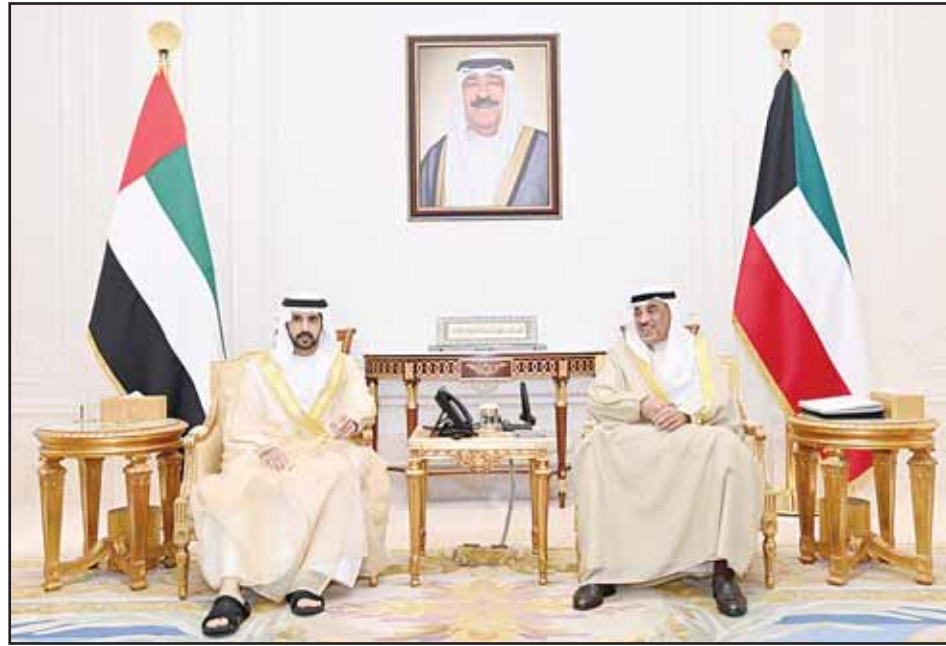
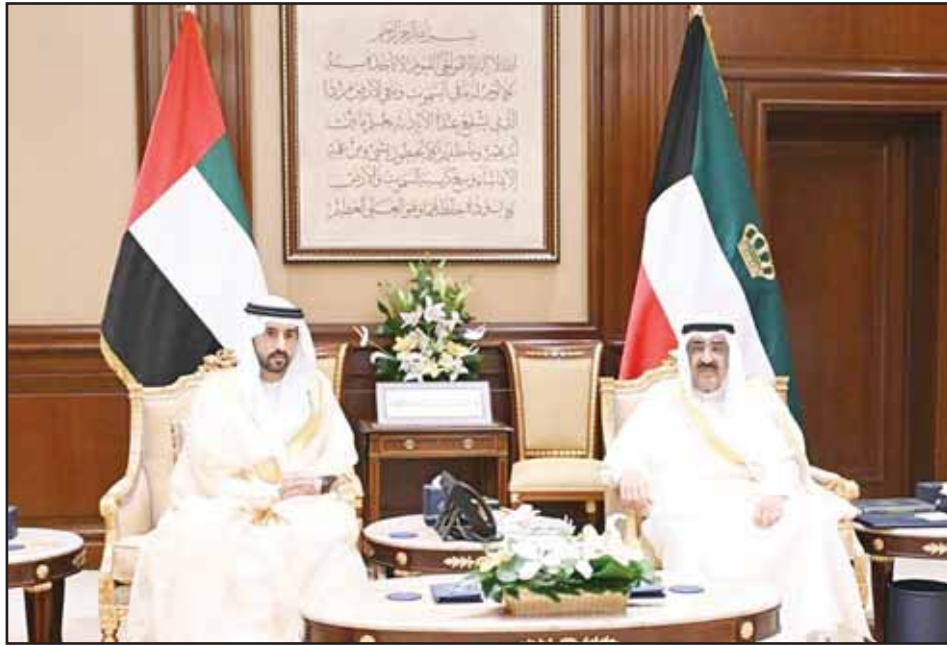


Kuwait Amir, Crown Prince receive Dubai Crown Prince and delegation

Talks focus on cooperation across various domains, regional issues



Amiri Diwan and Crown Prince Diwan photos

Left: His Highness the Amir receives Dubai Crown Prince, UAE Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum at Bayan Palace Tuesday. Right: His Highness the Crown Prince receives Dubai Crown Prince, UAE Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace Tuesday Dubai Crown Prince, UAE Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum and the accompanying delegation on their official visit to the country.

During the reception, Sheikh Hamdan conveyed greetings from President of the UAE Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum to His Highness the Amir, wishing Kuwait and its people further progress and development.

His Highness the Amir returned the greetings to the top Emirati officials, wishing them, the UAE, and its people development, progress, and welfare.

The reception featured discussion of mutual respect and also touched on means to boost cooperation between both countries on all possible domains.

Continued on Page 5

Opinion

Perhaps Minister Al-Huwailah's statements are true

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

ACCORDING to Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, supporting national products is important for achieving food security and enhancing local production.

In this regard, we say, "Better late than never."

It seems the esteemed minister has overlooked previous plans and the numerous demands made over the past half-century regarding the urgent need to pursue national food security and reduce dependency on external sources, which is vital for social and economic stability.

Regrettably, authorities have ignored this ongoing discussion and continued to overlook this critical issue.

In this context, if the country is truly committed to promoting food security and supporting national products, it is imperative to identify who controls the "vegetable

market." Is it not the mafia that dominates the import of goods, undermines Kuwaiti farmers, and has influence over various state institutions and ministries?

This mafia fights against anyone who challenges it. It strives to protect its privileges and makes life difficult for those working in this sector.

Moreover, officials in relevant agencies have adopted irrational practices that impede agricultural growth and development, and the achievement of the bare minimum of stability with regard to food in-

dustries. This includes difficulties in securing fodder for livestock, which is essential for the local food system.

In Kuwait, there are vast areas that remain unexploited. Every day, decisions are issued that further complicate the lives of farmers and institutions in this sector. Even access to water is fraught with obstacles, despite the fact that this issue has been theoretically resolved for a long time. There are no financial barriers to building desalination plants.

Continued on Page 5

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Cabinet reaffirms Palestinian rights

1st Deputy PM presents civil defense strategy

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): The Cabinet convened for its weekly meeting on Tuesday at Bayan Palace, under the leadership of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Following the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sherida Abdullah Al-Muasherji provided the following updates:

At the outset, the Cabinet praised the speech delivered on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah by His Highness

the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah during the Third Summit of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue in Doha last Thursday. In his address, the Amir reaffirmed Kuwait's strong condemnation of the Israeli occupation forces' ongoing aggression against the Palestinian people and urged the international community, particularly the Security Council, to act swiftly to halt this violence.

The Amir also denounced the Israeli attacks on Lebanon, which have resulted in numerous civilian casualties, calling for solidarity with Lebanon and emphasizing Kuwait's commitment to its sovereignty and stability. He urged Asian nations to advocate for justice and uphold the rights of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples to live freely and peacefully.

Continued on Page 5

Settle your phone bill or face disconnection

By Mohammed Al-Musleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Ministry of Communications has announced that the landlines belonging to those who have not made the necessary annual subscription payments will be subject to scheduled disconnection.

In a press statement, the ministry declared that, starting November, it will resume the planned disconnection of the landlines whose owners have not settled their yearly subscription fees.

All subscribers, whether domestic or commercial, who failed to pay the full amount of their yearly subscriptions will be subjected to this action.

To inform users of their outstanding amounts, the ministry will start sending payment alerts in the coming days through the Sahel app.

To ensure uninterrupted telephone service and avoid inclusion in the automated disconnection program, the ministry urges subscribers to pay their dues promptly.

The ministry outlined three payment options - visiting local offices, using the KNet service, or through the Sahel application.

Newswatch

KUWAIT CITY: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences Tuesday to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

In the cable, His Highness the Amir expressed his sincere condolences on the demise of Prince Sultan bin Mohammad bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. Similarly, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent a condolence cable to King Salman, conveying his sincere condolences regarding the prince's demise.

Additionally, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah expressed his condolences to King Salman on the loss of Prince Sultan in a separate cable sent the same day.

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammad bin Salman Al-Saud reassured on Tuesday everyone about the health of the Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), during a Cabinet meeting, the Crown Prince expressed his appreciation to everyone who asked about the health of the King, wishing him a speedy recovery.

The Saudi Royal Court announced on Monday that the King would undergo some medical tests for pneumonia. (KUNA)



His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah presides over the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

Kuwait advances digital goals via Google Cloud

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): Kuwait plans to deepen its partnership with Google Cloud as part of efforts to give impetus to a national digital drive in line with its strategic 2035 vision, Communication Minister Omar Al-Omar said on Tuesday.

Continued on Page 5

Day by Day

RETURNING to the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS), we see a significant financial and social entity that serves approximately 300,000 citizens.

Given its extensive reach and influence, PIFSS plays a crucial role in Kuwait's national economy.

This substantial responsibility necessitates that PIFSS be led by highly competent officials who are adept at managing such a vital institution.

As we look ahead, the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead will shape the future of social security in the country.

... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Lebanese Army mobilizes forces nationwide

KRCS continues humanitarian aid for Palestinians a year into Gaza conflict

GAZA, Oct 8, (KUNA): As the war on Gaza Strip entered its second year Monday, Kuwait Red Crescent Society continues to play a leading role in providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.

The State of Kuwait has been a trailblazer in humanitarian action in Gaza Strip since the start of the aggression of the Israeli occupation forces, said Mohsen Atawneh, director of Wafaa Capacity Building and Microfinance - a Palestinian non-profit org.

"Kuwaiti aid workers and volunteers offer essential support, including foodstuffs and health services, to the Palestinians under the umbrella of KRCS," he said in statements to KUNA on the first anniversary of the war.

"The charity loaf," one of the Kuwaiti pioneering relief projects, saw the distribution of thousands of food parcels and medical supplies to the residents of Gaza in collaboration with local volunteers, Atawneh pointed out.

Besides, KRCS provided Gaza with municipal vehicles, medicines, ambulances and accommodation essentials to help alleviate the suffering of huge numbers of internally displaced people, he noted.

Atawneh extolled His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for instructing the launch of an air corridor to help speed up the relief effort for Gazans.

In the framework of the air corridor, the first medical team from Kuwait, led by director of KRCS operations sector Dr. Mosaed Al-Anzi, arrived in Gaza via Rafah border crossing to conduct complicated surgeries at Palestinian hospitals, he added.

On a similar note, Director of Kuwait specialized hospital Dr. Sohaib Al-Hems appreciated the great role of Kuwait in supporting the relief efforts in Gaza Strip.

He expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir, the government and people of Kuwait for standing by the Palestinian people and their firm support to Palestine cause.

Meanwhile, Israeli occupation forces killed 56 Palestinians and injured 278 others in the past 24 hours, said Palestinian health authorities on Tuesday.

Continued on Page 5

Local

Kuwait eyes expertise swap in bid to develop railway project — See Page 2

Business

Bursa Kuwait closes up 51.32 points — See Page 8

Film

Alt-rock wave sweeps Broadway stage — See Page 12

DGCA, UK discuss civil aviation boost

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): DGCA Chairman Sheikh Humoud Mubarak Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met with British Ambassador to Kuwait, Belinda Lewis, on Tuesday to discuss strengthening cooperation in civil aviation between Kuwait and the UK.

According to a statement from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the talks focused on enhancing bilateral ties, aiming to boost economic benefits through increased collaboration in aviation. The meeting also explored ways to facilitate airline operations, encouraging the addition of more flights and welcoming new carriers to serve passengers traveling between the two countries.

Ambassador Lewis commended the DGCA for its ongoing support of British Airways and emphasized the importance of expanding operations to include new UK airports, benefiting tourism, education, and business exchanges.

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:26	Asr	14:56
Sunrise ..	05:44	Maghrib ..	17:26
Zohr	11:36	Isha	18:43

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Hot and relatively humid especially over coastal areas with light variable wind to light to moderate southeasterly wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h with a chance for mist forming over coastal areas.

