfaces with drinkable water.

While it is “all fine and dandy”, the establishment of solar farms did not come without its challenges and obstacles. On the one hand, farmers were pushed to choose between their profession and launching their solar farm venture, which in turn created a bit of a “hullabaloo”.

The Asaja Agricultural Association of junior farmers deemed the “invasion” of solar farms as “unacceptable” especially for its impact on the rural environment.



KUNA photo

Solar farms dot the rural landscape as part of energy independence plan.

As affordable housing disappears, states scramble to shore up losses

Americans continue to struggle under unrelentingly high rents

LOS ANGELES, Oct 7, (AP): While Americans continue to struggle under unrelentingly high rents, as many as 223,000 affordable housing units across the U.S. could disappear in the next five years alone.

It leaves low-income tenants facing protracted eviction battles, scrambling to pay a two-fold rent increase or more, or shunted back into a housing market where costs can easily eat half a paycheck.

Those affordable housing units were built with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, or LIHTC, a federal program launched in 1987 that provides tax credits to developers in exchange for keeping rents low.

It has pumped out 3.6 million units nationwide, and its expansion is now central to Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris’ housing plan to build 3 million new homes.

The catch? The buildings typically only need to be kept affordable for a minimum of 30 years. For the wave of LIHTC construction in the 1990s, those deadlines are arriving now, threatening to hemorrhage affordable housing supply when Americans need it most.

Data on LIHTC units that will lose their affordability nationally remains a rough estimate.

The best nationwide analysis estimated that by 2030 roughly 350,000 LIHTC units are at risk of losing affordability. That’s 1 million units by 2040, according to the National Housing Preservation Database.

Not all units that lose LIHTC’s affordability protections become market rate. Some are kept affordable by other



Marina Maalouf, a longtime resident of Hillside Villa who participated in protests after rents doubled in 2019, stands for a photo inside her apartment building in Los Angeles on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024. (AP)

government subsidies, by merciful landlords or by states, including California, Colorado and New York, that have worked to keep costs low.

Still, it’s a sizeable loss to a housing market already in dire need of new units.

“If we are losing the homes that are currently affordable and available to households, then we’re losing ground on the crisis,” said Sarah Saadian, vice president of public policy at the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

“It’s sort of like having a boat with a hole at the bottom,” she said.

Local governments and nonprofits can purchase expiring apartments, new tax credits or other subsidies can be applied that extend the affordability, or tenants can organize to try to force action from landlords and city officials. California now requires all new LI-

HTC properties to be affordable for 55 years. Expiring developments built before that rule are also prioritized for new tax credits, and the state essentially requires that all LIHTC applicants have experience owning and managing affordable housing.

California and Colorado require landlords to notify local governments and tenants before their building expires. Cities and nonprofits then have first shot at buying the property to keep it affordable.

However, unlike California many states haven’t extended LIHTC agreements beyond 30 years, let alone taken other measures to keep expiring housing affordable.

Still, local governments or nonprofits scraping together the funds to buy apartment buildings is far from a guarantee. And while new tax credits can

reup a lapsing LIHTC affordability, they are limited, doled out to states by the Internal Revenue Service based on population.

For more than two decades, the low rent on Marina Maalouf’s LIHTC apartment in Los Angeles’ Chinatown was a saving grace for her family, including a granddaughter who has autism.

When that grace expired, the landlord, no longer legally obligated to keep the building affordable, hiked rent from \$1,100 to \$2,660 in 2021 - out of reach for Maalouf and her family. Tenant protests, a rent strike and eviction filings followed.

The eviction case is ongoing, haunting Maalouf’s nights with fears of her family ending up in sleeping bags on a friend’s floor or worse. Mornings she repeats a mantra: “We still here. We still here.” But fighting day after day to make it true is exhausting.

Still, Maalouf’s tenant activism has helped move the needle. The City of Los Angeles has offered the landlord \$15 million to keep her building affordable through 2034, but that deal wouldn’t get rid of over 30 eviction cases still proceeding, including Maalouf’s, or the \$25,000 in back rent she owes.

On a recent day in the courtyard of Maalouf’s apartment, her granddaughter shuffled up with a glass of water. She is 5 years old, but with special needs, her speech is more disconnected words than sentences.

“That’s why I’ve been hoping everything becomes normal again, and she can be safe,” said Maalouf, her voice shaking with emotion. She has urged her son to start saving money for the worst.

“We’ll keep fighting,” she said, “but day by day it’s hard. ... I’m tired already.”

Nikkei gains 1.8 pct

Asian shares climb after blockbuster US jobs report

NEW YORK, Oct 7, (AP): Asian shares advanced Monday after a surprisingly strong U.S. jobs report raised optimism about the economy, sparking a rally on Wall Street.

U.S. futures slipped and oil prices also fell.

Japan’s Nikkei 225 index gained 1.8% to 39,332.74 after the yen sank against the U.S. dollar. The Japanese currency has bounced on speculation over the central bank’s plans for interest rates since Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba took office last week. Lower interest rates tend to boost prices of shares and other asset, and both Ishiba and the central bank governor suggest-

ed no hikes were likely soon.

Nintendo gained 5% following reports that a Saudi wealth fund was planning to increase its investment in the Kyoto, Japan-based video game maker.

In a policy speech on Friday, Ishiba said he wants to see salary increases that outpace inflation and that he will promote investment to create “a virtuous cycle of growth and distribution.” He promised economic support for low-income households and measures for regional revitalization and disaster resilience.

But he offered no major new initiatives, and his initial public support ratings are around 50% or lower, relative-

ly low for a new leader, according to Japanese media. He plans to dissolve parliament on Wednesday for an election on Oct. 27.

After gaining briefly against the dollar, the yen fell back late last week. Early Monday, the dollar was trading at 148.45 yen, down from 148.72 late Friday.

Elsewhere in Asia, Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index rose 1.1% to 22,977.97, and the Kospi in Seoul surged 1.3% to 2,602.23.

Taiwan’s Taicex gained 1.8%.

Mainland Chinese markets reopen from a weeklong holiday on Tuesday, and the government said it plans to

explain details of plans for economic stimulus at a morning news conference in Beijing. Before the Oct. 1 National Day holiday began, announcements of policies aimed at reviving the ailing property market pushed share benchmarks sharply higher and this week could bring more volatility.

“More fiscal stimulus to stabilize the property market and restructure local government debts, and structural reforms to address the over-capacity and deflation issues are needed to turn around the economy,” B of A Securities said in a research note, pointing to continued declines in home sales, housing prices and credit growth.

ADB greenlights \$42m India loan

MANILA, Oct 7, (Xinhua): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Monday that it has approved a 42-million-U.S.-dollar loan to protect coastal and riverbanks and increase the resilience of local communities and natural ecosystems in Maharashtra, India.

The ADB said the Maharashtra Sustainable Climate-Resilient Coast Protection and Management Project will establish coastal erosion and riverbank protection solutions such as offshore reefs, sheet piles, beach nourishment, and vegetation planting to restore and stabilize the coastline.

The bank promises to help build the capacity of the Maharashtra Maritime Board in shore management planning by establishing a coastal infrastructure management unit.

The project will support the capacity building of stakeholders on gender equality and social inclusion, coastal management, and livelihood activities.

Meanwhile, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday said it has approved a financing package of 125 million U.S. dollars to provide long-term sustainable solutions to increase year-round access to irrigation water in rural communities in Nepal’s Madhesh province.

The Conversation

Low pay, high staff turnover and employee burnout took a toll on social service nonprofits during the COVID-19 pandemic – minus new research

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

By Susan Neely-Barnes, University of Memphis; Elena Delavega, University of Memphis, and Melissa Hirschi, Utah Valley University

Social service nonprofits had high rates of staff turnover and a hard time filling vacant positions in 2022 as the COVID-19 pandemic was ending.

Low salaries, inadequate benefits, staff burnout and a shortage of qualified job applicants were largely to blame. The staffing problems were so severe that some of the people leading these organizations were afraid that they might have to close their doors.

That’s what our research team, composed of eight social work scholars, found when we interviewed 27 social service agency managers in a metropolitan area in the Southeast.

These nonprofits provided an array of services, including care for people with substance use disorders and mental health conditions, as well as housing assistance, other kinds of health care and free food distribution.

No matter their specific focus, these nonprofit managers told us that they saw heightened demand for services since the start of the pandemic.

For example, they observed an increase in the number of people who were using opioids and other substances during and after the pandemic. This led to a greater demand for substance use disorder treatment.

More people were also struggling with food insecurity and asking for

help getting food. Staffing problems made it harder to meet these needs. Some nonprofits had to keep people on waitlists or turn people away - even if their needs were dire.

One substance use disorder treatment facility said that several potential patients had fatal overdoses while on the waitlist for their services. This agency was in a rural area, and the people seeking its help had nowhere else to go.

Some of the nonprofits could retain their workers if they offered perks such as flexible work schedules and the freedom to work from home. Yet, many social service agencies fill critical needs that cannot be adapted to virtual employment.

Some of the nonprofit leaders told us that they strove to improve their workplace culture to retain employees. But that was not always enough

to keep employees when the salaries were very low during a period of historically rapid inflation.

U.S. social service nonprofits provide many critical services, including support for older adults and people with disabilities.

Many of these agencies rely on Medicare and Medicaid funding, which can be challenging because the reimbursement rates for therapy sessions, caregiving and other health service categories are very low.

The nonprofit leaders whom we interviewed said it was hard for their agencies to cover the full cost of salaries and benefits for their employees with the money they get from Medicare and Medicaid. Some of them said their organizations couldn’t afford to pay their workers enough money for them to cover basic living expenses.

Shortages of addiction and mental

health counselors in the U.S. are dire. Approximately 123 million Americans - more than 1 in 3 people - live in places without enough mental health providers to see every patient seeking care.

Access to treatment is further restricted because some mental health providers are reportedly choosing to stop accepting any insurance payments at all because of the low reimbursement rates and burdensome paperwork required. This means that many people with mental health needs are having trouble getting care without paying high rates - turning therapy into a luxury.

Therapy can cost US\$150 or more per session without any payments from an insurance company, compared with a copay that will probably be in the \$20-\$50 range per session if the care is covered. (AP)



Kuwait National Robotics Competition 2024/2025 kicks off at Sabah Al-Salem University.

MoE highlights role of robotics in empowering students

Warba sponsors Kuwait National Robotics Competition 2024/2025

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: The activities of the Kuwait National Robotics Competition 2024/2025 kicked off from Sabah Al-Salem University City, organized by Kuwait University represented by the Department of Computer Science in the College of Science in cooperation with the Ministry of Education represented by the Technical Guidance of Computers and the Public Authority for Youth, in addition to cooperation with the private sector.

The Competition comes as part of the strategic plan of Kuwait University in implementing the national development plan to enhance the capabilities of citizens and institutions.

On this occasion, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Director Marketing and Corporate Communications at Warba Bank, said that Warba Bank is always keen to support initiatives that develop youth talents, especially technical ones, noting that the Bank participates in sponsoring several challenges and events aimed at keeping pace with digital and technological development.