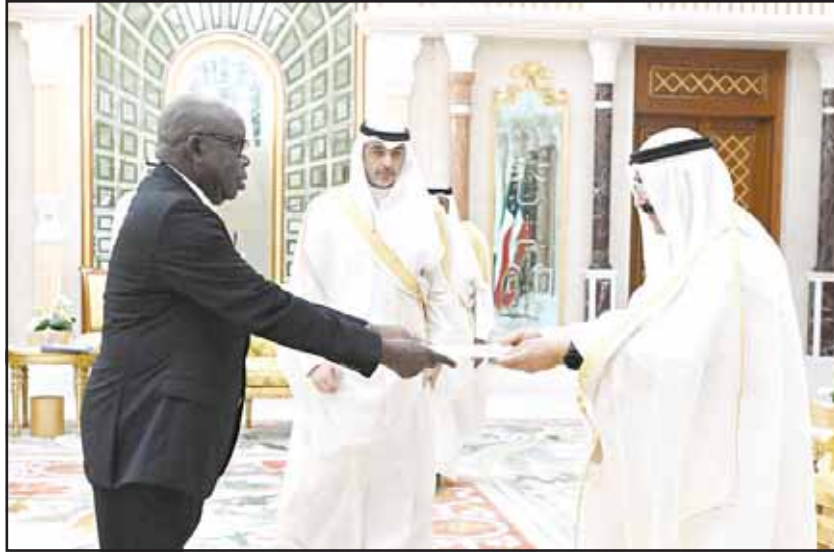
By Night: Rather hot to mild and

Weather

humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	35	20
Kuwait Airport	37	19

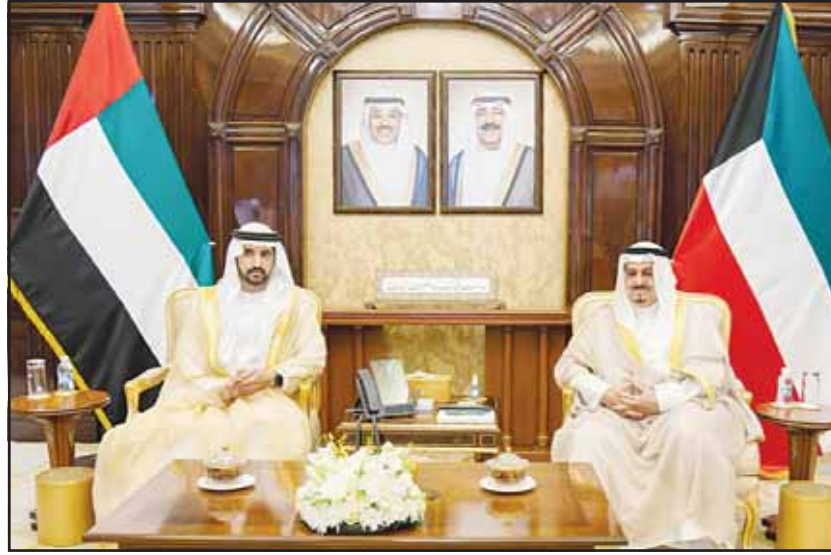
Abdaly	39	19
Bubyan	32	15
Jahra	39	20
Failaka Island	33	18
Salmiyah	32	26
Ahmadi	35	17
Jal Aliyah	38	19
Nuwaisib	38	17



Amiri Diwan photo
His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives credentials of Ambassador Awad Al-Karim Erasto Ibrahim as Ambassador of the Republic of South Sudan.

Amir receives diplomats credentials

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received on Tuesday the Ambassadors of South Sudan, Honduras, Bangladesh, Algeria, and Kyrgyzstan who handed their credentials during a ceremony at Bayan Palace. Senior state officials attended the ceremony. (KUNA)



PM Diwan photo
His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah receives the Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum.

PM receives UAE Crown Prince

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Tuesday Dubai Crown Prince, UAE Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum and his accompanying delegation. (KUNA)

HH Amir congratulates re-elected Tunisian Pres

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations to Tunisian President Kais Saied on his re-election as president.

In his cable, His Highness the Amir wished him success and hoped for more progress and prosperity for Tunisia and its people.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations to Tunisian President Kais Saied on his re-election as president.

In his cable, His Highness the Crown Prince wished him success and hoped for more progress and prosperity for Tunisia and its people.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah sent on Tuesday a cable of congratulations to Tunisian President Kais Saied on his re-election as president.

Dubai Crown Prince, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad bin Rashed Al-Maktoum and his accompanying delegation left Kuwait on Tuesday following an official visit.

The UAE guests were seen off by First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yusuf Al-Sabah and senior officials of the Ministry of Defense.



Photo by Samer Shaqir
Assistant Foreign Minister for American Affairs Sheikh Nawaf Abdullateef Al Ahmad and the Mexican Ambassador to Kuwait Eduardo Peña Haller during the cake-cutting ceremony.

Embassy marks 214th National Day

'Mexico, Kuwait ties strengthen with trade growing every year'

By Saeed Mahmoud Saleh

Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Embassy of Mexico in Kuwait celebrated its National Day, marking the 214th anniversary of its independence.

The event was attended by the Ambassador of Mexico to Kuwait His Excellency Eduardo Peña Haller, and the guest of honor the Assistant Foreign Minister for American Affairs Sheikh Nawaf Abdullateef Al Ahmad, along with members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the State of Kuwait.

The celebration began with a cake-cutting ceremony by Ambassador Peña Haller and the Sheikh Nawaf Abdullateef Al-Ahmad, followed by the playing of the national anthems of both Kuwait and Mexico.

In a statement he gave on this occasion, His Excellency Eduardo Peña Haller honored the memory of his country's independence, which began 218 years ago in the small town of Dolores, Hidalgo, when priest Miguel Hidalgo urged the people to rise up against the viceroyalty of New Spain.

"Together with his fellow priest José María Morelos y Pavón, they called for a new course for Mexico, one that championed the dignity and freedom of all its people," Ambassador Haller said.

He highlighted the close ties between Kuwait and Mexico, indicating that both countries share common values such as respect for international law, a strong belief in multilateralism, the promotion of peaceful coexistence, and a commitment to international cooperation as a vital instrument for building a more just and equitable world.

Ambassador Haller stressed that the shared values of Kuwait and Mexico are not coincidental but rather the result of similar historical experiences, which have led them to understand that violence, militarism, and armament do not resolve the challenges facing humanity; instead, they exacerbate existing differences.

He emphasized that the relationship between Kuwait and Mexico has strengthened in recent years, marked by high-level visits that have solidified ties and resulted in the signing of 25 treaties and agreements.

Ambassador Haller revealed that trade between the two countries is growing at an annual rate of 28.5 percent.

He explained that the presidency of Mexico is now held by a woman, Dr. Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo, since October 1, 2024.

This milestone marks a new chapter in Mexico's history and complements the constitutional reform of 2019, which guarantees gender parity in federal and state congresses, as well as in the municipal councils of all 32 states.

Ambassador Haller also paid tribute to the Mexican community in Kuwait, consisting of 150 citizens (80 women and 70 men), who are recognized for their work ethic, sense of community, and dedication to both Mexican and Kuwaiti societies.

He honored Engineer Diana Sánchez Squivel for her contributions to reducing sulfur emissions, an environmentally harmful pollutant from oil refining, in her role at the Al-Zour Plant.

The ambassador also recognized Mrs. Esperanza Zuzuarregui for her selfless efforts in organizing the Mexican community in Kuwait for over 40 years.

On the sidelines of the event, the Arab Times asked Ambassador Haller about the growing cooperation between Kuwait and Mexico, and the ambassador said the cooperation is progressing in various fields, particularly in medicine, commerce, and culture.

In the medical field, Ambassador Haller explained that he is working with relevant Kuwaiti institutions to establish leading medical projects in Kuwait. Kuwait imports drugs, cars, and food from Mexico. The establishment of these medical projects will include training programs and research exchanges, particularly focusing on common diseases prevalent in both countries, such as diabetes and heart disease.

He highlighted that Mexico has advanced universities engaged in scientific research and surgeries that Kuwait could benefit from.

Regarding cultural initiatives, Ambassador Haller announced plans to enhance cultural exchange with Kuwait, including the introduction of a number of music bands and shows, adding that these events will coincide with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Mexico.

On the political front, Ambassador Haller emphasized the fact that both Kuwait and Mexico are committed to respecting international law, and believe that conflicts can be resolved through dialogue and negotiations, provided the parties involved seek peace and security.

He affirmed that both countries are peace-loving nations that believe war is not a solution.

'University vital to shape future workforce'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Nader Al-Jallal, reiterated the Ministry's unwavering support for Abdullah Al-Salem University, emphasizing the institution's vital role in shaping the future workforce of Kuwait by graduating well-qualified youth across various fields and specializations, reports Al-Seyassah daily.



Dr. Al-Jallal

Al-Jalal made these remarks during the university's celebration of its inaugural ac-

ademic year and the welcoming of its first batch of students.

In a press statement, Al-Jallal commended the university's efforts to ensure that its educational programs remain modern and relevant, aligned with the needs of the labor market.

He praised the commitment of the university's founding board of directors, particularly their work in ensuring academic readiness and student preparedness, which demonstrates that Abdullah Al-Salem University is on the right track.

During the ceremony, Chairperson of the Founding Board, Dr. Moudi Al-Hamoud, highlighted the significance of the university, which bears a name rich in historical and cultural heritage.

Kuwait eyes expertise swap in bid to develop railway project

We're keen to develop infrastructure: Minister Al-Mashaan

By Mohammad Ghanem

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Global Rail Transport Infrastructure Exhibition and Conference (GRTIEC) that kicked off in the UAE capital today is a platform for expertise swap and study thoughts on how to develop the planned railway in Kuwait, said a senior Kuwaiti official. Theme of the event's first edition, "Setting Transport Infrastructure and Global Connectivity," mirrors its significance, said the Kuwaiti Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan, who is heading her country's delegation at the activity.

It has brought together elite personalities from the transport and railways sectors and strategy, scheduled to address global approaches in the railway namely plans for sustainable infrastructure and challenges, the minister said, affirming that she and her accompanying officials would study experience of other countries at this level.

Up to 300 entities from more than 40 countries are partaking in the affiliate exhibition.

Dr. Al-Mashaan, emphasized Kuwait's dedication to advancing its infrastructure and transportation sector by leveraging international expertise. Leading the Kuwaiti delegation to the Global Rail Conference in Abu Dhabi, Al-Mashaan highlighted the importance of Kuwait's participation in this high-profile event, which features over 300 exhibitors from more than 40 countries.

Conference

Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Tuesday, Minister Al-Mashaan underscored the significance of the conference's theme, "Enhancing Transport Infrastructure and Enabling Global Connectivity." She noted that this inaugural session brings together leaders, experts, and strategists from the transport and railway sectors to discuss global trends, sustainable infrastructure solutions, and the specific challenges facing the railway industry.

Al-Mashaan emphasized that her technical team is eager to exchange experiences and learn from global leaders in the sector. She noted that their participation in the exhibition held alongside the conference will allow them to engage with international delegations and explore new methods for enhancing Kuwait's infrastructure.

Meanwhile, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) has asked the five companies bidding for the tender on the study and detailed design of the railway project, as well as the preparation of tender documents (first phase), to extend the basic insurance period from Aug 18 to Nov 14.

This is based on Decision No. 22 that the Board of Directors of CAPT issued during its meeting no. 32/2024 on Aug 14, as per Article 46 of Public Tenders Law No. 49/2016.

Sources explained that Article 46 stipulates that the tender remains in effect and cannot be withdrawn from the time of its issuance until the end of its validity period, and no price adjustments shall be taken into account after submitting the tender.



KUNA photo
Kuwaiti Minister of Public Works Dr. Noura Al-Mashaan at the opening of the World Railway Conference in Abu Dhabi, in the presence of Sheikh Dhiyab bin Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Head of the Presidential Office for Development Affairs and the families of the martyrs in the UAE, and the UAE Minister of Infrastructure, Suhail Al Mazrouei.

Enforce decision: CEO

KPC set to implement e-attendance system

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The CEO of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Sheikh Nawaf Al-Saud Al-Sabah has directed all affiliated companies to emphasize the implementation of an electronic attendance and departure tracking system for their employees in Kuwait, and to coordinate the adoption of the implementation mechanism.

Sheikh Nawaf authorized the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and the CEO of KPC to take all necessary measures to enforce this decision for employees in KPC's affiliated companies, in accordance with directives from the Council of Ministers.

The directive highlighted the importance of implementing resources and proposing mechanisms for the attendance and departure tracking system, ensuring that these

solutions are approved for use within the company.

Informed sources explained that KPC is actively working to encourage national talent and simultaneously increase oversight over employee attendance and departure in all companies. This initiative aims to ensure fairness and equality within the workplace, amid concerns over fictitious job advertisements related to KPC and its affiliated companies.

In another development, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has established new departments at the Ahmadi Hospital, which it owns.

According to a circular, Dr. Shaima Ahmed has been appointed as the Head of the Dermatology and Venereology Department, and Dr. Sulaiman Al-Munaiif has taken up the role of head of the Neonatal Department. Dr. Mai Al-Rashoud has been assigned as the head of the Medical Laboratory Services Department.

Minister pledges top quality homes for citizens

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Minister of State for Municipal Affairs and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Abdullatif Al-Mishari, has emphasized Kuwait's commitment to celebrating Arab Housing Day, which takes place annually on the first Monday of October, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This observance aligns with the vision of Kuwait's leadership and its long-term development goals.

Speaking on this occasion, Al-Mishari highlighted the

nation's dedication to completing ongoing housing projects with the highest quality standards, while also addressing challenges to ensure timely housing delivery for citizens.

Kuwait's participation in Arab Housing Day reinforces its commitment to the state's vision of transforming the country into a financial and commercial hub, a goal reflected in this year's theme, "Promoting the principle of participation and transparency in the urban planning process."

Seven non-complying charity societies shut

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: In confirmation of the news published by Al-Seyassah daily in its September 26 issue, under the title 'Five charity societies at risk of dissolution', the Minister of Social Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, has issued a decision to dissolve seven non-profit associations due to their failure to rectify their legal status, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press statement, the Ministry of Social Affairs noted that "the decision was made as part of efforts to organize civil work and ensure that associations comply with applicable laws and regulations."

"It also aims to enhance the transparency of civil work and guarantee that all associations operate within a proper legal framework that serves community goals."

The ministry explained that "this decision followed an ample opportunity provided to these associations to correct their situations; however, they did not respond to the measures taken."



Acting President of Kuwait University, Dr. Osama Al-Saeed, Filip Katic, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia to Kuwait and other officials.

KU, Serbia to boost academic ties

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Acting President of Kuwait University, Dr. Osama Al-Saeed, welcomed Filip Katic, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia to Kuwait, to strengthen academic relations between Kuwait University and Serbian universities.

The visit highlighted the commitment of both institutions to enhance bilateral ties and explore the latest

developments in student and academic exchange programs.

During the meeting, Dr. Al-Saeed emphasized Kuwait University's dedication to fostering cultural exchange between different universities in alignment with applicable regulations and laws. He noted that the university currently hosts a number of Serbian students and expressed a desire to increase this number in the coming years.

Deputy Editor-in-Chief welcomes Mol delegation

Brig. Abu Suleib visits Arab Times to foster media partnerships



Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Suleiman Al-Jarallah during the reception of the Ministry of Interior delegation.

Al-Seyassah Report

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Deputy Editor-in-Chief and Administrative Director of Al-Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers Suleiman Al-Jarallah on Tuesday received at his office Director General of the Public Relations and Security Media Department in the Interior Ministry Brigadier Nasser Abu Suleib and his accompanying delegation.

They discussed ways to strengthen cooperation and exchange of experiences between the ministry and the media, including local newspapers.

The delegation included Deputy Director General of the department Brigadier Yousef Anbar, Director of the Security Media Department Colonel Othman Al-Gharib, Director of the Public Relations Department Colonel Faisal Al-Daihani, Director of the Printing Department Colonel Abdulhadi Al-Mayas, Assistant Director of the Hospitality Department Colonel Fahad Al-Azmi, and Assistant Director of the Administrative, Financial and Maintenance Affairs Department Lieutenant Colonel Yousef Bahman. Al-Jarallah affirmed that this is a valuable visit, as it strengthens ties between the ministry and the media.

Abu Suleib expressed appreciation for the Deputy Editor-in-Chief, and praised the continuous cooperation of the newspaper's Editorial Department and their commitment to ensure credibility in publishing news.

diwaniya ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'Zionist ideologies and their impact on Palestine conflict'

"THE Palestinian conflict has evolved beyond merely debating the Jewish presence on Palestinian land. It now focuses on asserting the Palestinian people's rightful claim to their sovereign state, as recognized by United Nations Resolution 181 in 1947," columnist **Habib Al-Sanafi** wrote for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"However, the UN remains powerless to restore the stolen rights of the oppressed Palestinian people. A year has passed since the unprecedented and brutal Zionist assault on Gaza and the West Bank, and the political climate and military tensions in the Middle East are nearing a breaking point, with the possibility of a major conflict looming.

"What sets this current phase of conflict apart is the sheer brutality of the Israeli occupation forces, who unleash relentless missile strikes on residential areas in Gaza, Lebanon, and other affected regions.

"Israel appears determined to make this its final war, showing no regard for the outcry or future condemnation it may face.

"The civilians, including paramedics, healthcare workers, and medical teams, are now legitimate targets for Israeli aircraft and guided missiles.

"The shelters, camps, schools, markets, and residential areas have become daily targets of its barbaric forces, which seem to thirst for innocent blood.

"Meanwhile, the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance fighters avoid civilian areas, focusing their attacks solely on military strongholds and targets.

"The conflict has also laid bare the stark international polarization, with the United States and its Western European allies directly involved. These colonial powers share common principles, ideals, religious values, and a belief in Protestantism (Judeo-Christianity), which have long justified the dispossession of indigenous peoples, legitimizing acts of genocide, ethnic cleansing, forced displacement, and cultural erasure.

"Today, the Western world is reasserting the same concepts that shaped its political, economic, and social systems.

"At the heart of these ideas is classical liberalism, which historically promoted the absolute freedom of the Anglo-Saxon white man, rooted in Protestant beliefs that embraced Zionist ideologies.

"These ideologies espoused the superiority of the Germanic race, the Divine selection of the "chosen people," and the promise of their return to the Holy Land in Palestine, seen as a precursor to the Second Coming of Prophet Jesus (PBUH).

"Such notions underpinned both the English Revolution of 1688 and the American Revolution of 1775, cementing a shared European and American policy framework that has since bolstered Zionist ambitions, ultimately leading to the creation of the Zionist state in Palestine.

"In this context, the Palestinian struggle is no longer about disputing the Jewish presence on their land. Instead, it aims to enforce the historical right of the Palestinian people to their state, as outlined in UN Resolution 181, a resolution that the international community has failed to implement in restoring their usurped rights."

Also:

"In the midst of the great leap in the field of technology, it has become important for the home front to be fortified in technological security means," **Dr. Ghadir Mohammed Asiri** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"The challenges are many in the field of available technologies for revealing information and tracking the credibility of data provided by the concerned parties, and keeping pace with providing the capabilities that can operate modern technological equipment.

"Add to this the global race by big powers and the speed in providing the latest equipment in the world of technology and how to employ and operate it within the country, and the most important challenge is the ability to educate citizens and society to use what contributes to facilitating dealing with it.

"We find that digital transformation enters our daily lives through the simplest things such as daily information, face print on the phone, information restricted to personal data on the phone, personal cards, judicial information recorded on easy programs, biometric fingerprint, and other precise electronic programs on the phone, all of which are exposed to technological hacking.

"This hacking is difficult to stop because in the past it was also available in opening files and reviewing confidential sensitive material, and what governs and regulates reviewing them and not leaking them is personal ethics and transcendence in them.

"The availability of a positive foreign quantity that could be for the community and contribute to enhancing security from daily technology and dealing with citizens of different age groups and positions also requires a national educational program to educate them and prepare their minds to absorb everything that is useful from it.

"This is in addition to educating individuals with awareness that everything a person does not know he fears, and to enhance self-control in use, as the availability of devices with this technological depth within everyone's reach requires a high degree of awareness of its use and caution from its consequences in misuse.

"Today the next generation is the generation of prevention, and the strongest societies are evidence that they have excelled in culture, awareness and community guidance to facilitate the lives of their citizens."

□ □ □

"The diplomatic efforts of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled reflect a remarkable convergence of wisdom, experience and knowledge. His impactful address to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly clearly articulated Kuwait's steadfast positions in support of Arab rights, advancing Kuwaiti diplomacy and enhancing its stature both regionally and internationally."

Eng. Adel Al Jarallah Al-Kharafi wrote for **Al-Seyassah** daily.

"For some time, we missed Kuwait's pioneering diplomatic role in facilitating Arab-Arab mediation and resolving disputes. Its recent mediation efforts, particularly in addressing the Qatar dispute with several Arab nations, demonstrated its critical role in diffusing tensions and preventing further escalation.

"However, this proactive diplomacy has been notably absent in recent regional and international developments, especially during the events in Gaza. His Highness the Crown Prince's extensive international and regional relations and his diplomatic acumen are vital in restoring this essential role.

"His Highness rightly criticized the limited effectiveness of the United Nations regarding the conflicts in Gaza and Lebanon, reinforcing his strong support for the Arab position. His insightful vision for the UN's responsibilities in resolving these issues represents a significant evolution in the foreign policy of the country."

— **Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyeh**

Court sentences ex-minister to four years in jail, fines KD 400K

Kuwait busts residency broker ring on fraud charges

By Jaber Al-Hamoud, Munif Naif

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Ministerial Court, presided over by Judge Hani Al-Hamdan, has concluded its ruling in the case filed against former minister Mubarak Al-Harees by sentencing him to four-year imprisonment and imposing a fine of KD 400,000. He has also been barred from holding public office after being convicted of exploiting his influence to illegally obtain two industrial plots.

The defendant registered the plots in the name of a Kuwaiti citizen and subsequently sold them for KD 780,000, using the proceeds to purchase a property in London in an attempt to conceal his ownership of the plots.

The court acquitted the second accused and ordered the confiscation of KD 770,000.

The Public Prosecution stated in its accusation report that former minister Mubarak Al-Harees, in his capacity as the Minister of Service Affairs and Minister of National Assembly Affairs, received a personal benefit from the Public Warehousing Company. He used his influence over public authorities, specifically the Kuwait Municipality and the Public Authority for Industry, to secure a decision that changed the activities permitted in the Jahra and Sulaihiya Industrial Expansion Area from industrial craft to commercial service.

This decision was made specifically for plots Nos. 11 and 12, without obtaining the necessary approval from the concerned authority - the Municipal Council - to change or add activities for those industrial plots. In addition, KD 50,000 was withdrawn from Gulf Bank through a cheque dated September 19, 2022 issued by the Logistics Warehouses Company, a subsidiary of the Public Warehousing Company.

The former minister concealed the fact that he was the true owner of the usufruct rights for the two plots in Jahra Industrial Expansion and Sulaihiya, which he sold in March 2022 for KD 780,000 after changing their designated activity.

As a public official subject to law No. 2/2016, which pertains to the establishment of the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority and the disclosure of financial assets, Al-Harees committed the crime of illicit gain. He achieved an unjustified increase in wealth from the proceeds of selling the usufruct rights to plots E11 and E12 in Jahra and Sulaihiya industrial areas, without disclosing this transaction.

He submitted two incomplete financial asset declarations during and after his ministerial tenure, dated August 4, 2020, and March 21, 2022, concealing his ownership of the usufruct rights to plots No. 11 and 12 in Jahra and Sulaihiya areas, of which he was the actual beneficiary.

He also committed money laundering by transferring proceeds from the sale of these plots from his account at Kuwait Finance House to his account at the National Bank of Kuwait. He subsequently transferred KD 754,573 to his account at the National Bank of Kuwait in the United Kingdom where he purchased a property with those funds, all while knowing this would conceal and disguise the illegal source of the money.

Furthermore, the former minister engaged in forgery by falsifying a bank document, specifically the "Know Your Customer" form at Kuwait Finance House dated January 14, 2021, and its update. In this form, he failed to disclose his ownership of the usufruct rights to plots E11 and E12 in Jahra and Sulaihiya areas, thus misrepresenting his sources of wealth and annual income.

□ □ □

Residency brokers held: Kuwait has clamped down on a group of residency brokers made up of various nationalities on charges of fraudulent practices, which include offering residencies in return for a bribe, the Interior Ministry said on Tuesday, reports KUNA.

The culprits are accused of recruiting workers domestically for an unnamed company in return for monetary sums worth between KD 700 to KD 1000 per laborer, according to a ministry statement.

The ministry has launched legal action against all those involved as part of its efforts to target unlawful practices, underlining that no one is above the law.

□ □ □

Court looks into Hammad's case: The Court of Appeals is currently presiding over the case of Saadoun Hammad, a former Member of Parliament who turned himself in at the Kuwait Airport, Sunday, to commence his two-year prison sentence.

This sentence, which includes hard labor, was imposed for his involvement in vote-buying activities during the 2024 national elections. Hammad is appealing to the court to annul his imprisonment.

Previously, the Court of Appeals had rejected Hammad's request to suspend the execution of his sentence, which was part of a broader case concerning vote-buying that also implicated several other individuals.

The proceedings reflect ongoing efforts to address electoral integrity in Kuwait, as Hammad's actions and the resulting legal consequences spotlight issues of corruption within the political landscape.

□ □ □

Prison, fine in exam leak case: In the case of the leakage of high school exams via WhatsApp groups and social media, the Court of Cassation, presided over by Judge Sultan Bourseli, sentenced a Kuwaiti man and a Kuwaiti woman to ten-year and seven-year jail terms respectively with hard labor, and ordered them to pay fines totaling KD 308,000. Another citizen and an expatriate received six-month sentences with hard labor, while seven other defendants were acquitted.



KUNA photo

Interior minister during the launching of training course in AI and cyber-crime.

Mol launches AI and cyber-crime training course for securitymen

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences has launched a specialized training course on artificial intelligence and cyber-crimes, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The course, designed for members of the Ministry of Interior and other relevant governmental and educational institutions, is also supported by Major General Fawaz Al-Sabah, Assistant Undersecretary for Education and Training Affairs at the Ministry of Interior.

The event was organized under the patronage and in the presence of the First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef. A press release issued by the Public Relations and Security Media Department of the Ministry of Interior, the

course is being held at the Arab Planning Institute and will run until October 9.

It covers a broad range of critical topics related to the applications of artificial intelligence in combating cyber-crime.

The course aims to familiarize participants with the fundamentals of artificial intelligence, including its components and cutting-edge applications, such as voice recognition for self-driving vehicles and machine translation systems.

It delves into machine learning and deep learning techniques, focusing on the use of artificial neural networks to process and analyze complex data sets.

Moreover, the program emphasizes the importance of natural language processing, which allows machines to comprehend and interpret human language.

Expat's arrest ordered over 9 dud cheques

Interior Ministry arrests 3 suspects with 8 kg of narcotics in Kabd farm

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior announced on Tuesday the arrest of three suspects in possession of eight kilograms of various drugs and a significant amount of cash in Kabd area.

In an official statement, the General Directorate of Security Relations and Media at the ministry reported that the Criminal Security Sector, represented by the General Administration for Drug control, successfully raided a farm in Kabd.

During the operation, authorities seized three kilograms of hashish, three kilograms of a synthetic substance known as chemical, two kilograms of methamphetamine (locally referred to as "Shabu"), along with 1,000 capsules of the drug "Lyrica," and an undisclosed amount of cash from the suspects, believed to be proceeds from drug sales.

The three individuals, residing illegally in the country, have been referred to the Public Prosecution for legal proceedings.