Al-Mutairi added that Warba Bank is a pioneer among Kuwaiti banks in the field of electronic games, which reflects its interest in the growth of the electronic games industry. It is the first bank to embrace and develop this field, as it launched the first card dedicated to electronic sports enthusiasts due to the global demand for this field.

He urged the students participating in this Competition to make extra efforts, expressing his aspiration to see them representing the State of Kuwait in the competition that will be held in the United States of America.

For his part, the Secretary-General of Kuwait University, Dr. Fayez Al-Dhafiri, said in his speech at the press conference that this competition is part of the strategic plan of Kuwait University in implementing the national development plan to enhance the capabilities of citizens and institutions, noting that the competitions will be held during the period from October to

February 2025.

Al-Dhafiri explained that the competition falls under the umbrella of the National Initiative for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics to enhance technical skills and creative and innovative skills among students in particular at all educational levels and to develop innovation and technical excellence in Kuwait in general in light of the initiative's endeavor to encourage creative and innovative thinking using robotics technology.

For his part, the Acting Director General of the Public Authority for Youth, Nasser Al-Sheikh, stressed in his speech that the Authority's participation in organizing the (Kuwait National Robotics Competition) reflects the Authority's vision and aspirations for the future of the youth of this country, and its keenness to achieve the state's goals related to developing the knowledge economy and enhancing its role in the national economy.

Al-Sheikh said that the Competition provides young people with the necessary ability to enhance their skills in the field of new economies, which will work to provide the state's needs in these fields, indicating that intensifying efforts in this direction will work to develop the main engine and pillar of this economy, which is the Kuwaiti person, especially the youth.

He pointed out that the Authority seeks to participate in organizing this event to highlight the energies of young people and adolescents in the technical fields in order to keep pace with the rapid development that the world is experiencing, adding that such competitions are intended to refine their energies, discover new innovators and create an environment of positive and creative competition.

He explained that what distinguishes this competition is that it is the first one organized by the state, and it is also the largest and most diverse, in addition to the diversity of partners whose goals and visions have united to make this

Competition a platform for innovators in the field of robotics, programming and artificial intelligence, which we hope will continue for years to come with continuous government support.

Al-Sheikh expressed his pride and appreciation for the partnership with the Ministry of Education, Kuwait University and the private sector in this organization, which will serve the national goals of caring for and developing youth and providing all the means and tools required to demonstrate their creativity and excellence.

Mona Salem Awad Salem, General Technical Supervisor of Computer Science at the Ministry of Education and a member of the Higher Committee of the Competition, stated that this national competition is not just a competitive event; rather, it is a platform through which we enhance the creativity of youth and highlight the unique capabilities of our talented students.

She added: "We believe that science and technology are the keys to the future, and that empowering students through practical applications such as robotics contributes greatly to stimulating their passion for the fields of science, engineering, mathematics, and programming. Hence, this competition comes as a driver to achieve this goal, as it provides an inspiring environment that encourages critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration."

"With the support of Kuwait University, the Ministry of Education, and many sponsoring and partnering entities, we seek to provide a rich experience for all participants, and to embody a national vision that aims to build a creative generation capable of facing the challenges of the modern era and contributing effectively to the development process. We are excited to see the results of this competition and its positive impact on society, and we look forward to presenting bright models of our passionate students who will become technology leaders in the future," she concluded.

Over 1,300 aspiring programmers trained in Kuwait

Agility celebrates successful sponsorship of CODED Academy Programs in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Agility, a supply chain services, infrastructure and innovation company, announced the successful conclusion of its sponsorship of the CODED Academy programs, Kuwait Codes 2024 and Academy X. The programs provided free training to more than 1,300 aspiring programmers in Kuwait, equipping them with modern programming languages and techniques.

More than 1,000 high school students participated in Kuwait Codes 2024, where they gained foundational programming skills. In addition, Academy X introduced coding to 340 female students, ages 14 to 18, fostering interest in technology and programming among young women in Kuwait.

At the closing ceremony, Agility celebrated student achievements by presenting the "Most Technically Challenging" award for Kuwait Codes 2024 and the "Outstanding Student" award for Academy X. Throughout the program, Agility's executives played an active role in inspiring the next generation of tech innovators.

Agility Chairperson Henadi Al-Saleh led a hands-on workshop on tech and entrepreneurship, encouraging students to think boldly about their futures. Agility Corporate Ventures executive Lamia Hayat guided students through the fundamentals of venture capital, sharing insights on how it drives innovation in the tech world.

Agility's sponsorship of the Kuwait Codes 2024 and Academy X programs is part of the company's on-going commitment to the upskilling of Kuwaiti youth. To date, the company's sponsorships have benefited 7,000 people, half of whom are girls or women. Agility has a long-standing record of commitment to youth in Kuwait through educational programs, capacity-building initiatives, and knowledge transfer. Its efforts align with Kuwait's development plan and are designed to equip students and young professionals with crucial skills, preparing them for the job market and enabling them to contribute to Kuwait's growth and development.

Agility's educational sponsorships focus on three pillars: enhancing programming and technical skills, promot-

ing financial literacy and providing training in the industrial sector and facility management. Agility has formed partnerships with LOYAC, INJAZ Kuwait, the Kuwait Industries Union (KIU), and the Public Authority for Youth, ensuring a broad and lasting impact.

Since 2014, Agility's commitment to education and skill-building has positively impacted over 687,000 young people. Nearly 50% of those taking part have been girls and young women.

In 2024, Agility renewed key sponsorships and launched targeted training initiatives. The company continued its support for the LOYAC's KON and KONTINUE entrepreneurship programs and, for the second year, Agility offered intensive facility management training to young Kuwaitis and university graduates in partnership with the Public Authority for Youth. Agility also supported the 13th edition of Knights of Industry, a training initiative by the Kuwait Industries Union that guides high school graduates towards careers in industrial sectors.



Rami El Adly from Agility listens to a presentation by one of the students.



A group photo at the conclusion of Academy X programs.



The flagship Pirelli showroom at 4th Ring Road.



Showroom in Al Rai, next to ACE Hardware.



Ultra-sophisticated showroom in Industrial Shuwaikh near Abyat.

Do not miss the strongest offer!

Pirelli launches 'Buy 2 Tires & Get 2 Tires Free' campaign at Behbehani Tire Center

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Following the high demand on the promotional campaign 'Buy 2 Tires & get 2 Tires Free' and since Pirelli always strives to provide its customers with outstanding service and quality, Behbehani Tire Center relaunched the 'Buy 2 Tires & get 2 Tires Free' campaign. Hurry up to benefit from the offer which is applicable on a wide range of selected sizes. This process takes place at our highly equipped centers with fully advanced technologies and machinery. Our specialized team of experts who underwent advanced training courses from Pirelli International factories will provide our valued customers with the highest quality service.

Pirelli Premium tires are offered in a wide variety of specifications and sizes that suit different car makers and car types. In addition to a range of motorcycle tires made available locally, Behbehani Tire Center also provides a particular center for replacing Truck tires. Pirelli tires are suitable for the Gulf and Kuwait weather, as they are meticulously crafted to provide superior performance and high stability on all roads. They are also able to withstand harsh weather conditions, high temperatures and speeds.

You can visit Behbehani Tire Center branches in four different locations which include the biggest flagship Pirelli store in Shuwaikh on the 4th Ring Road next to Abdul Wahab showroom. The second Showroom is located in Al Rai,



Pirelli 'Buy 2 Tires & Get 2 Tires Free' campaign.

next to ACE Hardware. The third showroom is located in Ahmadi. The Fourth and the ultra-sophisticated showroom in Industrial Shuwaikh near Abyat showroom branching from Canada dry Road. In assurance of our customers' satisfaction, all our centers have a comfortable waiting area, latest technologies and machinery reinforced by teams of specialized technicians and experts in the field.

20% discount on AC Milan Academy sessions for 'Jeel' cardholders

Weyay Bank partners with AC Milan Academy

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Weyay Bank, Kuwait's first digital bank, has officially signed a partnership agreement with AC Milan Academy in Kuwait, a collaboration designed to support and empower juniors as well as the youth through football training sessions promoted by AC Milan.

This sponsorship aligns with Weyay Bank's mission to create meaningful opportunities for the younger generation. By supporting AC Milan Academy, Weyay Bank aims at providing young athletes with the resources and opportunities they need to excel both on and off the field.

As part of this collaboration, Weyay Bank will be sponsoring all sessions at the academy, reinforcing its commitment to fostering the development and engagement of these segments within the community.

"We are thrilled to support AC



Fawaz AlNakib

Milan Academy and contribute to the growth and development of young athletes in our community," said Fawaz AlNakib, Campaign

and Partnership Manager at Weyay Bank, during the signing ceremony. "Weyay Bank offers a 20% discount on all training sessions at the AC Milan Academy, exclusively for the 'Jeel' cardholders, which promotes our broader effort to make quality sports education more accessible to young aspiring footballers."

AC Milan Academy shares in this enthusiasm, with Salman AIRshood, Managing Director of LOYACTIVE, the sports arm of LOYAC, adding, "we are grateful for Weyay Bank's support, which will greatly enhance our ability to offer top-notch training and development programs. Their contribution will help us nurture and inspire the next generation of football talent."

Weyay Bank not only does offer the best family digital banking experience, but also enhances lives and creates opportunities for its customers, considering their age and lifestyle needs.

AC Milan Academy is a leading football school in the region that is dedicated to developing young football talents. With a range of programs and expert coaching, the academy aims to provide aspiring athletes with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in this sport.

The collaboration between Weyay Bank and LOYAC AC Milan Academy is a testament to both organizations' commitment to empower the new generations. All the information related to opening a "Jeel" account and taking advantage of its benefits tailored for the needs of kids and their parents are available on www.weyaybank.com or in the Weyay app that can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play Store.



AC Milan Academy enhances training programs with Weyay Bank's support.

Books

Author blends memoir and travel in new book

Coates visits Senegal, SC and Middle East for 'The Message'

NEW YORK, Oct 7, (AP): Ta-Nehisi Coates always writes with a purpose, so naming his latest collection "The Message" is nothing if not on-brand. But what's the actual message? Consisting of three pieces of non-fiction, the book is part memoir, part travelogue, and part writing primer. It covers his recent trips to Dakar, Senegal; Columbia, South Carolina; and various cities and towns in the Middle East.

He writes in the introduction that the essays fulfill a promise to a Howard University writing class he taught in 2022: "I bring my belated assignment... I've addressed these notes directly to you, though I confess that I am thinking of

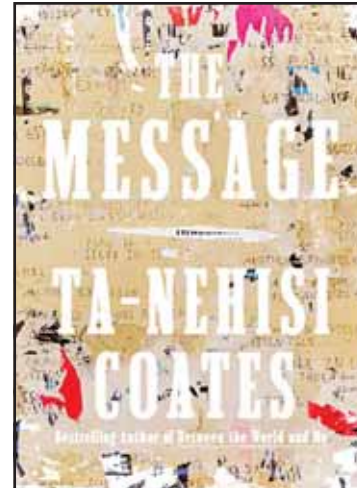
young writers everywhere whose task is nothing less than doing their part to save the world."

Coates features snippets of his biography in each essay, but always returns to lessons for writers, as in this reflection during his first ever visit to Africa: "There are dimensions in your words - rhythm, content, shape, feeling... The accretion of imperfect, discomfiting life must be seen and felt so that the space in your mind, gray, automatic, and square, fills with angle, color, and curve." These pilgrimages, for him, help ground his powerful writing about race.

As he reflects on his visit to Gorée Island, the place from

which tens of millions of Africans departed into a lifetime of slavery, he confesses to "welling up, grieving for something, in the grips of some feeling I am still, even as I write this, struggling to name."

The second essay examines racism closer to home, as Coates journeys to a South Carolina town where the school board was considering banning his 2015 book "Between the World and Me" because, in part, students in an Advanced Placement English class felt "ashamed to be Caucasian" when they read it. Supporters of the teacher manage to show up in enough force to defeat the ban, but Coates sees in it the power of



This cover image of 'The Message' by Ta-Nehisi Coates. (AP)

story. A middle-aged white teacher in Chapin, South Carolina, read his book - a letter to his teenage-son about the realities of being Black in the United States - and decided to use it as an example of how to write a persuasive essay. "We have lived under a class of people who ruled American culture with a flaming cross for so long that we regularly cease to notice the import of being ruled at all," writes Coates.

The final, and longest, essay encompasses a 10-day trip Coates takes to the Middle East. Like his journey to Senegal, it's his first time in the region, and the experience really opens his eyes. "Of all the worlds I have ever explored, I

don't think any shone so bright, so intense, so immediately as Palestine." That's because everywhere he looks he sees familiar signs of subjugation. The parallels between being Black in America and Palestinian in the Middle East are myriad.

"The state had one message to the Palestinians within its borders... You'd really be better off somewhere else," writes Coates. But while it's a message Coates clearly conveys in his essay, he realizes it's not his story to tell. "If Palestinians are to truly see it will be through stories woven by their own hands - not by their plunderers, not even by their comrades."

Trailblazing women ...

Saudi Arabia's first female ranger unit hits 5,000 milestone

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Oct 7, (AP): Prince Mohammed bin Salman Royal Reserve proudly announces the 5000th patrol by Saudi Arabia's first female wildlife ranger unit and the Middle East's largest. Since their historic induction in 2022, these women are playing a vital role in conserving the Reserve's natural and cultural heritage, while also paving the way for women in Saudi Arabia to pursue careers in conservation.

The introduction of female rangers to the Reserve is a testament to the commitment to Vision 2030 and the leadership's goals of building a progressive and inclusive society.

Andrew Zaloumis, CEO of the Reserve Development Authority, stated that the female ranger team are exploring new horizons one patrol at a time. He emphasized that around the world, women's conservation teams are crucial, and noted that the Reserve has focused on empowering women-who make up 33% of the 183-strong team, well above the global average of less than 11%.

Zaloumis attributed the success to a female-led team within the Reserve, from executive management to the socio-economic development unit, which collaborates with local women to build their capacity as conservation leaders. This initiative is part of the reserve's strategy to support education, career growth, and increased income

for local communities. Currently, locals from the Reserve make up 80% of the Reserve's workforce, ensuring the sustainability of both the Reserve and Saudi Arabia's broader conservation efforts.

He emphasized, "We are building the next generation of conservationists, equipped with the specialist skills set necessary to conserve Saudi Arabia's endangered wildlife and wild landscapes."

Ruqayah Awad Al-Balawi, one of the Reserve's first rangers, from Al-Sudayd in Al Wajh Governorate, emphasized the importance of local women's participation in the Reserve's work, stating, "We know the land and its needs best."

Rogayah and her fellow rangers patrol the 24,500km2 marine and terrestrial Reserve daily, protecting its rich ecosystems, in partnership with the Special Forces for Environmental Security (SFES) from threats such as illegal hunting, logging, and unregulated grazing.

After completing a 9-week initial foundational training program, the rangers continue to receive ongoing training in key areas such as patrolling, tracking and monitoring as well as first aid, self-defence and off-road driving. Specialised training is ongoing and includes leadership development, fire management, biodiversity surveys, and more.



Rangers Suhaylah and Taghreed install a camera trap in Prince Mohammed bin Salman Royal Reserve.



Ranger Shema on a vehicle patrol in Wadi al-Disah, Prince Mohammed bin Salman Royal Reserve.



Ranger Norah feeds an oryx calf rejected by its mother at Prince Mohammed bin Salman Royal Reserve animal husbandry camp.

Rangers Ghaida and Rogayah on foot patrol in Prince Mohammed bin Salman Royal Reserve.

Variety

NEW YORK: "Joker: Folie à Deux" is the No. 1 movie at the box office, but it might not be destined for a happy ending.

In a turn of events that only Arthur Fleck would find funny, the follow-up to Todd Phillips' 2019 origin story about the Batman villain opened in theaters nationwide this weekend to a muted \$40 million, according to studio estimates Sunday, less than half that of its predecessor. The collapse was swift and has many in the industry wondering: How did the highly anticipated sequel to an Oscar-winning, billion-dollar film with the same creative team go wrong?

Just three weeks ago, tracking services pegged the movie for a \$70 million debut, which would still have been down a fair amount from "Joker's" record-breaking \$96.2 million launch in Oct. 2019. Reviews were mixed out of the Venice Film Festival, where it premiered in competition like the first movie and even got a 12-minute standing ovation.

But the homecoming glow was short-lived, and the fragile foundation would crumble in the coming weeks with its Rotten Tomatoes score dropping from 63% at Venice to 33% by its first weekend in theaters. Perhaps even more surprising were the audience reviews: Ticket buyers polled on opening night gave the film a deadly D CinemaScore. Exit polls from PostTrak weren't any better. It got a meager half star out of five possible.

"That's a double whammy that's very difficult to recover from," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "The biggest issue of all is the reported budget. A \$40 or \$50 million opening for a less expensive movie would be a solid debut."

"Joker: Folie à Deux" cost at least twice as much as the first film to produce, though reported figures vary at exactly how pricey it was to make. Phillips told Variety that it was less than the reported \$200 million; Others have it pegged at \$190 million. Warner Bros. released the film in 4,102 locations in North America. About 12.5% of its domestic total came from 415 IMAX screens.

Internationally, it's earned \$81.1 million from 25,788 screens, bringing its total global earnings estimate to \$121.1 million. In the next two weeks, "Joker 2" will also open in Japan and China.

Second place went to Universal and DreamWorks Animation's "The Wild Robot," which added \$18.7 million in its second weekend, bringing its domestic total to nearly \$64 million. Globally, it's made over \$100 million. Warner Bros.' "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" took third place in weekend five. Paramount's "Transformers One" landed in fourth and Universal and Blumhouse's "Speak No Evil" rounded out the top five.

The other big new release of the weekend, Lionsgate's "White Bird," flopped with just \$1.5 million from just over 1,000 locations, despite an A+ CinemaScore.

Overall, the weekend is up from the same frame last year, but "Joker's" start is an unwelcome twist for theater owners hoping to narrow the box office deficit. Phillips and star Joaquin Phoenix have said they aspired to make something as "audacious" as the first film. The sequel added Lady Gaga into the fold, as a Joker superfan, and delved further into the mind of Arthur Fleck, imprisoned at Arkham and awaiting trial for the murders he committed in the first. It's also a musical, with elaborately imagined song and dance numbers to old standards. Gaga even released a companion album called "Harlequin," alongside the film. (AP)



Gaga

R.J. Palacio's powerful adaptation

Mirren tells a story of evil and hope in 'White Bird'



This image released by Lionsgate shows Helen Mirren in a scene from 'White Bird.' (AP)

LOS ANGELES, Oct 7, (AP) — It's never a bad time for stories celebrating acts of kindness, but the current news cycle makes it ever so more appreciated. In the new film "White Bird," currently in theaters, the act is quite significant: A family in Nazi-occupied France shelters a young girl, whose friends and family have all been taken away.

From German director Marc Forster ("Finding Neverland," "The Kite Runner") "White Bird" is a handsome adaptation of R.J. Palacio's graphic novel aimed at young adults. This, too, is perfectly suited to that audience — a story within a story with all the drama of war and young romance wrapped up in it. Let's just not overplay the idea that it's part of some shared cinematic kindness universe with the Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson film "Wonder," also based on Palacio's work.

It's framed as something a grandmother is telling her grandson, who seems to be going down the wrong path. Helen Mirren is said Grandmère, or Sara Blum, a famous artist who opens up to young Julian (Bryce Gheisar) one evening over dinner about what she went through during the war. For being a neglected rich kid who is prone to getting

kicked out of fancy private schools, Julian's immediate, earnest interest in what his Grandmère has to say is perhaps the most unbelievable part of this story, which includes some deus ex machina wolves. It's a way in, I suppose, and Mirren makes for a lovely narrator.

Ariella Glaser plays young Sara Blum, who leads a nice life in her small French town with educated, professional parents Max (Ishai Golan) and Rose (Olivia Ross). She barely notices the changing tides as the war ramps up, more concerned with her friends and the cute boy in school. The story takes care to note that she barely noticed the classmate that would end up saving her life: Julien (Orlando Schwerdt), who walks with a crutch and whose father works in the sewers. Not, in other words, a popular kid. In an awkward moment, the audience, and Julien, realize that she doesn't even know his name.

But when the Nazis come to round up the students in the school, he's there to help get her to his family's property. Gillian Anderson plays Julien's mother, Vivienne, a grounding presence but very much a side character until a devastating sequence late in the film.

The young actors are very good and well-cast in their journey to friendship and then first love. They get to know one another and spend time dreaming up a world in which they're not confined to a barn, their imaginations brought to life through dreamy projected images.

"White Bird," which was shot in early 2021, was delayed several times over the past two years. Often, that signals some sort of quality issue and an obligation to begrudgingly release in spite of it. But that's not the case here: This is a very finely made movie that seemed to have just gotten caught in a sort of release limbo that's only partially related to the strikes.

It's a little by-the-book — exactly, perhaps, what you might expect from elevated historical fiction aimed at young adults. Being a good-hearted, straightforward film that might even have you shedding a few tears is no crime against cinema.

"White Bird," a Lionsgate released in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for "thematic material, some strong violence and language." Running time: 120 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

Obituaries

Madonna's brother dies

Robert Coover, author and teacher, dies at 92

NEW YORK, Oct 7, (AP) — **Robert Coover**, the exuberant and rule-defying fiction writer and educator who devised new adventures for literature through such works as "The Babysitter" and "The Public Burning" and through his decades on the faculty of Brown University, has died. He was 92.

Coover died surrounded by family on Saturday at a care home in Warwick, England, his daughter Sara Caldwell told The Associated Press on Sunday. Caldwell, an author and filmmaker, said he had been in declining health in recent months.

The writer T.C. Boyle said on X that Coover had been "a friend and mentor to me since I was in my early twenties. His first collection, 'Pricksongs and Descants,' opened up a new world for me."