The ministry reaffirmed its ongoing efforts to combat the spread of drugs and protect society from the dangers of drug abuse and continuous monitoring of criminal net-

works with the goal of eradicating drug trafficking and consumption.

The ministry also stressed its commitment to enforcing the law and urged all citizens and residents to cooperate with law enforcement by reporting any suspicious activities through the emergency hotline (112) or the General Administration for Drug control (1884141).

□ □ □

9 dud cheques issued: The deputy public prosecutor ordered the arrest of an expatriate for issuing nine dud cheques, reports Al-Anba daily.

This is in response to the complaint that the legal representative of Al-Sayer Facilities Company filed at West Abdullah Al-Mubarak Police Station; indicating the expatriate issued cheques in favor of the company, but the balance of the latter's bank account is not enough to cover the amounts stated in the cheques.

A misdemeanor case was registered against the expatriate for issuing nine cheques despite having insufficient funds.

Municipality cracks down on 'illegal market'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Kuwait Municipality's inspection teams, operating in the Ahmadi Governorate, dismantled an illegal market established by unauthorized workers, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During their operations, the teams seized approximately 400 stolen and used water tanks of various sizes, found in the southern region of the country.

The seizure was the result of comprehensive field monitoring and inspection activities conducted by the municipality's enforcement teams.

These operations are part of a broader initiative aimed at addressing illegal encroachments on desert areas and the unauthorized commercial exploitation of these lands.

The teams were vigilant in identifying and confronting individuals engaging in such illicit activities without the neces-

sary licenses from relevant official authorities.

The Public Relations Department of the Kuwait Municipality emphasized the importance of these inspections in maintaining public order and ensuring compliance with local regulations.

The crackdown on unauthorized markets not only protects the environment but also aims to safeguard consumers from potentially unsafe or substandard products.

The authorities are committed to continuing their efforts in monitoring and enforcing laws that regulate commercial activities in desert areas, ensuring that all operations are conducted legally and ethically.

The municipality's proactive stance reflects its dedication to preserving the integrity of public spaces and maintaining the safety and well-being of the community.

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Al-Seyassah photo

Capital governor during the visit to PAAET.

Governor stresses job-ready skills for national progress

Call for better education-market alignment

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Governor of the Capital, Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ali, has underscored the importance of strengthening human capabilities to serve Kuwait and contribute to the educational sector, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

He emphasized the need to align the labor market's output with various specializations and professions that can drive comprehensive economic development.

During a visit yesterday to the

Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), the Higher Institute of Communications and Navigation, and the College of Health Sciences, Sheikh Abdullah highlighted the necessity for focused efforts in developing a skilled workforce.

His visit also included attendance at the third student exhibition, titled "From Your Decision to Your Stability," where he was accompanied by PAAET Director Dr. Hassan Al-

Fajjam and several administrative and technical leaders.

Sheikh Abdullah emphasized Kuwait's ongoing need for the contributions of its citizens in diverse technical, professional, and educational sectors. He called for improvements in training programs within the authority to better meet labor market demands, ensuring graduates are equipped with the skills needed for successful employment.

The Governor urged greater attention to be placed on technical and vocational education, emphasizing that enhancing training in these fields will have a positive impact on national development by producing a well-qualified workforce.

He noted that better aligning education with the labor market would significantly boost the availability of skilled national workers, thereby contributing to Kuwait's broader economic progress.

Capital Committee greenlights city management mechanism

Parking, park and pedestrian bridge proposals put on hold

By Inaas Awadh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: During its meeting yesterday, chaired by Dr. Hassan Kamal, the Capital Committee of the Municipal Council approved only one of the seven items on its agenda. The approved item was a proposal submitted by Munira Al-Amir to establish various mechanisms for managing the Capital area to preserve its appearance as a facade for Kuwait.

The committee retained on its agenda two items for further consideration:

■ A proposal submitted by Dr. Hassan Kamal for the design and construction of longitudinal parking lots in the Dasma Cooperative Society branch, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Works's Sanitary Engineering Department and the Ministry of Interior's General



Al-Seyassah photo

Dr. Hassan Kamal, Municipal Council member

Traffic Department.

■ The Ministry of Justice's request to reallocate the sites of the Constitutional Court and the Capital Markets Court in Granada, in coordination with the relevant ministries.

The committee returned the request from

the Ministry of Communication for the transfer of the Bus Departure Center for External Transport site in Al-Jiwan area to the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) back to the executive body for improved response.

Furthermore, the committee referred to the Jahra Committee a proposal submitted by member Abdullah Al-Enezi for the construction of a pedestrian bridge between Sulaibikhat and Nahda.

It postponed a proposal submitted by the Municipal Council Chairman Abdullah Al-Mahri regarding the use of Tabari Garden in Faiha as a public park, and a letter from the Mayor of Mansouriyah Abdulwahab Al-Naqi concerning tree uprooting, safety violations, and sidewalk exploitation for parking.

In a related matter, the Municipal Council member Fahad Al-Khenin submitted a proposal to remove a street in Abu Halifa Block 1.

He cited two reasons:

■ Many houses along this street are occupied by individuals with special needs,

■ The narrow distance between the houses makes parking and access difficult.

Community bonds rekindled

Sheikh Hamad's Diwan: A joyous return

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Diwan of Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali opened its doors on Tuesday evening in the Al Shamiya area for a heartfelt reunion after the summer vacation. The event was a vibrant celebration of love, kindness, and brotherhood, bringing together a diverse crowd of family, friends, and community members from across Kuwait, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

With a radiant smile, Sheikh Hamad warmly greeted the guests, saying, "Welcome ... Welcome to your Diwan, after a long time."

This simple yet profound invitation set the tone for the evening, highlighting the deep connections and sense of belonging shared among the attendees.

The gathering was filled with expressions of friendship and a shared sense of longing for renewed connections, reflecting the rich values of brotherhood and the authentic traditions that have characterized Kuwaiti society for generations.

Among the attendees were several sheikhs and official figures, alongside dignitaries and longtime friends, all of whom have come to view this weekly meeting as a cherished occasion for so-



Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Sabah

cial interaction. Dubbed the "Tuesday of Love," the Diwan has become a staple in the community, serving as a platform for strengthening the bonds of affection and fostering fraternal relationships among those present.

As the evening progressed, the atmosphere remained warm and inviting with friendly conversations flowing freely.

The guests engaged in discussions about various societal matters, exchanging opinions in a constructive dialogue that

underpinned the importance of communication and unity. This collaborative spirit was focused on a higher goal -- the love of Kuwait, emphasizing the shared commitment to community and national pride.

The gathering not only celebrated personal connections but also reinforced the collective responsibility of citizens to support and uplift one another.

In an era where social ties can sometimes feel strained, the Diwan of Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali stands as a beacon of kindness and welcome, reaffirming the timeless values of community and togetherness in Kuwaiti culture.



Al-Seyassah photos

Diwan Al-Shamiya receives its pioneers.

Co-op sector to adopt job testing system

MoSA to boost Kuwaitization efforts

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Ministry of Social Affairs, through a four-member committee that is responsible for reviewing nomination files and conducting personal interviews for jobs intended for Kuwaitization in cooperative societies, is currently considering carrying out acceptance tests for those wishing to work in cooperative societies, reports Al-Jarida daily.

According to informed sources from the ministry, this committee includes representatives from the Public Authority for Manpower and the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies. Candidates who pass these tests will qualify for a personal interview, during which the committee will decide on their acceptance and employment.

The ministry's Cooperative Sector is collaborating with public and private universities to develop a comprehensive framework for these tests. The goal is to ensure that qualified individuals are prepared to manage the billion-dollar cooperative sector following successful personal interviews.

The decision to introduce these tests was prompted by concerns that the current recruitment process has not met expectations, as evidenced by the limited number of citizens who were actually employed in cooperative societies. This situation has persisted despite the passing of ministerial resolutions No. 67/2023 and 68/2023,

which amended regulations related to cooperative work and established requirements and benefits for supervisory positions in cooperative societies such as managers, their deputies, and department heads.

The sources explained that the Kuwaitization process is receiving wide attention and unwavering support from the Council of Ministers, along with continuous oversight from the Minister of Social Affairs, Family, and Childhood Affairs Dr. Amthar Al-Huwailah, who affirmed to the Cooperative Sector and the Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies the importance of expediting the recruitment process and filling vacant supervisory positions to accommodate as many eligible citizens as possible.

Once the final concept for these acceptance tests is developed, it will be thoroughly reviewed by the specialized committee before being presented to the undersecretary and then the minister of Social Affairs for approval and implementation.

Despite the strenuous efforts of the quartet committee, it struggles to accommodate the large number of applicants seeking job interviews. For example, there was only one supervisory position for which 37 citizens applied, all of whom were interviewed, resulting in the inefficient use of dozens of hours to select just one candidate.

On the other hand, if the proposed testing mechanism is approved and implemented, it will help streamline this process by filtering applicants and qualifying a limited number for the positions. This would allow personal interviews to be conducted more efficiently and acceptance decisions to be announced as quickly as possible.



Dr. Al-Huwailah

Salmon farming in development plan

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: As part of the efforts to enhance economic diversification and food security, work has commenced on a new salmon farming project within the development plan, reports Al-Qabas daily.

According to information obtained by the daily about the project, the initiative aims to establish a research unit focused on farming salmon, sea bass, and shem, as well as develop techniques for farming sea bass, sea cucumber, and coral. The goal is to provide these resources to the private sector, thereby contributing to economic diversification and food security.

The project, which was developed by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, represents a model for a small fish production unit with a capacity of up to one million small fish. It seeks to develop the fish farming industry in Kuwait by providing salmon and sea bass fingerlings, and exploring opportunities for producing other economically valuable marine species, including shem,

sea bass, and valuable marine organisms used in the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries, such as sea cucumber and coral.

The project also aims to enhance sustainability in production by utilizing alternative energy sources for the cultivation of sea bass juveniles.

Scheduled for completion in 2027, the project is expected to significantly contribute to achieving self-sufficiency and food security through the production of marine products in Kuwait. It will provide fresh seafood and alleviate the increasing pressure on natural fish stocks by narrowing the gap between supply and demand in the local market.

In addition, this initiative is anticipated to help stabilize prices for marine products, stimulate the economy, create job opportunities for Kuwaiti youth, and support related industries such as canning, marketing, and transportation.



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LOCAL

Kuwaiti, Indian engineers commit to joint initiatives

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Kuwait Society of Engineers and the Indian Engineers Association in Kuwait have reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing the existing cooperation between them in various professional and scientific fields, reports Al-Jarida daily.

This was highlighted during a meeting between the KSE Chair Eng. Faisal Al-Atal, and the Board of Directors of the Indian Engineers Association in Kuwait headed by Eng. Sam Kumar.

Eng. Al-Atal congratulated the Indian engineers on earning the trust of their community, and wished them success in their efforts to serve the profession and support engineers working in Kuwait.

Eng. Al-Atal welcomed the renewed

collaboration with the Indian engineering community, praising their contributions in exchanging engineering expertise and developing mechanisms for accrediting qualifications for practice in both countries.

He said, "We are committed to meeting the needs of our colleagues and supporting friendly relations between our two countries."

In response, Head of the Indian Engineers Association Eng. Sam Kumar affirmed the association's eagerness to cooperate with Kuwaiti engineers.

He expressed gratitude for the Kuwaiti side's support for the upcoming "Indian Engineer's Day," scheduled to be held in November, which will feature distinguished guests with high-level engineering expertise.

Partnership boosts student aid

Zakat House signs deal with Abdullah Al-Salem University

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): In a new initiative to promote social solidarity and support education in Kuwait, Zakat House has signed a cooperation agreement with Abdullah Al-Salem University to provide financial assistance to students enrolled at the university.

The agreement was finalized between Zakat House's Director General Dr. Majed Al-Azmi and the Chair of the University's Founding Board Dr. Moudi Al-Hamoud at the university's Khalidiya campus, in the presence of Secretary of the Board of Directors Dr. Adel Al-Hussainan, Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Haddab, and Director of Projects and Local Bodies at Zakat House Rad'an Al-Hajri.

This initiative is in line with Zakat House's strategy to allocate Zakat funds to needy groups, particularly in support

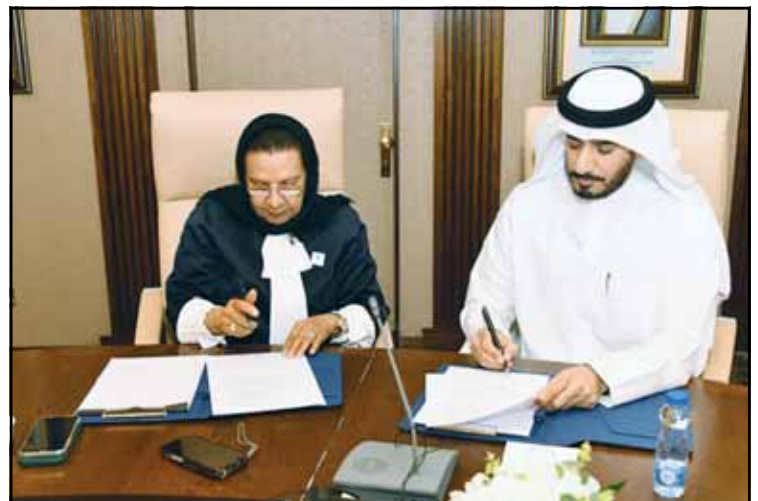
of education, and enable students to pursue their studies and contribute to Kuwait's future development.

Dr. Al-Hamoud affirmed the importance of this cooperation, and commended Zakat House for its pioneering role in supporting society and the educational sector.

She praised the great advancements made by the Zakat House in its community service efforts.

Al-Hamoud stated, "This initiative marks a promising start to developing education and reaffirms the spirit of social solidarity within Kuwaiti society, which is renowned for its charitable nature and commitment to giving".

She expressed her gratitude to the Zakat House for selecting the university as a partner in this initiative, which aims to bolster education and serve the community effectively.



Group photo of the participating Kuwaiti delegation.

KUNA photo

IOC organizes training course for Kuwaiti diplomats

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is putting together a two-day training course for a number of Kuwaiti diplomats with the goal of ratcheting up "pan-Islamic" cooperation, the Jeddah-based bloc said on Tuesday.

In addition to addressing some of the most pressing matters concerning the Islamic world, the initiative,

held in conjunction with Kuwait's foreign ministry, will also focus on Kuwait's contributions towards the bloc's "agenda."

The Kuwaiti diplomats will be lectured by a number of experts and specialists from within the OIC, the bloc added. (KUNA)

PAHW outlines documents for gov't housing

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) has announced the required documents for citizens who sold their houses and want to obtain government houses for rent, reports Al-Rai daily.

On its website, the authority enumerated the conditions as follows:

■ Personal appearance of the applicant or a special power of attorney

stating the type of procedure required

■ Copy of the civil identification cards of the husband and wife

■ Sale contract

■ Detailed salary certificate for those working in the private sector, oil sector and entities not affiliated with the Civil Service Commission

■ Salary certificate for those employed in the military sector (National

Guard, Police and Army);

■ Those who do not work in the private sector or are retired must present the academic certificates for two academic years (private schools) of their unmarried children, and salary certificate for employed and unmarried children. In the event of the death of the applicant (father or mother), a copy of the inheritance inventory must be presented.

Anti-bullying and counseling programs launched

Center for Promoting Moderation unveils initiatives to strengthen nat'l unity

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Director of the Center for Promoting Moderation Dr. Abdullah Al-Sharika has announced a series of upcoming projects; including the 'Strengthening National Unity' initiative aimed at fostering cohesion and support for the political leadership, reports Al-Anba daily.

In an interview with the daily recently, Al-Sharika disclosed that the center is reactivating various public awareness programs and projects, including the counseling initiative.

He confirmed that the center has started receiving cases and communications in collaboration with other State agencies, and that it is currently developing a revised counseling program for convicts to address shortcomings in previous versions.

Asked about the volume of communications and cases being handled by the center, Al-Sharika stressed that the numbers are manageable and within acceptable limits.

He expressed gratitude to the correctional institutions, particularly Director General of the Correctional Institutions General Department at the Interior Ministry Brigadier General Fahd Al-Ubaid, for their support and cooperation.

He also talked about the re-launch of the 'Tahseen' project, designed to protect students from deviant ideologies, which had been halted for more than five years due to the corona pandemic. He said the project will commence with female students, followed by male students.

He unveiled plans to revive the 'Intellectual Security' courses within the Ministry of Education. He thanked the ministry's leadership, particularly Undersecretary Mansour Al-Daihani and Assistant Undersecretary for Educational Development and Activities Maryam Al-Anzi, for their cooperation and commitment.

Recently, a comprehensive anti-bullying campaign titled,

"No to Bullying", was launched; targeting a large number of students in public academic institutions. This initiative is in partnership with the ministries of Interior and Information, he added.

He highlighted as well the revival of the 'Visiting Diwanis' project, which aims to engage the community after a long hiatus due to the pandemic.

He unveiled plans related to the 'Peaceful Coexistence' initiative, which aims to promote the culture of harmony in the country. He revealed this project will feature guidance activities in and outside the Ministry of Awqaf; in collaboration with security, psychological and media specialists, in order to promote societal unity and counter divisive elements.

He emphasized that around 95 percent of participants in these projects volunteer their time and efforts; hence, the minimal costs.

Earlier, the center, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, organized the "No to Bullying" campaign in several schools in Ahmadi Educational District.

This campaign is in line with the National Document for Promoting Moderation and Tolerance, which was approved by the Council of Ministers in a bid to promote peaceful coexistence and mutual respect; while combating violence, division and racism.

Al-Sharika said the campaign's objectives include promoting national unity and solidarity under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He also affirmed the center's commitment to address social behaviors that undermine societal peace, and limit the manifestations of violence and extremism; while advocating for compassion and tolerance among all segments of society, particularly the youths.

Perhaps Minister

Continued from Page 1

Also, a new purification system, which is aquaculture, has been successfully implemented by neighboring countries, while we face continuous opposition from those who impede progress and impose successive fees on farmers.

Farmers are also prohibited from building labor accommodations on their farms, which increases costs.

Furthermore, a flood of imported products continues to saturate the market. This situation has gone unaddressed for far too long due to a lack of vision to protect all national industries, not just those in food production.

In this context, we should look to neighboring countries for inspiration. The UAE recently declared all its emirates as agricultural areas, having started to diversify crops about 45 years ago. They even hosted a conference in the 1980s on agriculture in saline water and, at one point, were distributing surplus produce to poorer countries.

Saudi Arabia has become a food exporter, as has the Sultanate of Oman. Meanwhile, Qatar has purchased land in other countries to ensure the stability of its food security.

These plans are not new; these nations have worked diligently to implement them. In contrast, Kuwait has failed to fully exploit its available resources.

Officials often give excuses that hinder the development of this important sector, which is vital to the economy after oil. This has been draining a lot of financial resources and repeatedly placing us in crises, which we experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, it seems we have not learned from that lesson.

We sincerely hope that Minister Al-Huwailah's statements reflect a genu-

ine commitment to implementation and a willingness to rescue us from this chronic crisis.

We also urge the Council of Ministers to prioritize this issue, as food security is essential for the stability of the country.

No 'quick

Continued from Page 1

She stated, "The ministry adopts a comprehensive approach based on reforms aimed at enhancing social justice and achieving sustainable development."

In a press statement following her discussion with the IMF delegation led by Francesco Baroudi, Al-Huwailah reiterated that the ministry is working under a comprehensive reform strategy designed to enhance the social and economic systems of Kuwait, ultimately aiming for long-term justice and stability.

This strategy is part of broader efforts to align with Kuwait's developmental vision, ensuring the welfare of its citizens while safeguarding national achievements.

The meetings addressed critical topics, primarily focusing on social assistance and economic reforms essential for achieving sustainable social stability.

The IMF delegation highlighted that there are no quick or easy solutions to Kuwait's economic challenges, yet they acknowledged the country's significant potential for transformation if reforms are executed thoughtfully and with balance.

Informed sources interpreted Minister Al-Huwailah's statements as the government's formal response to international financial institutions' calls for economic reform in Kuwait.

Notably, the fact that these remarks came from the Minister of Social Af-

fairs rather than the Minister of Finance or the Central Bank sends a clear message: while the government is open to economic reform, prioritizing the welfare of its citizens remains paramount.

Furthermore, during discussions with the IMF delegation, Al-Huwailah underscored the importance of implementing economic reforms according to specific criteria. The first condition is that these reforms must be gradual and carefully considered, while the second condition emphasizes a comprehensive approach.

In line with this, the IMF delegation presented three primary recommendations to Kuwait:

-- Focusing on broadening the sources of income for the nation to reduce reliance on any single sector, particularly oil.

-- Improving regulations and support for businesses to foster growth and innovation, thereby enhancing Kuwait's attractiveness as an investment destination.

-- Ensuring that the country's wealth is sustained for future generations through responsible management and investment strategies.

The two parties underscored that there are no quick or easy solutions to the economic challenges facing Kuwait. They noted the nation's considerable potential and its ability to achieve the desired transformation if reforms are applied in a balanced manner.

KRCS continues

Continued from Page 1

In a press release, medical sources stated that the occupation committed another act of genocide through eight massacres against families in the Gaza Strip.

The number of those killed in total since last October 7th has reached

41,965, while the injured reached 97,590.

Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa stated, Tuesday, that the government in cooperation with relevant parties, seeking to achieve ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, end Israeli occupation and unify national institutions in West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The genocide in Gaza marked it one year, as Mustafa said at the government meeting that this was a part of a political vision aimed at ending the occupation and establish Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

He announced the formation of the national team for the reconstruction of Gaza, led by Ministry of Planning, with relevant ministries and agencies participation, to continue the efforts made over time and in partnership with private sector and international partners.

The team's tasks include preparing to restore essential services to citizens in Gaza, launching an economic recovery program in the sector, and developing detailed plans to rebuild the infrastructure of the area, including suitable housing, he added.

Mustafa pointed out that the past year was the most bloody and destructive for the Palestinian people, as Israel occupation completely reoccupied the Gaza Strip, closed crossings connecting it to the outside world, and destroyed most of the infrastructure in the area, killing and injuring more than 150,000 citizens, nearly two million.

He discussed how the Israeli occupation deprived more than 600,000 students from attending their schools, explaining the occupation's plan is to establish separate systems in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, displacing Palestinians people.

Palestinian Prime Minister emphasized that Palestinian people and their leadership are determined to prevent the occupation's plan and continue establishing Palestinian State.

Elsewhere, the Lebanese Army

Command, in a statement, affirmed on Tuesday that it had deployed its forces all over the country including the southern borders.

In light of the barbaric attacks from the Israeli occupation forces on different parts of Lebanon, the army has deployed all over the country and taking its national responsibility, said the statement.

It maintains readiness to defend the territory within the available capabilities, based on the decisions and directives of the political leadership to protect Lebanon and the military establishment, and to adhere to International Resolution No. 1701 in close coordination with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), it noted.

Kuwait Amir,

Continued from Page 1

Talks also touched on regional and international developments.

First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and senior state officials were present at the reception.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace Tuesday Dubai Crown Prince, UAE Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defense Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashed Al-Maktoum and the accompanying delegation on their official visit to the country.

During the reception, Sheikh Hamdan conveyed greetings from President of the UAE Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashed Al-Maktoum to His Highness the Crown Prince, wishing Kuwait and its people further progress and development.

His Highness the Crown Prince re-

internal work.

The center will provide its extensive experience in sponsoring innovation and supporting talented people; which contributes to directing creative ideas towards achieving tangible successes in the oil sector, and enhancing digital transformation processes by exploiting modern technology to improve operational processes and develop sustainable and innovative solutions.

The award seeks to encourage creativity by motivating employees to present innovative ideas and projects that will improve the performance of the oil sector, develop competencies by enhancing employees' skills and upgrading their capabilities by stimulating innovation, and strengthening cooperation by involving various departments in creative efforts to improve performance and achieve sustainability by developing ideas that help achieve sustainability goals through innovative solutions.

The ministry added that introductory meetings for talented students affiliated with the center were organized Tuesday to explain the importance of the award and how to participate in it.

A special meeting will be held for female students in the talent classes on Oct 16 to encourage them to participate and activate their role in innovation.

The ministry then thanked Director General of the center Nada Al-Daihani for the continuous support in ensuring the success of this partnership. It also thanked Mohammed Al-Baqshi, acting Director of the Talent Department, for his efforts.

It added that Gulf Bank will be one of the main sponsors, along with a number of other sponsors who will contribute to the success of the third edition of the award.

The award activities will start in mid-October and will continue until the end of November. Participants could be individual or a group consisting of three students. Prizes will be distributed to the top three winners; while the participating departments include the Drilling and Production Department, Exploration and Development Department, Environment and Safety Department, Energy Research Department and Information Systems Center Department.

Kuwait advances

Continued from Page 1

Luring more foreign investment would be a by-product of a full-fledged digital transformation, the minister told a one-of-a-kind gathering entitled, "Cloud Day," an initiative organized by Google, with whom Kuwait has already established a joint training program for the development of "national skills" pertinent to Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity technologies, added the minister.

A national training program is already up and running in a bid to further hone the "digital skills" of youngsters and state body employees alike, giving them the opportunity to keep abreast of the most cutting-edge digital technologies as they foray into the job market, the minister underlined.

Underlining the significance of such endeavors, the Kuwaiti minister expected a "new generation" of tech leaders to lead the digital transformation in Kuwait, ensuring that the nation is firmly placed on a path towards a "brighter and more prosperous" future, he emphasized.

Hurricane killed more than 220 people in six states

VP Harris calls Trump 'irresponsible' over Helene disinformation



Democratic presidential nominee US Vice President Kamala Harris arrives at LaGuardia Airport on Oct 7 in New York. (AP)

WASHINGTON, Oct 8, (AP): US Vice President Kamala Harris on Monday called former president Donald Trump "incredibly irresponsible" for spreading falsehoods about the federal response to Hurricane Helene's destruction, offering especially sharp words as a new storm bears down on Florida with just weeks until Election Day.

"There's a lot of mis- and disinformation being pushed out there by the former president about what is available, particularly to the survivors of Helene," Harris told reporters before boarding Air Force Two to fly to New York. "It's extraordinarily irresponsible. It's about him. It's not about you."

Helene has killed more than 220 people in six states, and Category 5 Hurricane Milton is on a path toward Florida's Gulf Coast.