Coover was often grouped with William Gass, John Barth and other authors of post-modern or "metafiction" of the 1960s and '70s. They challenged and sometimes bludgeoned conventional storytelling and grammar, whether through experiments with language, the parody of fairy tales, mysteries and other literary genres or the self-conscious exploration of the writing process. Coover's trademarks included macabre humor, graphic sex, broad takes on everything from baseball to small towns and an encyclopedic range of cultural references.

"Robert Coover writes from life, but not the one he has lived out in the world," author Ben Marcus once wrote of him. "He writes from his life as a reader of narratives. His personal experience, which he draws on for his work, is the experience he has had inside of texts. He did not grow up in Iowa, but in Ovid's 'Metamorphoses.' He did not suffer first love in the mid-west of America, but inside the Greek myths, or Aesop's fables, or 'The Decameron.'"

Novels

Rarely without something to say, he wrote dozens of novels, stories and plays. His notable works included "The Babysitter," in which a night out for the parents multiplies into a funhouse of alternative realities; "You Must Remember This," an X-rated imagining of the leads in "Casablanca," and the novel "Huck Out West," in which Coover continued the adventures of Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn.

"A lesson I learned from reading (Thomas Pynchon's) 'V' has stuck with me all my life: All my work is basically comic," he told the Boston Globe in 2014. "That's the only thing I have ever written. Even though they're not always viewed as such, the books are all meant as comic works."

Coover's most controversial work was the 1977 novel "The Public Burning," a warp-speed satire of the 1953 executions of convicted communist spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg that publishers hesitated to take on for fear of legal action by Richard Nixon, Roy Cohn and other then still-living historical figures who appear in the book. Coover alternated chapters about the Rosenbergs with the thoughts of then-Vice President Nixon, who laments his subservient role in the Eisenhower administration and confides to a growing sexual attraction between himself and Ethel Rosenberg.

"I was Eisenhower's salesman in the Cloakrooms," that was my job," Coover's Nixon explains. "I was the political broker between the patsies and the Neanderthals, I had to cool the barnburners, soften up the hardshells, keep the hunkers and cowboys in line, mollify the soreheads and baby tinnhorn egos. I was the flak runner, the wheelhorse, I had to mend the fences and bind up the wounds."

Coover's influence was on the page and in the classroom. At Brown, where he was on the faculty from 1981 to 2012, those he taught included Rick Moody and Sam Lipsyte. Coover and such fellow professors as John Hawkes inspired students to experiment and break away from the kind of spare, realistic style — as exemplified by Ernest Hemingway — that was the standard in mainstream American fiction.

For Coover, anything seemed possible. He was an early believer that the written word could be integrated with music and film and digital technology and championed what he called "Cave Writing," which included placing students in a virtual reality simulator. Before e-books were widely available, he helped found "electronic literature," storytelling designed specifically for digital devices.

His honors included the William Faulkner Award for best debut fiction, given for his 1966 book "The Origin of the Brunists." He also received the Rea Award for excellence in short story writing and the Clifton Fadiman Medal for fiction writers deserving of more recognition. The American Academy of Arts and Letters voted him in as a member and even had a prize named for him, the Robert Coover Award for an outstanding work of electronic literature.

Christopher Ciccone, a multi-hyphenate artist, dancer, designer and younger brother of **Madonna**, has died. He was 63.

Ciccone died Friday in Michigan, his representative **Brad Taylor** told The Associated Press Sunday. He had cancer.

Madonna posted a tribute to him on Instagram Sunday with a carousel of photos from over the years. "He was the closest human to me for so long," she wrote. "It's hard to explain our bond. But it grew out of an understanding that we were different and society was going to give us a hard time for not following the status quo. We took each other's hands and we danced through the madness of our childhood."

Madonna wrote that discovering dance in their small Midwestern town saved them both, and that their ballet teacher created a safe space for her brother to be gay.

A dancer since his youth, Ciccone was deeply intertwined with his sister's rise in pop stardom in the 1980s, appearing in music videos like "Lucky Star," art directing her Blond Ambition World Tour and serving as tour director for The Girlie Show tour. He also directed music videos for **Dolly Parton** and **Tony Bennett**.

"When it came to good taste, my brother was the Pope, and you had to kiss the ring to get his blessing," Madonna wrote. "He was a painter a poet and a visionary. I admired him. He had impeccable taste. And a sharp tongue. Which he sometimes used against me but I always forgave him."

In 2008, Ciccone released a best-selling autobiography called "Life with My Sister Madonna" in which he wrote about their strained relationship, her romantic entanglements as well as recollections from his time on tour with her. For two decades, he was by her side, choreographing, directing, dressing and helping his sister. He also interior designed her homes in New York, Miami and Los Angeles. He said that it was a bit like a marriage at times.

"It was a double-edged sword," he told Good Morning America in 2008. "Nobody was chaining me down to make - to stay."

The book, and his no-filter descriptions of the exploits of his sister's famous circle, took its toll on some of his Hollywood friendships too. Several years later, in 2012, around the launch of a shoe collection he designed, he told The Standard that he and his sister were "on a perfectly personable level" and in contact.

"I don't work for her, and it's better this way," he said.

Film



This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Julianne Moore, (right), and Tilda Swinton in a scene from 'The Room Next Door.' (AP)

'Room Next Door,' a reflection on dying with dignity

Swinton explores assisted suicide

TORONTO, Oct 7, (AP) — Although "The Room Next Door" is Pedro Almodóvar's first English-language feature, Tilda Swinton notes that she's never written in a language that anyone else truly speaks.

"He writes in Pedro language, and here he is making another film in another version of Pedro language, which just happens to sound a little bit like English," Swinton said.

Set in New York, Swinton stars as Martha, a terminally ill woman who chooses to end her life on her own terms. After reconnecting with her friend Ingrid, played by Julianne Moore, Martha persuades her to stay and keep her company before she goes through with her decision.

Beyond the film's narrative, Swinton said she believes individuals should have a say in their own living and dying. She acknowledges that she has personally witnessed a friend's compassionate departure.

"In my own life I had the great good fortune to be asked by someone in Martha's position to be his Ingrid (Julianne Moore)," Swinton said.

She said that experience shaped her attitude about life and death: "Not only my capacity to be witness to other people in that situation, but my own living and my own dying."

Swinton spoke to The Associated Press about "The Room Next Door," Almodóvar and the idea of letting people die on their own terms. Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Tackling that role, what was the challenge to get into the character?

Swinton: I felt really blessed by the opportunity. So many of us have been in the situation Julianne Moore's character finds herself in, be-

ing asked to be the witness of someone who is dying. Whether that wanting to orchestrate their own dismount or not, to be in that position to be a witness is something that I've been privileged to experience many times in my life since I was quite young.

AP: Many people experience watching terminally ill family members, can this film help them?

Swinton: It's a really beautiful poem to a possibility of an attitude. I think (my character) Martha's attitude to her own living is really inspiring. I would like to think that this is a really generous proposal and that it might inspire people to just know that it's possible to face their own death with dignity, which is really what we're talking about.

It really is a fool's errand to think we can avoid thinking about death because it's not just unlucky people who get ill or who die. It's an inevitability. And so we might as well, you know, embrace it. And by the way, the more we embrace it, I would suggest the more we will enjoy our living.

AP: Your character goes to great extents to alleviate the criminality. Do you think that also shows that there is a place in a society for assisted suicide?

Swinton: There are many countries in the world where it is not criminal to assist someone's active will to orchestrate their own dying. And in the United States, there are 10 states where it is not criminal, where it's possible for two doctors to assist in the active will of a patient to take charge of their own dying. And it's there are just other places where and New York State, which is where our film is set, is not one of those 10 states. And there are all sorts of

people, very wise and very compassionate people, very educated and very enlightened people, in my view, who are actively campaigning to broaden this acceptance.

AP: You've worked with lots of great directors in your career, what was the adjustment to working with Pedro?

Swinton: I'd had a taste of it with short film, "The Human Voice." We made it in the middle of COVID. We shot it in nine days. Super, super fast... And I thought that Pedro was working very fast because it was a short film and because we were in the middle of COVID. No, no, that is the way Pedro works. I now discover super, super fast two takes, if you're lucky.

AP: Does his style put your performance on an organic path?

Swinton: I mean, it really helps always when you know the work of a filmmaker as well as it's possible to know Pedro's work. I've known it since I was a student, and I've loved it always. It's like a country. I love to go to the world of Almodóvar and it's not Spain, it's somewhere else. It's his environment. So, stepping into the frame of a filmmaker who creates that environment is always a bit of a trip.

AP: At Venice, the film resonated with audiences with a very long standing ovation. How validating was that?

Swinton: It's still a bit of a shock to us. When you're in an audience, that's the first indication of whether the soufflé has risen or not. Apparently 18-and-a-half minutes is a record when you're standing next to Pedro Almodóvar and you know that that is 18-and-a-half minutes of people really lovingly appreciating him. It pretty much doesn't get much better than that.

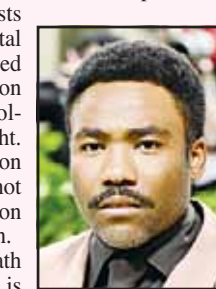
HONG KONG: The National Day Golden Week has seen a highlight, with tourists flocking to New Town Plaza in Sha Tin, the eastern New Territories, to see for themselves another new Guinness World Record.

Here a long scroll of the "Along the River During the Qingming Festival," an iconic painting of Northern Song Dynasty (960-1126), unfolded and has been on display, ingeniously constructed straight from lego bricks.

Covering 47 square meters, the world's largest lego exhibit, shown from Sept. 25 through Oct. 31, has been the latest weekend and holiday hotspot, delicately piecing together a marvellous world where the old and the new converge. (Xinhua)

LOS ANGELES: Donald Glover has canceled the remaining dates of Childish Gambino's North American

and European tour. The musician, actor and "Atlanta" creator announced on Friday that he recently discovered an ailment that required surgery. After his New Orleans show on Sept. 7, he sought tests at a hospital and canceled a Houston show the following night. In a note on X, he did not elaborate on his condition.



Glover

"My path to recovery is something I need to confront seriously," Glover wrote, adding that he needed "time out to heal." "The New World Tour" is Childish Gambino's first tour since 2019.

The run began on Aug. 11 in Oklahoma City and was to hit many major North American cities before moving to Europe, the UK, New Zealand and Australia into early 2025. (AP)

MAYVILLE, N.Y.: Jurors picked for the trial of a man who severely injured author Salman Rushdie in a knife attack likely won't hear about the fatwa that authorities have said motivated him to act, a prosecutor said recently.

"We're not going there," District Attorney Jason Schmidt said during a conference in preparation for the Oct. 15 start of Hadi Matar's trial in Chautauque County Court. Schmidt said raising a motive was unnecessary, given that the attack was witnessed and recorded by a live audience who had gathered to hear Rushdie speak.