Trump has made a series of false claims in the wake of Helene, including saying incorrectly that the federal government is intentionally withholding aid to Republican disaster victims. He also falsely claimed the Federal Emergency Management Agency had run out of money because all of it had gone to programs for immigrants in the country illegally.

Harris said "the reality is that FEMA has so many resources that are available to folks who desperately need them now, and resources that are about help-

ing people get back on their feet and rebuild and have places to go."

"People are entitled to these resources, and it is critically important that people apply for the help that is there to support," the vice president added. "All those resources were created for just these types of moments, in an emergency situation, knowing that folks are entitled to have the relief that they so rightly need." Trump also said during a visit Valdosta, Georgia, last week that President Joe Biden was "sleeping" and not responding to calls from Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp. Biden had, in fact, spoken with Kemp and said of Trump, "He's lying, and the governor told him he was lying."

Harris also criticized another high-profile Republican, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, suggesting he's "playing political games" and engaging in "political gamesmanship" in Helene's aftermath.

Harris office says the vice president reached out to DeSantis after the storm. DeSantis said Monday afternoon that he "didn't know that she had called" and "they didn't call me."

"It wasn't anything anybody in my office did in saying that it was political," DeSantis said.

But Harris, asked about DeSantis, said "people are in desperate need of support right now and playing political games at this moment in these crisis

situations ... is utterly irresponsible."

"It is selfish and it is about political gamesmanship instead of doing the job that you took an oath to do, which is to put the people first," Harris said without naming DeSantis.

DeSantis later spoke with Biden to discuss preparations for Milton. The president, according to the White House, asked DeSantis "to call him directly if there is anything that can be done to further support the response and recovery efforts."

Florida's governor later responded to Harris, telling Fox News Channel host Sean Hannity that the vice president was "delusional" for criticizing him when he's been focused on the people of his state.

"She has no role in this," said DeSantis, who noted he'd been in contact with Biden and federal officials. "In fact, she's been vice president for three and a half years. I've dealt with a number of storms under this administration, and she has never contributed anything to any of these efforts."

DeSantis said Harris was "trying to blunder into this," adding that he'd worked well with Biden and Trump during past hurricanes and the vice president is "the first one who's trying to politicize the storm and she's doing that just because of her campaign." "I don't have time for political games," DeSantis said.

Bid to ensure that drinking water is safe

Biden sets 10-yr deadline for cities to replace lead pipes

WASHINGTON, Oct 8, (AP): A decade after the Flint, Michigan, water crisis raised alarms about the continuing dangers of lead in tap water, President Joe Biden is setting a 10-year deadline for cities across the nation to replace their lead pipes, finalizing an aggressive approach aimed at ensuring that drinking water is safe for all Americans.

Biden is expected to announce the final Environmental Protection Agency rule Tuesday in the swing state of Wisconsin during the final month of a tight presidential campaign. The announcement highlights an issue - safe drinking water - that Kamala Harris has prioritized as vice president and during her presidential campaign. The new rule supplants a looser standard set by former President Donald Trump's administration that did not include a universal requirement to replace lead pipes.

Biden and Harris believe it's "a moral imperative" to ensure that everyone has access to clean drinking wa-

ter, EPA Administrator Michael Regan told reporters Monday. "We know that over 9 million legacy lead pipes continue to deliver water to homes across our country. But the science has been clear for decades: There is no safe level of lead in our drinking water."

The rule is the strongest overhaul of lead-in-water standards in roughly three decades. Lead, a heavy metal used in pipes, paints, ammunition and many other products, is a neurotoxin that can cause a range of disorders from behavioral problems to brain damage. Lead lowers IQ scores in children, stunts their development and increases blood pressure in adults.

The EPA estimates the stricter standard will prevent up to 900,000 infants from having low birthweight and avoid up to 1,500 premature deaths a year from heart disease.

The new regulation is stricter than one proposed last fall and requires water systems to ensure that lead concentrations do not exceed an "action level" of

10 parts per billion, down from 15 parts per billion under the current standard. If high lead levels are found, water systems must inform the public about ways to protect their health, including the use of water filters, and take action to reduce lead exposure while concurrently working to replace all lead pipes.

Lead pipes often impact low-income urban areas the most. They are most commonly found in older, industrial parts of the country, including major cities such as Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Detroit and Milwaukee, where Biden will announce the standards on Tuesday.

The new rule also revises the way lead amounts are measured, which could significantly expand the number of cities and water systems that are found to have excessive levels of lead, the EPA said. To help communities comply, the agency is making available an additional \$2.6 billion for drinking water infrastructure through the bipartisan infrastructure law. The

agency also is awarding \$35 million in competitive grants for programs to reduce lead in drinking water.

The 10-year timeframe won't start for three years, giving water utilities time to prepare. A limited number of cities with large volumes of lead pipes may be given a longer timeframe to meet the new standard.

Biden will make the announcement in Milwaukee, a city with the fifth-highest number of lead pipes in the nation, according to the EPA. Officials there are using money from the federal infrastructure law to accelerate lead-pipe replacement work and meet a goal to remove all lead pipes within 10 years, down from an initial 60-year timeframe.

Lead pipes can corrode and contaminate drinking water; removing them sharply reduces the chance of a crisis. In Flint, a change in the source of the city's drinking water source more than a decade ago made it more corrosive, spiking lead levels in tap water.



A copper water supply line (left), is shown connected to a water main after being installed for lead pipe (right) on July 20, 2018, in Flint Michigan. (AP)



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken poses with Czech President Peter Pavel, (left), before their meeting at Prague Castle, in Prague, Czech Republic on May 30. (AP)

Pirates leave Cabinet

Czech government undergoes reshuffle

PRAGUE, Oct 8, (Agencies): Czech President Petr Pavel swore in two new ministers on Tuesday as part of a reshuffle of the government following the decision of junior coalition partner, the Pirates, to leave the Cabinet.

Prime Minister Petr Fiala's government retains a majority in Parliament's lower house even without the Pirates, with four other parties remaining in the coalition. The president appoints and dismisses the government ministers at the request of the prime minister.

The crisis began on Sept 24 when Fiala announced the dismissal of Regional Development Minister Ivan Bartos, head of the Pirates. He said he had lost trust in Bartos's ability to deal with problems linked to a new digital system for issuing building permits.

The Pirates said the move was in breach of their coalition agreement. Two other ministers representing the Pirates offered their resignations.

But Fiala refused to accept the resignation of Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky. The vocal supporter of Ukraine's efforts to fight Russia's invasion then

opted to leave the Pirates and stay in the government.

Fiala eliminated the post of the minister for legislation which had been occupied by the other member of the Pirates party who resigned.

The changes came after a major opposition party dominated last month's regional elections and also won most of the seats in a separate election for one-third of the seats in Parliament's upper house, the Senate. The victories are a boost for the opposition group, ANO (YES), led by former populist Prime Minister Andrej Babis, ahead of next year's parliamentary election. The president also sworn in Industry and Trade Minister Lukas Vlcek to replace Jozef Sikela, who is nominated for to be commissioner for international partnerships in the new European Commission, the European Union executive body.

Meanwhile, Czech police said on Friday that they have arrested a man who threatened to shoot up a classroom at a school in Prague.

Police recently received a report concerning the "suspicious behavior"

of an 18-year-old student attending a school in Prague's 8 district.

"The man was said to have verbally threatened his classmates that he would shoot up the class and explicitly expressed his hatred towards some of them," police said in a statement.

Investigators also found that the man had expressed an intention to obtain a firearms license and had repeatedly voiced approval of last year's shooting at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague to his classmates.

He allegedly voiced support for committing such an act and stated that he would carry it out in the same manner, police said.

Police arrested the man at his home, where they found airsoft guns and knives. Criminal proceedings have been initiated against him on charges of making dangerous threats and approving a crime. If convicted, he could face up to three years in prison.

Last December, a student opened fire at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague, killing 14 people and wounding 25 others.

America

Ex-New Mexico state sen dies:

Former New Mexico state Sen. John Arthur Smith, a conservative-leaning Democrat who served southwestern District 35 for more than three decades, died Monday. He was 82.

Smith died at his Deming home, according to New Mexico Lt. Gov. Howie Morales. A cause of death wasn't immediately disclosed.

Morales said he was notified of Smith's death early Monday and announced it at the annual meeting of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association in Santa Fe.

Smith represented Senate District 35 on the borders of Arizona and Mexico from 1989 until 2021 - serving Doña Ana, Hidalgo, Luna and Sierra counties. He was chair of the Legislative Finance Committee in two-year terms alternating with a House member from 2007 until 2020 and was Senate Finance Committee chair starting in 2008 until his retirement.

Smith was a gatekeeper on state spending as chairman of the lead budget-writing committee.

He also helped expand the state's multibillion-dollar educational trust fund.

"Every New Mexican owes a debt to John Arthur Smith," Legislative Finance Committee Chairman George Munoz, a senator from Gallup, said in a statement. "He protected the state's finances in good times and bad. He faced criticism for being fiscally cautious but it's because of him that the state weathered downturns that would have crushed other states."

Smith "was committed to fiscal responsibility while consistently aiming to

improve quality of life for all New Mexicans," Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said in a statement. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Janette, his family, and the countless individuals whose lives he touched." (AP)

More aides to NY mayor quit:

Embattled New York City Mayor Eric Adams said Monday that he had accepted the resignation of his deputy mayor for public safety, Philip Banks, the latest senior official to leave as the mayor fends off an indictment and calls to step down.

Adams' director of Asian affairs, Winnie Greco, also resigned and the city fired another former aide, Rana Abbasova, who previously served as the mayor's liaison to the Turkish community, a spokesperson for City Hall said Monday evening.

Federal investigators have seized devices from all three officials - along with several other high-ranking city appointees - as part of apparently separate investigations that have engulfed the Democrat's administration and prompted an exodus of top officials in recent weeks.

Adams said on TV station NY1 that Banks had told him Sunday that "he wants to transition to some other things" and "doesn't want this to be a constant burden on the work that we're doing in the city." The mayor added, "I wish my good friend well."

Banks' resignation comes days after his brother, the city's schools chancellor David Banks, announced he was stepping down months earlier than planned at the direction of the mayor.

Federal prosecutors have said they are pursuing "several related investigations" in addition to the case against the Adams, who was indicted late last month on charges of accepting illegal campaign contributions and bribes from foreign nationals. He has pleaded not guilty.. (AP)

Florida braces for Milton: Florida's Gulf Coast braced Tuesday for the impact of Hurricane Milton's winds and expected massive storm surge, which could bring destruction to areas already reeling from Helene's devastation 12 days ago and still recovering from Ian's wrath two years ago.

Almost the entirety of Florida's west coast was under a hurricane warning early Tuesday as the storm and its 155 mph (250 kph) winds crept toward the state at 9 mph (14 kph), sucking energy from the Gulf of Mexico's warm water. The strongest Atlantic hurricane on record is 1980's Allen, which reached wind speeds of 190 mph (306 kph) as it moved through the Caribbean and Gulf before striking Texas and Mexico.

Milton was downgraded early Tuesday to a Category 4 hurricane, but forecasters said it still posed "an extremely serious threat to Florida." Milton had intensified quickly Monday, becoming a Category 5 storm at midday with maximum sustained winds of 180 mph (285 kph) before being downgraded. (AP)



Opposition supporters scuffle with riot police during an anti-government rally, in Tirana, Albania on Oct 7. (AP)

Albania opposition holds anti-govt protest

Opposition forces in Albania on Monday were holding a nationwide protest in the country's capital demanding that the government be replaced by a technocratic caretaker Cabinet before next year's parliamentary election.

The conservative opposition accuses the leftist government of manipulating earlier voting and of usurping powers, including that of the judiciary. The Democratic Party of former Prime Minister Sali Berisha has been holding protests at the parliament in the last week after one of their colleagues was convicted of slander and imprisoned, which they considered as being politically motivated.

Ervin Saliqani in 2018 demanded the resignation of

the then interior minister over allegations of his brother's illegal activity that later proved to be fabricated. Saliqani, who began serving a one-year sentence more than a week ago, has appealed his conviction to the Supreme Court.

The Democrats are asking for a Cabinet made up of technocrats, blaming Prime Minister Edi Rama of the governing leftist Socialist Party of manipulating earlier voting. They have long accused Rama's Socialists of usurping power, including the judiciary, and have staged violent protests against the government since 2013. The Democrats also call for Berisha's release from house arrest which he was put under during an investigation of alleged corruption. (AP)

Nations accused of provoking North Korea

Kim again threatens to use nuke weapons against S.Korea and US

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 8, (AP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned again that he could use nuclear weapons in potential conflicts with South Korea and the United States, as he accused them of provoking North Korea and raising animosities on the Korean Peninsula, state media reported Tuesday.

Kim has issued similar threats to use nuclear weapons preemptively numerous times, but his latest warning came as outside experts say North Korea could ramp up hostilities ahead of next month's US presidential election.

In a Monday speech at a university named after him, the Kim Jong Un University of National Defense, he said that North Korea "will without hesitation use all its attack capabilities against its enemies" if they attempt to use armed forces against North Korea, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

"The use of nuclear weapons is not ruled out in this case," he said.

Kim said North Korea's nuclear response posture must be fully enhanced because South Korea and the United States are pushing to beef up their military alliance based on joint nuclear and strategic planning, a move that he said

would increase the danger of breaking the balance of power on the Korean Peninsula.

Kim apparently refers to the new South Korea-US deterrence guideline that the two countries signed in July to integrate South Korea's conventional capabilities with US nuclear weapons to better deal with North Korea's evolving nuclear threats. South Korea has no nuclear weapons.