Potential jurors will nevertheless face questions meant to root out implicit bias because Matar, of Fairview, New Jersey, is the son of Lebanese immigrants and practices Islam, Judge David Foley said. He said it would be foolish to assume potential jurors had not heard about the fatwa through media coverage of the case. (AP)

NEW YORK: Reuters has withdrawn two doping-related news stories after learning that one of the news organization's employees helped arrange for an official to get a media credential to see the Masters golf tournament this past spring.

The news organization said that it stands by its reporting on the stories, but said they violated standards "as they pertain to avoiding the appearance of bias in our sourcing." (AP)

Nobel-winning research paves way for cancer treatments

Nobel Prize in medicine honors 2 scientists for microRNA

STOCKHOLM, Oct 7. (AP) — Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine on Monday for their discovery of microRNA, tiny bits of genetic material that serve as on and off switches inside cells that help control what the cells do and when they do it.

If scientists can better understand how they work and how to manipulate them, it could one day lead to powerful treatments for diseases like cancer.

The work by Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun is "proving to be fundamentally important for how organisms develop and function," according to a panel that awarded the prize in Stockholm.

Ambros and Ruvkun were initially interested in genes that control the timing of different genetic developments, ensuring that cell types develop at the right time.

Their discovery ultimately "revealed a new dimension to gene regulation, essential for all complex life forms," the panel said.

Research

RNA is best known for carrying instructions for how to make proteins from DNA in the nucleus of the cell to tiny cellular factories that actually build the proteins. MicroRNA does not make proteins, but help to control what cells are doing, including switching on and off critical genes that make proteins.

Ambros and Ruvkun studied two mutant strains of worms commonly used as research models. The scientists set out to identify the mutated genes responsible for cell development in these worms and what their role was. The mechanism they ultimately identified — the regulation of genes by microRNA — has allowed organisms to evolve for hundreds of millions of years.

Their groundbreaking discovery revealed a completely new principle of gene regulation that turned out to be

essential for multicellular organisms, including humans," according to the citation explaining the importance of their work. Ambros, currently a professor of natural science at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, performed the research at Harvard University. Ruvkun's research was performed at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, where he's a professor of genetics.

The study of microRNA has opened up approaches to treating diseases like cancer because it helps regulate how genes work in our cells, said Dr. Claire Fletcher, a lecturer in molecular oncology at Imperial College London.

Fletcher said there were two main areas where microRNA could be helpful: in developing drugs to treat diseases and in serving as possible indicators of diseases, by tracking microRNA levels in the body.

Surprise

"If we take the example of cancer, we'll have a particular gene working overtime, it might be mutated and working in overdrive," said Fletcher. She said scientists might one day be able to use microRNA to stop such effects. Eric Miska, a geneticist at Cambridge University, said the discovery by Ambros and Ruvkun came as a complete surprise, overturning what scientists had long understood about how cells work.

"It was just a shock that there's this whole new class of gene," he said. He said the human genome has at least 800 microRNAs that are critical to how cells function. Miska said there is ongoing work on the role of microRNA in infectious diseases like hepatitis and that it might also be helpful in treating neurological diseases.

Fletcher said studies are ongoing to see how microRNA approaches might help treat skin cancer, but no drugs have yet been approved. She expected that might happen in the next five to 10



Nobel Committee chairman Thomas Perlmann, right, announces Americans Victor Ambros, left, and Gary Ruvkun, seen on a screen being awarded this year's Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, during a press conference at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, on Monday, Oct. 7. (AP)

years, adding that most treatments at the moment target cell proteins.

"If we can intervene at the microRNA level, it opens up a whole new way of us developing medicines," she said.

The phone call from the Nobel panel is often a surprise, but there are certain signs that recipients and their families pick up on.

"Well, when a phone rings at 4:30 in the morning. ... It never happens here,"

Ruvkun said.

"Natasha actually answered it," Ruvkun added, referring to his wife. "And she goes: 'He has, a Swedish accent.'"

It took a little longer to rouse Ambros.

"Somebody called my son, who called my wife as my phone was downstairs," he said.

Ruvkun knew immediately the impact the award would have on his life. "Well, I just kept repeating in my

mind, this changes everything because you know, the Nobel is just mythic in how it transforms the life of people who are selected," Ruvkun said. "The Nobel Prize is a recognition that's sort of 100 times as much press and celebration as any other award. So, it's not part of a continuum. It's a quantum leap."

Going to pick up his award in December will be the third time he has been to a Nobel Prize ceremony in

Stockholm after attending to watch his mentor Robert Horvitz receive the 2002 award and then his buddy Jack Szostak, who won in 2009.

"There's a trip coming up. It will be the third, possibly the best," Ruvkun said.

Ambros said he didn't expect the award as he felt that the Nobel committee has already singled out RNA in the 2006 prize that went to his friends Andrew Fire and Craig Mello.

How to avoid unlicensed providers

Don't fall for fake dentists offering veneers online

WASHINGTON, Oct 7. (AP) — If you have stained or chipped teeth, you might be considering veneers, customized teeth coverings that can restore a photogenic smile without more extensive dental work.

But dentists warn that these pricey cosmetic enhancements are at the center of a worrisome online trend: unlicensed practitioners without proper training or supervision offering low-cost veneers.

These self-described "veneers techs" often promote themselves on Instagram and TikTok, promising a full set of veneers for less than half of what dentists typically charge. Some also market their own training courses and certifications for people looking to get into the business.

It's misleading, health professionals warn — and illegal. All states require dental work, including veneers, to be performed under the supervision of a licensed dentist.

On Thursday, Georgia law enforcement officials arrested Brandon Diller, who promoted himself to 158,000 Instagram followers as "Atlanta's top veneer specialist and trainer." Diller practiced dentistry without a license and sold "training and certificates, which were worthless" and "provided no legitimate or legal credentials," according to an arrest warrant from Fulton County's District Attorney's office.

Here's what to know about veneers and how to avoid bogus providers and services:

What are dental veneers?

Veneers are thin, custom-made dental coverings used to hide minor imperfections or to fill in gaps between teeth.

Unlike crowns or more invasive dental implants, veneers are almost always considered cosmetic dentistry and generally aren't covered by insurance.

Dentists usually charge between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per tooth for veneers, with higher prices for those made from porcelain compared with lower-grade materials.

Placing veneers involves stripping some of the natural enamel from the tooth and bonding the new covering into place. Because of that process, getting veneers is considered an irreversible procedure, according to the American Dental Association. They are not permanent, and can be expected to last between 5 to 15 years before they degrade and need to be replaced.

In recent months the ADA has been

stepping up warnings about the risks of veneer procedures done by unlicensed individuals.

"Quality control is lost without the involvement of a licensed dentist," said Dr. Ada Cooper, a New York-based dentist and ADA spokesperson. "We undergo years of education and training and need to be licensed by various regulatory bodies before we can practice."

What are the risks of getting veneers from someone who isn't licensed?

Improper veneer procedures can cause a range of health problems, including severe pain, nerve damage and tooth loss. Patients need to be anesthetized before the enamel is removed from their teeth.

"It could be incredibly painful if

they're not anesthetized correctly," said Dr. Zach Truman, who runs an orthodontics practice in Las Vegas. "You can also go too deep into the tooth and penetrate what's called the pulp chamber, which contains blood vessels and nerves."

One of the biggest problems Truman sees with unregulated veneer work is that customers aren't getting screened for existing dental problems, such as gum disease and cavities.

"If you put a veneer on a tooth that has an active cavity, you're just going to seal it in there and eventually it's going to progress to tooth loss," Truman said.

Dental veneers aren't the only option for improving the appearance of teeth. Over-the-counter whitening kits can help with minor stains and discoloration. And dentists can sometimes use composite materials to reshape chipped or uneven teeth. But Truman says those fillings are prone to crack and won't last as long as veneers.

How can I spot bogus veneer providers online?

One clue: Many individuals performing unlicensed dental work promote themselves on social media as "veneers technicians."

Instead of working out of a dental office they often perform treatments at beauty salons, hotel rooms or private homes. Some advertise multi-city tours and encourage clients to message them to book an appointment in advance.

Much of the appeal of the services is in their pricing, with some offering a full set of veneers for a flat fee of \$4,000 or \$5,000. That's less than half of what patients can generally expect to pay at a dental office.

'Healthy lifestyle vital'

Expert calls for caution before using medications for obesity

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Dr. Adel Reda, Consultant of Internal Medicine, Endocrinology, and Diabetes at Al-Sabah Hospital, has emphasized the importance of consulting a doctor before using obesity medications.

Speaking to Al Jarida, he noted that these drugs are prescribed based on approved medical protocols, with options available in oral and injectable forms. Reda highlighted that stopping the medication often leads to weight regain, underscoring the need for a healthy lifestyle, diet, exercise, and "behavioral therapy" for sustained results.

He explained that obesity medi-

cations are only prescribed after a comprehensive medical evaluation, including necessary tests like electrocardiograms to ensure heart health. Reda warned of potential side effects, including increased risk of thyroid cancer, pancreatitis, elevated heart rate, high blood pressure, and psychological and intestinal disorders.

Medications are recommended for patients with a body fat mass over 30, or between 27 and 30 with obesity-related health conditions, and those who have not achieved significant weight loss despite efforts to improve their lifestyle.

Australia prepares for bird flu

SYDNEY, Oct 7. (Xinhua) — Farmers in Victoria, Australia's second-most populous state, on Monday called for urgent biosecurity action to protect against the threat of avian influenza.

The Victorian Farmers' Federation (VFF) said that more must be done to prepare Australia for the potential arrival of the deadly H5N1 strain of avian influenza.

Australia is the only continent in the world that has not had a confirmed case of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain, the current outbreak of which has caused the deaths of tens of millions of animals around the world.

Danyel Cucinotta, vice-president of the VFF, said the strain has the ability

to devastate Victoria's poultry industry and the state's native wildlife.

"Biosecurity is a shared responsibility. While government action is crucial, farmers must also remain vigilant and assess their own biosecurity processes and systems," she said in a statement. "It's important that farmers review their infrastructure and consider potential modifications to reduce the risk of disease entering or spreading within their operations." The VFF is working with the Victorian state government and the state's Chief Veterinary Officer to assess the current preparedness for an outbreak of H5N1 and review the response to an outbreak of the H7 strain of avian influenza in June, she said.

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SPORTS

Late crash scrambles playoff picture

Stenhouse snaps 65-race losing streak at Talladega

TALLADEGA, Ala., Oct 7, (AP): Ricky Stenhouse Jr. snapped a 65-race losing streak by winning in overtime at Talladega Superspeedway after a late crash collected more than half the field, including eight of the 12 championship contenders.

Stenhouse is not in the playoffs and his victory Sunday marked the second consecutive week a driver not competing for the Cup Series title has won.

The victory was the first for Stenhouse and his JTG Daugherty Racing team since he won the season-opening Daytona 500 to start 2023.

Stenhouse's first career victory came at Talladega in 2017 and his four career Cup Series victories have come at either the Alabama superspeedway or Daytona International Speedway.

Stenhouse won in a three-wide finish between Brad Keselowski and William Byron, who with his third-place finish became the only driver locked into the third round of the playoffs.

Four drivers will be eliminated from the playoffs next Sunday on the hybrid road course/oval at Charlotte. Joey Logano, Daniel Suarez, Austin Cindric and Chase Briscoe are all below the cutline.

Cindric was the leader with five laps remaining in regulation when Logano, two rows back, gave Keselowski a hard shove directly into Cindric. It caused Cindric to spin and 24 of the 40 cars in the field suffered some sort of damage in the melee.

Even Stenhouse had a chunk of sheet metal missing from the driver side door area when he drove his car into victory lane.

The race was red-flagged for nearly nine minutes of cleanup, and 22 cars remained on the lead lap for the two-lap overtime sprint to the finish. Many of those

22 cars were damaged.

Keselowski finished second in a Ford for RFK Racing and was followed by Byron in a Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet. Byron is the points leader headed into Charlotte and his cushion is large enough to earn him an automatic spot into the round of eight.

Kyle Larson of Hendrick was fourth and followed by Erik Jones of Legacy Motor Club in a Toyota. Christopher Bell of Joe Gibbs Racing was sixth in a Toyota and followed by Justin Haley of Spire Motorsports. Austin Dillon of Richard Childress Racing finished eighth, Bubba Wallace was ninth with 23XI Racing co-owner Michael Jordan in attendance, and Denny Hamlin, the other co-owner of the team, rounded out the top 10.

Only four drivers still active in the playoffs finished inside the top 10.

Ryan Blaney, who used his win at Talladega a year ago to spark his run to his first Cup Series title, was involved in a crash racing for points on the final lap of the second stage.

Blaney was pushed too hard from behind by fellow playoff driver Alex Bowman and the shove forced Blaney's Ford to take a sharp left and then bounce up the track into the wall and Ross Chastain.

Blaney tried to keep his battered car out on track but the engine eventually failed, ending his race. He was second in the playoff standings entering the race and feared his career-high seventh DNF of the season would drop him to the verge of elimination.

And as for his chances to advance in the playoffs?



Driver Ricky Stenhouse Jr. drives by the grand stands after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala. (AP)

Liberty advances to WNBA Finals



New York Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu (20) drives past Las Vegas Aces guard Jackie Young (0) during the second half of a WNBA Semifinal basketball game in Las Vegas. (AP)

LAS VEGAS, Oct 7, (AP): Sabrina Ionescu didn't take long to make a quick statement that what transpired not even 48 hours earlier would not happen again.

But she and her Liberty teammates had an even larger message to deliver.

Ionescu rebounded from a rare off game to score 22 points, and nearly a year after the Aces ended the Liberty's dream of a championship, New York returned the favor Sunday afternoon by defeating Las Vegas 76-62 to advance to the WNBA Finals.

The top-seeded Liberty will have home-court advantage in the championship series and will face either the Connecticut Sun or Minnesota Lynx, who will play Game 5 on Tuesday. This is the Liberty's sixth trip to the finals, but the franchise is still seeking its first title.

New York lost in four games to the short-handed Aces on Oct. 18, 2023, and turned the painful defeat into a mission. The Liberty have been the league's best team this season and, including the playoffs, went 6-1 against Las Vegas.

Ionescu said the Aces "made us a better team," and she made it clear she respects how difficult it was for Las Vegas to win back-to-back titles. But, no doubt, the Aces fueled New York's drive by how they celebrated after last season, with coach Becky Hammon even taking a shot during the victory parade at Stewart going 3 for 17 in the



Connecticut Sun guard Dijonai Carrington (21) makes a three point basket during the second half of Game 4 in the WNBA semifinal against the Minnesota Lynx, in Uncasville, Conn. (AP)

final game.

The Aces, whose record 12-game home playoff winning streak ended, were hoping to make more WNBA history. Last year, they became the first team since the Los Angeles Sparks in 2001-02 to win back-to-back titles and were trying to become the first club to capture three successive championships since the Houston Comets took four straight in 1997-2000.

In addition to Ionescu and Stewart, Jonquel Jones scored 14 points despite being in foul trouble most of the game and Leonie Fiebich finished with 11 points.

For Las Vegas, Kelsey Plum (17 points) and Tiffany Hayes (11) joined Wilson in scoring in double figures.

entering the fourth quarter but then outscored Las Vegas 23-11 in the final period to pull away.

The Aces made just 32.8% shots for the game that included going 7 of 30 from the 3-point line.

With the season on the line, Alyssa Thomas and Ty Harris helped Connecticut force a decisive Game 5.

Thomas had 18 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds to help the Sun stave off elimination and beat the Minnesota Lynx 92-82 in their semifinal series. The victory set up a winner-take-all fifth game in Minnesota.

The winner will face the Liberty in the WNBA Finals that start Thursday in New York. The Lynx and the Liberty already met for a championship this season with Minnesota beating New York for the Commissioner's Cup title.

Harris was inserted back into the starting lineup for the first time since injuring her ankle in Game 1 in the opening round series against Indiana. She responded with 20 points to lead the Sun, who now will try to return to the Finals for the third time in six seasons. The Sun still are looking for the franchise's first WNBA championship.

White said she let Harris know at shootaround in the morning. She only played about seven minutes in Games 2 and 3, but was able to play 30 on Sunday and was a difference maker.

"Stay composed, be poised and be ready when your number is called," said Harris, who was scoreless in her limited minutes in Games 2 and 3.

Napheesa Collier did what she could to try to get Minnesota the win, finishing with 29 points and 13 rebounds.

Egypt forward Omar lighting up the Bundesliga

BERLIN, Oct 7, (AP): Egypt forward Omar Marmoush is the man of the moment in the Bundesliga after a blistering start to the season for Eintracht Frankfurt.

Marmoush denied Bayern Munich a win in a thrilling game Sunday with a stoppage-time equalizer that

made it 3-3. It was his second goal of the game. He also set up the other for Hugo Ekitiké, when he ran clear of Dayot Upamecano on a counterattack.

"Marmoush is a player who's only going to get better with time," Bayern coach Vincent Kompany said. "What he did for Ekitiké's goal is not normal.

To push past Upa with strength, no one did that before for the whole season.

"And then to make the right decision at the end, the quality in his strike, and the speed. Sometimes he looks quite relaxed, then when he gets going, he's really fast."

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undertake
to carry out this name change
in all my documents.

Pogba should have taken more care about his treatment in Florida: Judges

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Oct 7, (AP): The judges who cut Paul Pogba's ban in a doping case suggested the World Cup winner should have taken more care about his treatment in Florida, the Court of Arbitration for Sport said Monday.

Pogba's positive test last year for DHEA, a steroid precursor, "was not intentional and was the result of erroneously taking a supplement prescribed to him by a medical doctor in Florida," the court said in a statement, giving the first details of a verdict revealed Friday.

Three CAS judges cut the 31-year-old Pogba's four-year ban imposed by an Italian anti-doping tribunal last year to an 18-month sanction that will expire in March.

The France midfielder "had been given assurances that the medical doctor, who had claimed to treat several high-level US and international athletes, was knowledgeable and would be mindful of Mr. Pogba's anti-doping obligations," CAS said.

Pogba was "not without fault and that, as a

professional football player, he should have paid greater care in the circumstances," the court said.

The Italian tribunal argued the player had been reckless, the court said, but that evidence, including from expert witnesses at the Juventus star's appeal hearing, supported his case.

Still, the judges did not meet the request from Pogba's lawyers for a one-year ban that would have let him return to soccer immediately.

CAS said the full document detailing the judges' reason has not been provided to the parties

and therefore gave a limited explanation Monday of the verdict. It did not name the doctor in Florida.

British newspaper the Daily Mail, which first reported the verdict Friday, previously reported Pogba was treated by 10X Health Systems. Its website cites working with UFC boss Dana White and celebrity Kendall Jenner.

Pogba is allowed to train with Juventus from January, though the Italian club has been publicly unenthusiastic about his return.

Watson clinches men's trophy

Deng takes overall title as IFSC World Cup concludes

BEIJING, Oct 7, (Xinhua): The 2024 International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) World Cup concluded its final stage in Seoul, South Korea. China's Olympic silver medalist Deng Lijuan took the top spot in the women's speed rankings, securing her first-ever overall title of the series.

24-year-old Deng has competed in four out of six speed races in this season's World Cup, winning one gold and one bronze medal. She becomes the second Chinese female athlete to claim the overall World Cup title following Song Yiling, the overall champion of women's speed in 2019.

Current world record holder Samuel Watson of the United States won the men's title. The 18-year-old had stunned the world by breaking the world record with a 4.79-second run in the season's opener in Wujiang, China, and took bronze at the Paris Olympics in a time of 4.74 seconds.

Other Chinese speed climbers also achieved success in Seoul. Wang Xinchang and Zhou Yafei won the men's and women's speed races respectively, capturing their first-ever World Cup

gold medals. Wang Xinchang's victory also propelled him to third place in the overall rankings. Chinese climber Wang Shengyan defeated Deng Lijuan by 0.1 seconds in the women's bronze medal match, claiming her first-ever World Cup podium finish.

In the lead climbing discipline, Jessica Pilz of Austria, the bronze medalist at the Paris Olympics, surpassed the Paris Olympic champion Janja Garnbret of Slovenia after winning gold in Seoul, claiming the women's overall championship. British climber Toby Roberts, the Paris Olympic champion, secured the men's overall title.

Chinese climbers Zhang Yuetong and Luo Zhilu reached the women's lead climbing final in Seoul, finishing in seventh and eighth place respectively. Both athletes have made it to the final in this discipline twice this season, with Luo also winning a silver medal in Wujiang.

In bouldering, the annual champions were Japan's Sorato Anraku, the men's silver medalist at the Paris Olympics, and Natalia Grossman of the United States.

LeBron, son play together for 1st time in preseason game

PALM DESERT, Calif., Oct 7, (AP): LeBron James grew up without a father, and the top scorer in NBA history has often said he savors every moment and milestone he can experience with his own three children.

When he stepped onto a court Sunday night to play alongside his son, Bronny, for the Los Angeles Lakers, this moment was more than basketball history to him.

It was the realization of a family dream.

LeBron and Bronny became the first father and son to play in any NBA game together during the first half of the Lakers' preseason contest against Phoenix, playing just over four minutes side-by-side in the second quarter.

"It's pretty cool for the both of us, and especially for our family," LeBron said. "It's definitely a moment that I will never forget."

The James family's remarkable moment coincidentally happened on Bronny's 20th birthday, and it felt like a celebration for the 39-year-old LeBron, who has spoken about his desire for this opportunity since Bronny was in high school.

Although LeBron knows they'll get more chances to play together in the Lakers' upcoming season, the first time on court together in uniform felt "not real" to the four-time NBA champion and 20-time All-Star.

"For a father, it means everything," LeBron said. "For someone who didn't have that growing up, to be able to have that influence on your kids and have that influence on your son, be able to

have moments with your son - and the ultimate, to be able to work with your son - that's one of the greatest things that a father could ever hope for or wish for."

Bronny James entered the preseason game as a substitute to begin the second quarter, joining his father on court at Acrisure Arena in the Coachella Valley. Bronny was told by coach JJ Redick before the game that he would be playing alongside LeBron, but the rookie maintained his usual cool demeanor both before and after the moment.