Since adopting an aggressive nuclear doctrine in 2022, North Korea has repeatedly vowed to use nuclear weapons first if it perceives the leadership in Pyongyang as under threat. But many experts question if North Korea could really do so because its military is outgunned by the US and South Korean forces. US and South Korean officials have warned that an attempt by North Korea to use nuclear weapons would result in the end of the Kim government.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula deepened in recent weeks, with North Korea unveiling a facility to produce weapons-grade uranium, a nuclear ingredient, and continuing a run of missile tests. In recent responses to questions from The Associated Press, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said that North Korea's disclosure



In this photo distributed by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, (center), walks around what it says is a Hwasong-17 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on the launcher at an undisclosed location in North Korea, March 24, 2022. (AP)

sure of that nuclear site was likely an attempt to grab US attention ahead of next month's presidential election, and the North will likely stage major provocations like a nuclear test explosion and a long-range missile test.

Many analysts say North Korea will likely leverage its enlarged nuclear arsenal for US concessions like sanctions relief after a new US administration is inaugurated.

North Korea earlier said its rubber-stamp parliament was to meet on Oct 7. But as of Tuesday, state media hasn't said whether the parliament meeting began as scheduled.

Observers say the parliament meeting was likely meant to constitutionally declare a hostile "two-state" system on the Korean Peninsula to formally reject reconciliation with South Korea and codify new national borders. In January, Kim ordered the rewriting of the constitution to remove the long-running state goal of a peaceful Korean unification and cement South Korea as an "invariable principal enemy."

All exchange and cooperation programs between the two Koreas remain dormant since a broader US-North Korea diplomacy on the North's nuclear program collapsed in 2019.

Prez to defend country against threats

Tunisia's Kais Saied wins landslide reelection

TUNIS, Tunisia, Oct 8, (AP): President Kais Saied won a landslide victory in Tunisia's election Monday, keeping his grip on power after a first term in which opponents were imprisoned and the country's institutions overhauled to give him more authority.

The North African country's Independent High Authority for Elections said Saied received 90.7% of the vote, a day after exit polls showed him with an insurmountable lead in the country known as the birthplace of the Arab Spring more than a decade ago.

"We're going to cleanse the country of all the corrupt and schemers," the 66-year-old populist said in a speech at campaign headquarters. He pledged to defend Tunisia against threats foreign and domestic.

That raised alarm among the president's critics including University of Tunis law professor Sghayer Zakraoui, who said Tunisian politics were once

again about "the absolute power of a single man who places himself above everyone else and believes himself to be invested with a messianic message."

Zakraoui said the election results were reminiscent of Tunisia under President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who ruled for more than 20 years before becoming the first dictator toppled in the Arab Spring uprisings. Saied received a larger vote share than Ben Ali did in 2009, two years before fleeing the country amid protests.

The closest challenger, businessman Ayachi Zammel, won 7.4% of the vote after sitting in prison for the majority of the campaign while facing multiple sentences for election-related crimes.

Yet Saied's win was marred by low voter turnout. Election officials reported 28.8% of voters participated on Oct 6 - a significantly smaller showing than in the first round of the country's

two other post-Arab Spring elections and an indication of apathy plaguing the country's 9.7 million eligible voters.

Saied's most prominent challengers - imprisoned since last year - were prevented from running, and lesser-known candidates were jailed or kept off the ballot. Opposition parties boycotted the contest, calling it a sham amid Tunisia's deteriorating political climate and authoritarian drift.

Over the weekend, there was little sign of an election underway in Tunisia apart from an anti-Saied protest on Friday and celebrations in the capital on Sunday evening.

"He will re-enter office undermined rather than empowered by these elections," Tarek Megerisi, a senior policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations, wrote on X.

Saied's critics pledged to keep opposing his rule.



Election officials announce Tunisian president and candidate for re-election Kais Saied as the winner of the presidential elections, in the capital Tunis, Tunisia on Oct 7. (AP)



The Dhaulagiri Range, on the left and the Annapurna Range, on the right of the central Himalayas is seen as trekkers view the sweeping sunrise from Poon Hill, above the village of Ghorepani, in central Nepal, Oct 24, 2014. (AP)

5 Russian mountaineers die in deadly fall from world's seventh highest peak

KATHMANDU, Nepal, Oct 8, (Agencies): Five Russian mountaineers who appeared to have slipped and fallen on the world's seventh-highest peak have died, an expedition organizer in Nepal said Tuesday.

The Russians were climbing 8,167-meters (26,788-foot) high Mount Dhaulagiri during Nepal's autumn climbing season.

The climbers had been reported missing since Sunday and a rescue helicopter spotted their bodies on Tuesday, said Pemba Jangbu Sherpa of the Kathmandu-based I AM Trekking and Expeditions.

No decision has been made about bringing the bodies down from the mountain, which would require extensive planning, manpower and equipment.

Two of the climbers had actually reached the summit. The remaining had

returned without reaching the top. Radio contact was lost between them and the team members at the base camp.

The autumn climbing season, which is not as popular as the spring season, began last month. Mountains are less crowded and the permit fees are also lower.

Other details were not available. A search team located the Russians at an altitude of 7,100 meters of the peak, the world's seventh tallest at 8,167 meters located in Nepal.

"While the five were found dead, one has been rescued," said Funuru Sherpa, managing director of the IAM Trekking and Expeditions, which was managing the Russians' expedition.

A total of 14 Russians attempted to climb Mount Dhaulagiri, and eight of them had already descended after a successful ascent, said Sherpa.

He noted that the dead climbers last

communicated with their countrymen on Sunday morning. Dhaulagiri was the penultimate eight-thousand to be summited, and the final in Nepal. As its other routes are disproportionately dangerous, most ascents have followed the Northeast Ridge route of the first ascent, but climbs have been made from most directions. As of 2024, the two aspects which have repelled all attempts along their full length are the Northwest Ridge (though it has been climbed to the summit via the so-called "Pear" buttress) and the South Face. The latter is often regarded as one of the greatest remaining challenges in alpinism.

As of 2007, there had been 358 successful ascents and 58 fatalities, which is a summit to a fatality rate of 16.2%. Between 1950 and 2006, 2.88% of 2,016 expedition members and staff going above base camp on Dhaulagiri died.

New leader takes over Haiti's transitional presidential council

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Oct 8, (AP): A new leader was sworn in for Haiti's transitional presidential council on Monday as it grapples with the fallout of serious corruption allegations against three of its members.

Leslie Voltaire replaces Edgard Leblanc Fils in the rotating presidency of the council, which was created this year after targeted gang attacks forced Haiti's former prime minister to resign, leaving the country without a leader.

In a brief speech, Voltaire pledged transparency and noted that much work remains to be done in a country in the grip of rampant gang violence.

"We are not satisfied with the security situation," he said. "We are working to reestablish security throughout the whole country."

He asked for a minute of silence for the more than 70 people killed Thursday by gang members in Pont-Sondé, a small town in central Haiti. It is that region's biggest massacre in recent history.

The transitional presidential council works alongside new Prime Minister Garry Conille and is responsible for helping run the country and organizing general elections by February 2026.

Voltaire takes over the council less than a week after an anti-corruption agency accused three of its members of demanding more than \$750,000 from the director of the government-owned National Bank of Credit to secure his job.

Smith Augustin, Emmanuel Vertilaire and Louis Gérald Gilles have denied the allegations. All three were present during Monday's swearing-in and declined to comment afterward.

Voltaire did not take questions after his speech.

In a brief statement Friday, the council acknowledged the report accusing the three members of corruption

and said it would immediately take all measures to guarantee the stability of the state. It also signed a resolution modifying the rotating presidency, which Leblanc, the council's former president, rejected, saying the corruption allegations had not been resolved.

Le Nouvelliste newspaper reported that Augustin was supposed to succeed Leblanc but was removed from the rotating presidency, as was Gilles.

Gilles and Vertilaire have said they would not step down from the council, according to the newspaper.

Thousands now face an uncertain future, stripped of their jobs, homes and families.

"These deaths are unimaginable," Mayor Myriam Fièvre said as she met with survivors.

A majority of the 6,270 people left homeless have found temporary shelter with relatives who live nearby, according to the UN's International Organization for Migration.

But more than 750 others have nowhere to go, joining the over 700,000 people already left homeless in recent years by gang violence across Haiti.

Inside the school serving as a temporary shelter, one mother leaned against a chalkboard, slowly patting the back of her sleeping baby as she stared into the distance.

Massacres of the Pont-Sondé magnitude were once unheard of in Haiti's central region despite a recent increase in gang violence. Such massacres had been reported only in the capital of Port-au-Prince, 80% of which is under gang control.

But things changed when former legislator Prophane Victor began arming young men nearly a decade ago to secure his election and control the area.

That led to the creation of the Grand Grif gang, which controls Savien, Pont-Sondé and other places in the Artibonite region, according to the UN.



Ex-senator Louis Gerald Gilles, (from left to right), pastor Frinel Joseph, barrister Emmanuel Vertilaire, businessman Laurent Saint-Cyr, interim Prime Minister Michel Patrick Boisvert, Judge Jean Joseph Lebrun, who is not a member of the council, former senate president Edgard Leblanc,

Regine Abraham, former central bank governor Fritz Alphonse Jean, former diplomat Leslie Voltaire and former ambassador to the Dominican Republic Smith Augustin, pose for a group photo during an installation ceremony, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on April 25. (AP)

Subcontinent

Pakistan road accident kills 5: Five people were killed and six others injured in a road accident in Pakistan's east Punjab province on Tuesday morning, police said.

The incident happened at the motorway near the provincial capital city of Lahore where a passenger bus collided with a van. Syed Imran, a spokesperson for motorway police told Xinhua.

According to preliminary investigations, the bus driver fell asleep at the

wheel, causing his vehicle to rear-end the van, he said.

While the bus sustained minimal damage, all the casualties were from the van, he added.

Three people died right at the spot, while eight were rushed to a nearby hospital, where two more succumbed to their injuries, and one remained in critical condition, the police spokesperson said. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

6 dead in Bangladesh floods Days of devastating flash floods, triggered by heavy rains and upstream torrents, have stranded hundreds of thousands of people in Bangladesh's northern Mymensingh region, with thousands of homes still under water.

According to the National Disaster Response Coordination Center (NDRCC) under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, severe flooding has engulfed low-lying areas

across three districts, Mymensingh, Sherpur and Nertokona, with six people dead in the ongoing unprecedented floods.

The center said in its latest update that six people, including four men and two women, have died in the floods as of Monday.

Most of the serious flooding has been in the Sherpur district where it caused colossal damage to life, property and standing crops. (Xinhua)

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
SAUDI	-	TASI	+113.55	12,027.17	
DUBAI	-	DFMGI	+33.95	4,429.00	
PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	+697.48	85,667.56	
		JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225	-395.20
		PHILIPPINES	-	PSEi	-17.43
		EGYPT	-	EGX 30	-967.53
					38,937.54
					7,537.25
					30,851.63

Business



Najla Aleisa delivers her speech during the conference.



Gulf Bank team among the attendees.

Bank recycles over 22 tons of e-waste as part of eco-friendly drive

Gulf Bank participates in Green Skills Summit for sustainability

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: As part of its ongoing commitment to promoting sustainability and environmental awareness, Gulf Bank participated in the Green Skills Summit, organized by Meras Consulting – Kuwait in collaboration with Fifty Shades Greener.

The conference, held under the patronage of Kuwait's Environment Public Authority and the European Union Delegation to Kuwait, brought together a diverse group of ambassadors and diplomats from various Arab and foreign countries.

At the summit, Gulf Bank's Chief Marketing Officer, Ms. Najla Aleisa, delivered a keynote address highlighting the significance of sustainability initiatives within the community.

"At Gulf Bank, we are committed to doing our part in protecting the environment and ensuring a brighter future for Kuwait and the generations to come. We believe today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, and they will be responsible for shaping that future. This is why empowering them with essential green skills is a top priority for us," said Aleisa.

In her speech, Aleisa highlighted several key initiatives and achievements Gulf Bank has implemented to promote environmental sustainability, including:

- **Sustainable Development Projects:** Gulf Bank has played a prominent role in financing key sustainable development projects, including

Najla Aleisa

- Gulf Bank is committed to doing its part in protecting the environment and ensuring a brighter future for Kuwait and the generations to come.

the Shqaya Renewable Energy Park and the Clean Fuel Project.

- **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Strategy:** The Bank recently unveiled its ambitious ESG strategy for 2024 to 2030, outlining a comprehensive roadmap for the next six years.

- **High-Level Sustainability Committee:** The Bank has formed a dedicated sustainability committee, chaired by a Board member, to oversee and direct its sustainability initiatives.

- **Community Initiatives:** In partnership with various cooperative societies and the Environment Public Authority in Kuwait, Gulf Bank launched an initiative to encourage the use of reusable bags, distributing over 100,000 bags to the community. Furthermore, the Bank repurposes its street advertising materials into reusable bags once their display period ends.

- **E-Waste Recycling:** Over the past two years, Gulf Bank has successfully recycled over 22.3 tons of electronic waste in partnership with a specialized company.

- **Internal Sustainability Efforts:** The Bank has introduced a range of initiatives designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower paper consumption, and minimize waste while promoting renewable energy. In addition, Gulf Bank is committed to enhancing its branch network to be more environmentally friendly, exemplified by the recent opening of branches such as the one in Sabah Al-Ahmad Residential City.