"I was pretty psyched for that," Bronny said.

Although he's much less vocal about the whole situation than LeBron, Bronny is still learning how to navigate an on-court relationship with his father, who has repeatedly insisted that his son can't call him "Dad" on the court.

"I'm always thinking about, 'That's my dad!,' because that's literally my dad," Bronny said. "But when I'm playing, he's just my teammate. That's all."

Their minutes together weren't as smooth as they'll be later in the season: Bronny committed two turnovers and LeBron made another in their first two minutes. Shortly after LeBron hit a 3-pointer moments later, LeBron got the ball to Bronny and set a screen for his son's 3-point attempt, but Bronny missed.

"I was really hoping that wing 3 would have gone in," Redick said with a smile. "That would have been a cool moment. But they'll have a lot of moments together, I'm sure."



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) looks to drive to the basket while under pressure from Phoenix Suns forward Ryan Dunn (0) during the first half of a preseason NBA basketball game in Palm Desert, Calif. (AP)

SPORTS

Man United owners in town as scrutiny on Erik ten Hag grows

Ruling is published over City legal case against Premier League rules

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 7, (AP): Manchester City and the Premier League were both claiming victory on Monday after the conclusion of the first of two high-profile clashes between the pair.

Four-time defending champion City legally challenged the league's Associated Party Transaction (APT) Rules, which are intended to safeguard the "competitive balance" of the world's most popular soccer league.

Both City and the league said they "welcomed" the findings of an arbitration panel. City said the rules had been found to be "unlawful" and that the league had "abused its dominant position."

The league said the tribunal had found the rules to be "necessary" and had "rejected the majority of Manchester City's challenges."

The findings of the tribunal were published on Monday. They came at a time when City is also facing more than 100 charges of alleged financial breaches.

Manchester United co-owners Joel Glazer and Jim Ratcliffe were at the club's Old Trafford stadium on Monday at a time when manager Erik ten Hag's position remained under intense scrutiny.

Ratcliffe watched the team's 1-1 draw at Aston Villa on Sunday, which consigned the 20-time English champion to its worst start to a season in the Premier League era. For Glazer, it was a rare sighting of him in Manchester since his late father, Malcolm, bought the club in 2005.

A video of Ratcliffe and Glazer entering Old Trafford began to circulate on social media on Monday. United said their visit had long-been planned for meetings in Manchester and London this week.

Glazer will also attend a quarterly Fans Advisory

Board meeting.

British billionaire Ratcliffe bought a minority 27.7% stake in United in February and has since overhauled its soccer operations. On Friday he declined to publicly support Ten Hag when questioned about the manager's future.

Ten Hag has faced repeated questions about his future after three defeats in the first seven league games of the season.

United is 14th in the standings and its return of eight points is the lowest at this stage of a campaign since 1989-90, when it managed just seven.

The Premier League was launched in 1992 when former manager Alex Ferguson won the first of his 13 titles with United.

Ten Hag is the club's fifth permanent manager since Ferguson retired in 2013. There was speculation about his position at the end of last season when he led United to its worst league campaign in 34 years. But he kept his job after winning the FA Cup and surviving an extensive end-of-year review.

New CEO Omar Berrada and sporting director Dan Ashworth last month said the manager had their full backing. But Ratcliffe, who assumed control of United's soccer operations following his \$1.3 billion investment, declined to do the same when asked on Friday if he had faith in Ten Hag.

"I don't want to answer that question," he told the BBC. "I like Erik. I think he's a very good coach, but at the end of the day it's not my call, it's the management team that's running Manchester United that have to decide how we best run the team in many different respects."



Manchester City's Kyle Walker, left, and Fulham's Adama Traore vie for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester City and Fulham at Etihad Stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)

Yu claims first PGA Tour title



Tyrrell Hatton celebrates with the trophy after winning the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, at the Old Course St. Andrews, Britain. (AP)

Hatton wins for third time at Dunhill

JACKSON, Miss., Oct 7, (AP): Kevin Yu made a 15-foot birdie on the 18th hole for a 5-under 67, and he birdied it again from 6 feet in a playoff to beat Beau Hossler and win the Sanderson Farms Championship on Sunday for his first PGA Tour title.

Yu was nearly forgotten for most of a final round that appeared to be a duel between Hossler and Keith Mitchell until the 26-year-old from Taiwan made a birdie to tie them for the lead.

Mitchell had a 35-foot birdie putt to win it and it grazed the left edge of the cup. But he missed the 4-foot comebacker for par, shot 70 and missed the playoff.

Hossler was left off the tee on the 18th in the playoff. Yu hit first and sent his approach to 6 feet right of the hole. Hossler had to punch below the trees, and it turned too much and went into a front bunker. He blasted out to 2 feet to secure par, but Yu made birdie.

Yu's victory sends him to the Masters and the PGA Championship for the first time.

Tyrrell Hatton closed with a 2-under 70 to win the Dunhill Links Championship for a record third time after making birdie at the 18th hole on the Old Course at St. Andrews to beat Nicolas Colsaerts by one shot.

Both players walked down the storied last hole at the home of golf tied for the lead and having hit their drives just short of the green. Colsaerts putted to 8 feet and missed his birdie attempt, leav-



Kevin Yu, of Taiwan, birdied the first playoff hole to defeat Beau Hossler and win his first title at the 2024 Sanderson Farms Championship at the Country Club of Jackson in Jackson, Miss. (AP)

ing Hatton a chance for victory after the Englishman had chipped to 4 feet.

Hatton won for the first time on the European tour since joining Saudi-funded LIV Golf. He tied the tournament record at 24-under 264, which he previously shot when he won in 2017. He also won in 2016. Colsaerts (70) was looking to win on the tour for the first time in five years.

Tommy Fleetwood (67) finished third, three shots behind Hatton.

Braden Thornberry birdied the final hole for a 6-under 66 and his first Korn Ferry Tour title at the best time. The victory in the Tour Championship made him one of 30 players who earned PGA Tour cards for next year.

Thornberry was No. 51 on the points list going into the final event of the season. He won by one shot over Brian Campbell, Alistair Docherty and Doc

Redman. Campbell already was assured of being in the top 30. The other two narrowly missed out.

Redman was leading until a double bogey on the 15th hole and a bogey on the 17th. He needed eagle on the par-5 18th to force a playoff. Redman made birdie and it had a big effect on the PGA Tour roster next year.

It gave him a three-way tie for second, and took enough points away from Docherty that he moved out of the top 30. Noah Goodwin got the last card.

Rocco Mediate missed a 4-foot par putt for the win, and then made from about the same distance on the second playoff hole Sunday to beat Bob Estes and win the Constellation Furyk & Friends on the PGA Tour Champions.

Mediate, who closed with a 1-under 71 at Timuquana Country Club, won for the first time in five years and earned his

fifth title on the 50-and-older circuit.

Mediate was three shots ahead with four holes to play, and two holes later he was tied. He birdied the 17th only to miss the short par on the final hole of regulation. Then, Mediate had to make a 10-footer for par to extend the playoff. Estes made bogey on the 18th in the second playoff hole, and Mediate made par from 4 feet.

The 61-year-old Mediate now has won in his 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s.

Wenli Ding capped off a marathon Sunday with a 3-under 67 that carried the 19-year-old from China to a one-shot victory in the Asia-Pacific Amateur and earned him an invitation to the Masters and the British Open next year.

The majors might have to wait. Golf Digest reported that Ding plans to take up European tour membership through the new "Global Amateur Pathway." The Masters and British Open typically require players to remain an amateur to use such exemptions.

Ding, the freshman of the year at Arizona State last season, had to play 14 holes to complete a 67 that left him tied for the 54-hole lead with Ziqin Zhou of China.

Zhou, an 18-year-old who plays for the California Golden Bears, birdied the 18th for a 68 to tie for the lead. Ding regained the lead with his final birdie at the 17th, a 239-yard par 3, where he hit his tee shot to 6 feet. Ding made a 4-foot par putt on the final hole at Taiheiyu Club Gotemba to secure the win.

Ding, a former U.S. Junior Amateur champion and at No. 5 the highest-ranked amateur in the field, finished at 12-under 268 and atoned for a playoff loss in the Asia-Pacific Amateur last year at Royal Melbourne. He becomes the fifth player from China to win the tournament.

Al-Qadsiya secures 4th straight Arab Clubs Championship win

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

ALEXANDRIA, Oct 7: Al-Qadsiya Club's first basketball team secured its fourth consecutive victory in the 36th Arab Basketball Clubs Championship, currently taking place in Alexandria, with a 92-80 win over Qatar's Al-Gharafa the at Burj Al Arab Hall. This victory brought Al-Qadsiya's tally to eight points, placing it at the top of Group Two.

The "Sons of Hawally" dominated the game from the start, leveraging the experience and determination of their star players, who were committed to maintaining their strong performance in the tournament.

Meanwhile, Kazma, the second representative of Kuwaiti basketball in the championship, suffered a 56-76 defeat against Qatar's Al-Arabi in Group One. This marked Kazma's third loss, following defeats to Egypt's Al-Ittihad Alexandria and Smouha, leaving them with five points. However, Kazma still has a chance to qualify for the quarter-finals if they win their match against Sharjah of the UAE, which took



Al-Qadsiya fights for the ball with Al-Gharafa players.

place last evening.

The tournament teams are taking a break today, with the quarter-finals scheduled to begin tomorrow. The semi-finals will follow on Thursday evening, and the championship final is set for Saturday night.

Al-Qadsiya looks to fine-tune form in friendly

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 7: Al-Qadsiya will face Al-Shabab in a friendly match at 6:00 pm at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium, as part of the team's preparations for the Zain Premier League. Al-Qadsiya's next league fixture is against Al-Nasr on October 19 in the seventh round, while Al-Shabab is gearing up for the start of the First Division League.

Currently, Al-Qadsiya sits in fifth place with 7 points, trailing league leaders Kuwait by 11 points. The league is on pause due to the international break, as the Kuwait national team prepares for

Asian Cup qualifiers against Oman and Palestine on October 10 and 15.

In other updates, Al-Arabi and Kazma played to a goalless draw in a friendly match at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium. Al-Arabi will face Al-Yarmouk on October 20, while Kazma will take on Khaitan on the same day in the seventh round of the league. Al-Arabi holds second place in the league with 15 points, and Kazma is in eighth place with 4 points.

Al-Arabi's Naif Hamid underwent surgery on his cruciate ligament at Al-Razi Hospital, which will keep him sidelined for four months.



Al-Arabi and Kazma players in action.

Fritz and Dimitrov finally advance at rain-soaked Shanghai Masters

SHANGHAI, Oct 7, (AP): Two days after starting, seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz and 10th-ranked Grigor Dimitrov finally got to complete their second-round matches at the Shanghai Masters on Monday.

Fritz, the U.S. Open finalist, had led 4-3 in the opening set against Frenchman Terence Atmane when rain suspended play on Saturday at

the Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena, and then washed out all matches on the outside courts until Monday.

The 26-year-old American needed two tiebreakers to set off the No. 161-ranked Atmane 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), with only one break of serve for each in the 122-minute match. Fritz will play Japanese qualifier Yosuke Watanuki in the third round.

Dimitrov, playing in his 100th Masters event, resumed Monday with a set lead but down a break in the second against Zizou Bergs.

The No.73-ranked Belgian converted his advantage to take the second set before Dimitrov responded by breaking Bergs three times - for the loss of one of his own service games, to clinch the match 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

The 33-year-old Bulgarian will play Australian Alexei Popyrin in the third round.

Also, U.S. Open semifinalist Frances Tiafoe routed Zhou Yi of China 6-2, 6-4, while Tallon Griekspoor beat the 26th-seeded Roman Thompson 6-3, 6-2 and Roman Safiullin had a 6-4, 6-2 win over Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan.

No. 12-ranked Beatriz Haddad-Maia beat Madison Keys of the U.S. 7-6 (7), 6-2 in the opening match of the Wuhan Open.

The Brazilian, winner of the Seoul Open last month for her fourth career title, converted five of her eight break point opportunities - to Keys' three from 12 - as she advanced in 128 minutes at the tournament in China.

One-time U.S. Open finalist Leylah Fernandez of Canada rallied to beat 12th-seeded Diana Shnaider 6-7 (7), 6-3, 6-3.

Rain in Wuhan meant play on the outside courts was suspended.

The top eight seeds, including second-ranked Aryna Sabalenka and China Open champion Coco Gauff, received a first-round bye.



Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria returns a shot to Zizou Bergs of Belgium during the men's singles second round match in the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China. (AP)
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Sports

Kuwait Special Olympics team wins gold

Awadh and Al-Whaib the heroes

ABU DHABI, Oct 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's Special Olympics team, representing Al-Tomoooh Club, clinched the gold medal at the regional sailing competition for the Middle East and North Africa, held in Dubai last Wednesday and concluded on Sunday.

The duo of Nawaf Awadh and Manaf Al-Whaib delivered an outstanding performance to secure first place in the Division Two competition, contributing to the team's overall victory.

Sadiqah Al-Ansari, head of the Kuwaiti Special Olympics delegation, expressed her pride in this achievement in a statement to the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA). She attributed the success to the teamwork and collaboration among the athletes.

Al-Ansari also praised the critical support provided by Kuwait's Public Authority for Youth and Sports, the Kuwaiti Marine Sports Club, and Al-Tomoooh Club. She highlighted the importance of participation in such competitions, noting that the experience gained helps enhance the players' skills and opens new opportunities for them.

Al-Enezi joins squad

Kuwait arrives in Muscat for World Cup qualifier

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

MUSCAT, Oct 7: The Kuwait national soccer team arrived in Muscat this for its upcoming 2026 World Cup qualifier against Oman in the third round of Group Two competitions.

The team's Dubai training camp, which began on September 30, concluded yesterday. Under the leadership of Argentine coach Juan Pizzi, the technical staff focused on ensuring that all players were in top form to secure their first victory in the qualifiers.

The team will hold a training session this evening at the Police Stadium, followed by a final practice session tomorrow at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bousher. Media access will be allowed only during the first 15 minutes.

Dhofar player Sultan Al-Enezi joined the team after missing previous sessions due to commitments with his new club. The team's medical staff, headed by Dr. Abdul Majeed Al Bana'i, implemented a special nutritional program to help players cope with the high humidity and avoid muscle injuries.

On the Omani side, Bangkok United striker Mohsen Al Ghassani joined his teammates at their training camp in Seeb Stadium. Salah Al Yahyaie, from Bahrain's Al Khalidiya Club, also participated after recovering from an injury that kept him out of the matches against Iraq and South Korea.



Sultan Al-Enezi with coach Pizzi.

Additionally, an Australian refereeing crew led by Alireza Faghani will arrive today, with Catherine Margaret Jaswicz overseeing VAR, alongside other officials from the Maldives and Qatar.

Meanwhile, China's center back Jiang Guangtai, formerly known as Tyias Browning during his time playing in England, expressed confidence about beating Australia in their crucial FIFA World Cup 2026 Third Round Asian Qualifier.

The former Everton and England youth player chose to represent China due to his Chinese heritage, through his grandfather. He mentioned that he has recovered from the fatigue of a 16-hour flight from Shanghai.

"It was a long journey, but we have a day to recover. We all have a clear goal, and we must focus on the game," said the 29-year-old.

Jiang had been doubtful for the match after sustaining an injury during Shanghai Port's 3-0 defeat to South Korea's Pohang Steelers in the Asian Champions League last week. However, he confirmed that he is fit to play.

"I've had time to recover after the match. Physically, I feel fine now."

China suffered a 7-0 humiliation against Japan in their Group C opener and lost 2-1 at home to a 10-man Saudi Arabia in their second match, placing them at the bottom of the group.

Australia, too, are eager to bounce back after a 1-0 home defeat to Bahrain and a goalless away draw against Indonesia.



The joy of the Al-Tomoooh Club for winning gold in the sailing competition.

KUNA photo

Masood and Shafique hit centuries

Pakistan dominates Day 1 of first test against England

MULTAN, Pakistan, Oct 7, (AP): Captain Shan Masood and Abdullah Shafique hit centuries as Pakistan dominated Day 1 of the first test against a new-look England pace attack on Monday.

Masood, who compiled his first test ton in four years, smashed 151 off 177 balls while Shafique made a fluent 102 to help the home team reach stumps on 328-4.

England took three wickets in the final session, after Masood and Shafique had shared a huge stand of 253 for the second wicket as the visitors toiled in the searing heat of Multan.

Saud Shakeel was unbeaten on 35 and nightwatchman Naseem Shah yet to score at the close of play.

Fast bowler Gus Atkinson, playing his first overseas test, claimed 2-70 while Jack Leach, returning after a spell out of the team, picked up 1-61 on a wicket which had a tinge of grass but gave little assistance to pace or spin.

Chris Woakes trapped Babar Azam lbw for 30 with the second new ball in the penultimate over of the day. Pakistan's former captain hasn't scored a half-century in his last 17 innings.

Masood, who hit 13 fours and two sixes, and Shafique got on top of off-spinner Shoaib Bashir, who was wicket-less in his 18 overs and conceded 71 runs.

"The way Shan and I made the partnership, it was crucial for us," said Shafique. "Red-ball cricket is not an easy game. The main thing I was focusing on was the process. If I do good things in the process then I'm able to do well in the match."

Debutant Brydon Carse twice came close to a wicket. Masood successfully overturned on-field umpire Kumar Dharmasena's lbw decision through a TV referral early in his knock, while stand-in skipper Ollie Pope couldn't hold onto a low catch at short cover off the same batter.

Shafique also survived a run-out chance when Pope's under-arm throw from close range missed the stumps at the non-striker's end, with the batter well-short of his crease in the first session.

Atkinson enjoyed early success when he had Saim Ayub (4) caught by keeper Jamie Smith down the leg side in his second over.

England then had to wait until the final session when Shafique, struggling with cramp soon after reaching his hundred with a six over long-on, offered a tame catch in the covers and fell after hitting 10 fours and two sixes.

Masood also struggled with cramp and followed Shafique when Leach grabbed a low return catch.

Masood, whose last test century came against England in Manchester in 2020, had been under the microscope after losing five successive tests since he was appointed captain last year.

Pakistan's top-order was also criticised after losing the home series to Bangladesh 2-0, during which Shafique scored 42 runs in four innings.

Masood used his feet well against Bashir and pierced the gaps on the off side with precision against the pace bowlers as he reached his century after lunch off 102 balls.

Both teams picked three fast bowlers and two spinners, with Pakistan including pacemen Aamer Jamal, returning from a back injury, Naseem and Shaheen Shah Afridi, along with slow bowlers Abrar Ahmed and Salman Ali Agha.

England test captain Ben Stokes missed the series opener because of a hamstring injury, but he presented a maiden test cap to Durham team-mate Carse, who bowled consistently at 140mph early in his spell.

It is the first test of a three-match series.

Also:

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka has appointed former star Sanath Jayasuriya as its cricket head coach in recognition of improvements he has brought to the team's performances as interim coach.

Jayasuriya was appointed interim coach as the Sri Lanka cricket board looked for a replacement for Chris Silverwood who resigned last June after the team's dismal performance in the Twenty20 World Cup.

Since then Sri Lanka's performances have improved winning a bilateral one-day international series against India in 27 years, winning a test match in England after 10 years and prevailing 2-0 in a home test series against New Zealand.



Pakistan's Shan Masood plays a shot during the first day of the first test cricket match between Pakistan and England, in Multan, Pakistan. (AP)

Italy calls up uncapped Lucca to replace Kean for Nations League

Kane joins up with England after injury concerns in Bayern game



Frankfurt's goalkeeper Kaua Santos, centre right, clears the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Eintracht Frankfurt and Bayern Munich in Frankfurt, Germany. (AP)

MUNICH, Oct 7, (Agencies): Harry Kane has joined up with England for the upcoming Nations League games after going off with an apparent injury while playing for Bayern Munich, the German team said Monday.

Kane was substituted in the 72nd minute of Bayern's 3-3 draw with Eintracht Frankfurt on Sunday after having treatment for what seemed to be an issue with his right thigh.

Bayern, however, said Kane had been checked over by the Football Association upon arrival at England's training camp.

"Harry Kane, who was substituted during the game, travelled directly from Frankfurt to the England camp, where he was examined

by the FA's medical staff. A more precise diagnosis is still pending," Bayern said.

England plays Greece on Thursday and Finland on Sunday.

Italy coach Luciano Spalletti has called up uncapped Udinese forward Lorenzo Lucca to replace the injured Moise Kean for the upcoming Nations League matches.

The national soccer federation said that Kean left the Italy training camp on Monday morning and had returned to Fiorentina for treatment on lower back pain.

Kean played the full 90 minutes of Fiorentina's 2-1 victory over AC Milan on Sunday, missing a penalty but setting up the winning goal.

The 24-year-old Lucca was called up for friendly matches

against Venezuela and Ecuador in March but didn't feature because of a minor injury.

Lucca has scored five goals in nine matches this season for Udinese.

Italy plays Belgium in Rome on Thursday and Israel in Udine four days later.

The Azzurri have won both Nations League matches against France and Israel, and top their group.

Girona winger Bryan Gil has been forced to withdraw from the Spanish national team squad less than 24 hours after being called up by coach Luis de la Fuente to cover for injured Barcelona forward Ferran Torres.

Gil, who is spending the season

on loan at Girona from Tottenham Hotspurs, received his first call into the national team in three years after Torres suffered a hamstring injury playing away to Alaves on Sunday, but on Monday lunchtime the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) confirmed on social media that "Bryan Gil is out of the training camp due to physical problems, with this agreed by the medical staff of the National Team and Girona." De la Fuente has also called Osasuna winger, Bryan Zaragoza into the squad for UEFA Nations League matches against Denmark and Serbia, due to doubts over the fitness of Athletic Club Bilbao winger, Nico Williams, who was unable to play on the weekend due to a back problem.