- **Green Skills Training:** Gulf Bank is dedicated to enhancing environmental awareness among its employees through specialized training on green skills. The Bank has also introduced sustainable banking products and services designed to meet customer needs while upholding environmental integrity.

Aleisa concluded her speech by reaffirming Gulf Bank's commitment to supporting Kuwait's sustainable future: "At Gulf Bank, we are fully dedicated to doing everything in our power to realize Kuwait's vision for sustainability. Our commitment goes beyond our internal initiatives; we actively collaborate with the broader community. Together, through our collective efforts, we can achieve our environmental goals and create a greener, more prosperous Kuwait."

Islamic banking gains market share

Kuwaiti money market faces hurdles amid economic shifts

By Institute of Banking Studies – Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: A country's financial system is often considered the backbone of its economy due to the numerous functions it serves and the essential channels it provides for governments, central banks, financial institutions, businesses, and individuals. One of the vital components of the financial system is the money market, it is sought by many players in the economy and is regarded as a safe avenue to either satisfy their funding needs (borrow) or invest their surplus (lend). Therefore, countries seek to constantly develop the infrastructure that includes regulatory and legislative frameworks, diversification of financial instruments, and others in order to organize effective money markets that meet the needs of their participants. In light of the spread of Islamic banking in Kuwait, having secured a material share of the market following the successful penetration of the Kuwaiti banking landscape, have become as significant and active as their conventional counterparts, and have their own say in the current and future developments of the financial system in Kuwait. Given this gained significance, Islamic banks established a Shariah Board that ensure that its activities and products are Shariah compliant.

The degree of liquidity and efficiency in a money market is a crucial determinant of easiness and smoothness of operations in the market. Hence, Liquid and efficient money markets have long been recognized for being critical to financial stability. Many market participants secure a considerable portion of their funding from within the money market. By exploring the nature of the money market landscape in the State of Kuwait, its status quo, instruments available in the market (in circulation), regulations, prospect of introducing some Islamic inter-bank money markets instruments based on Shariah principles, the money market can be further developed and deepened to accompany the current international standards and practices in a way that not only serves the money market of Kuwait but its financial system as a whole. In addition, having a comprehensive picture of present developments in the money supply and factors influencing it, money market funds and risks associated with them. As well as risk management and risk exposures in the money market funds, the interconnection between exchange rate regime, interest rate and the money market, and investigation of the link between monetary policy and economic growth will reveal what needs to be revisited and revised in terms of amelioration, adjustment, or development.

It is worth mentioning that the money market in the State of Kuwait offers some financial instruments and seek to offer more, especially in Islamic money market instruments due to the expansion of the Islamic finance products and services in the banking sector. This research aimed to recommend some of Islamic inter-bank money market instruments and think of introducing by the government of Kuwait, this includes Islamic Negotiable Instruments of Deposit (INID), sale and buy back agreement (SBB), Islamic Accepted Bills (IAB), Ijarah-based Sukuk, ArRahn Agreement. To contain risks in the money market, MMFs can be developed further by introducing and incorporating more Shariah-compliant instruments in the funds. This will make the fund more diverse and risk absorbing. The peg of exchange rate and the close tracking of market interest rate to the U.S. policy rate entails giving up monetary autonomy to sustain a fixed exchange rate and open capital account. However, the CBK's peg to a basket of currencies provides flexibility to countries with a direct peg. Non-oil GDP and oil prices are highly interconnected and have effects for the money market; this is because in times of high oil prices government spending increases, and hence fostering non-oil GDP growth, banks get more deposits and tend to lend to other deficit banks at a lower rate, private local demand gets stimulated. By contract, low oil prices and liquidity can amplify monetary policy tightening, increasing market interest rates by more than normal, causing lending to shrink, and consequently reducing private local demand. The IMF 2023 country report documented that lending and deposit rates do not fully track U.S. interest rates in the short run, they roughly do so in the long run. In a nutshell, the following is recommended for a more effective and liquid money market in Kuwait:

- The Kuwaiti money market landscape has a considerable potential for expansion to be a leading backbone of development.
- Financial institutions can further deepen money market by introducing more instruments based on some other Shariah principles, in inter-bank money market or money market funds, that have not brought into practice yet.
- The Islamic money market, like the conventional money market, faces a number of risks that need to have strategies to deal with, especially Shariah compliance. Thus, a tailor-made risk management framework should be in place for Islamic money market.
- Money market funds is to be given full consideration being one of the most effective tools to managing risks and containing risk exposures.
- Exchange rate peg regime has serious long-run implications that require due diligence, especially about money policy tightening, oil prices and fiscal breakeven.
- Economic growth has been stimulated via monetary policy and investments.

Industrial sector financing in Kuwait surges 61.7pct in Aug

Year-on-year growth in industrial financing hits 177.3%

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The financing provided by local banks to the industrial sector, encompassing both residents and non-residents, experienced a significant surge in August 2024.

The total financing rose by 61.7 million dinars, marking a 61.7 percent increase to reach 118.7 million dinars, compared to 57 million dinars in July.

On an annual basis, the financing saw an impressive growth of 75.9 million dinars, translating to a 177.3 percent increase from 42.8 million dinars in August 2023. Over the first eight months of 2024, local banks have extended approximately 572.4 million dinars in financing to the industrial sector.

Despite this monthly growth in financing, the accumulated balance of financing for the industry sector provided by local banks fell by 10 million dinars, decreasing from 2.639 billion dinars in July to 2.629 billion dinars in August 2024.

This decline also reflects an annual drop of 4.1 percent or 114.6 million dinars from 2.744 billion dinars in August 2023.

According to the Central Bank of Kuwait, the overall financing extended to the industrial sector saw a substantial decline of 31 percent during the fiscal year 2023, dropping by 466 million dinars

from 1.499 billion dinars at the end of 2022 to 1.033 billion dinars in 2023.

The sector did witness its peak financing in December 2023, with 198.9 million dinars allocated.

The industrial sector has encountered numerous challenges over the past three years, primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the suspension of many companies' operations.

This disruption was compounded by supply chain issues and a general decline in demand, coupled with a limited number of new projects being initiated in the country.

Consequently, these challenges have significantly affected local industrial initiatives, leading to a noticeable decline in financing in 2023 compared to 2022.

Key challenges faced by the industrial sector include:

- Lack of Developed Industrial Plots -- The absence of adequately developed land for establishing new industrial projects hinders growth.

- Bureaucracy -- Complicated processes related to industrial transactions can delay project initiation and development.

- Dependence on Imported Goods -- The sector remains overly reliant on imports, undermining the promotion of national products.

- High Factory Rents -- Increased rental costs for industrial spaces deter potential investments in local manufacturing.

In addition to the challenges facing the industrial sector, the Central Bank's data highlighted an increase in total loans granted to both residents and

non-residents during the first eight months of 2024.

This increase amounted to 1.85 billion dinars, bringing the cumulative balance of credit facilities to 55.4 billion dinars by the end of August, representing a 3.5 percent growth from 53.55 billion dinars at the end of December 2023.

The rise in loan volumes across various economic sectors has been bolstered by the demand for housing loans, which reached 16.29 billion dinars by the end of August.

This reflects an increase of 279.9 million dinars or 1.7 percent from 16 billion dinars at the end of December 2023.

Additionally, the total consumer facilities granted in Kuwait during the first eight months reached about 77.3 million dinars, culminating in a cumulative balance of 2.04 billion dinars.

The total balance of personal facilities stood at 19.08 billion dinars at the end of August, marking a growth of 321.8 million dinars or 1.7 percent compared to its balance of 18.76 billion dinars at the end of December 2023.

The loans allocated for purchasing securities also increased, reaching 3.59 billion dinars, a 2.7 percent rise from 3.5 billion dinars at the end of December 2023.

In terms of deposits, the Central Bank's data indicated an increase in total deposits in Kuwaiti banks by both residents and non-residents, amounting to 53.3 billion dinars as of the end of August.

This reflects an increase of 299 million dinars or 0.6 percent from the 53 billion dinars recorded at the end of 2023.

Average private housing price drops to 1,044 dinars by Q2 2024

Real estate market shows resilience amid emerging pricing challenges

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: In September 2024, the total value of real estate contracts registered with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Justice reached approximately 294.7 million dinars, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This figure reflects the ongoing activity in the real estate sector, as detailed statistics from the Real Estate Registration and Documentation Department indicate that 494 properties were traded during the month.

The transactions were distributed across all six governorates, showcasing a diverse market. Notably,

private real estate transactions dominated, with 357 properties sold for a total of 160.42 million dinars.

Following this, the investment real estate segment accounted for around 127 contracts, which amounted to 103.95 million dinars. In contrast, commercial real estate saw a more modest engagement, with only two properties sold for approximately 19.10 million dinars.

Additional transactions included -- five craft properties traded for 7.83 million dinars; one exhibition property sold for 1.85 million dinars and two properties on the coastal strip

fetched 1.55 million dinars.

These figures reflect a vibrant real estate market in various sectors, despite some trends indicating challenges in specific areas.

In a separate report the Kuwait Finance House, showed signs of a cooling housing market emerged, as private housing prices in Kuwait have now declined for the third consecutive quarter. The report attributes this trend to a decrease in demand, highlighted by transaction data from the second quarter of 2024.

The average price of private hous-

ing decreased to 1,044 dinars by the end of the second quarter, reflecting a slight decline of 0.3 percent compared to the first quarter of 2024.

This downward trend in average prices continues on an annual basis, marking an ongoing adjustment in the market that stakeholders will need to monitor closely.

Overall, while the total value of real estate contracts in September demonstrates ongoing investment and activity in the sector, the emerging challenges in private housing pricing signal a shift that could affect future market dynamics.

Oslo falls to second place

Abu Dhabi tops Global SWF capital rankings with \$1.7tn

NEW YORK, Oct 8, (Agencies): Today, industry specialist Global SWF published a special report announcing a new global ranking of cities according to the capital managed by their Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs).

The findings show that Abu Dhabi is the leading city that manages the most SWF capital globally, thanks to the US\$ 1.7 trillion in assets managed by its various SWFs headquartered in the capital of the UAE. These include the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), Mubadala Investment Company (MIC), Abu Dhabi Developmental Holding Company (ADQ), and the Emirates Investment Authority (EIA).

Abu Dhabi now ranks slightly above Oslo, home to the world's largest SWF, the Government Pension Fund (GPF), which manages over US\$ 1.6 trillion in assets. Abu Dhabi and Oslo are followed by Beijing (headquarters of the China Investment Corporation), Singapore (with GIC Private and Temasek Holdings), Riyadh (home to the

Public Investment Fund), and Hong Kong (where China's second SWF, SAFE Investment Corporation, operates from). Together, these six cities represent two thirds of the capital managed by SWFs globally, i.e., US\$ 12.5 trillion as of October 1, 2024.

The emirate's investment strategy, described as complex and multifaceted, involves multiple SWFs with distinct mandates, contrasting with the more centralized approaches of other regional SWFs. In recent years, consolidation efforts merged entities such as IPIC and ADIC into Mubadala, while new players like ADQ have emerged to diversify investments further.

High oil prices since 2020 have contributed to Abu Dhabi's fiscal surpluses, with a projected \$60 billion in surplus over the next two years, adding to ADIA's growing wealth. Abu Dhabi entities have raised nearly \$94 billion in debt since 2007, with a significant portion still outstanding.

Bursa Kuwait closes up 51.32 points, reaches 7,035.74

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): The Bursa Kuwait closed Tuesday with the general index gaining 51.32 points, or 0.73 percent, reaching 7,035.74 points. Trading activity saw 329.3 million shares exchanged through 17,728 transactions, valued at KD 62.5 million (USD 190.6 million).

The main market index rose by 112.75 points,

or 1.82 percent, to close at 6,298.76 points, with 249.8 million shares traded in 10,763 transactions, totaling KD 29.7 million (USD 90.5 million).

The premier market index increased by 37.49 points, or 0.50 percent, finishing at 7,570.80 points, through 79.4 million shares traded in 6,965

transactions, worth KD 32.8 million (USD 100 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 index climbed 144.01 points, or 2.35 percent, to settle at 6,269.58 points, with 193.5 million shares traded in 7,935 transactions, amounting to KD 23.6 million (USD 71.9 million).



Kuwaiti money markets

Hang Seng index lost 9.4%

HK shares plunge as economic rescue plans from Beijing fall flat

TOKYO, Oct 8, (AP): Hong Kong's share benchmark plunged more than 9% and other Chinese markets gave up much of their early gains Tuesday as traders dumped shares following recent rallies.

Shares elsewhere in Asia and in Europe were mostly lower, while U.S. futures were little changed. Oil prices fell.

The Hang Seng index lost 9.4% to close at 20,926.79. Technology and China-related shares led the decline.

Shares initially soared 10% in Shanghai on Tuesday but then slid back a bit as details of economic

stimulus plans from officials in Beijing fell short of what investors were hoping for.

The Shanghai Composite index closed 4.6% higher, at 3,489.78. In Shenzhen, Japan's smaller market, the main index gained 8.9%.

Hong Kong shares had logged strong gains over the past week while markets in mainland China were closed for a weeklong holiday and reopened Tuesday. The advances were fueled by recent announcements of Beijing's plans for more support for the economy and for financial markets.

"China's markets rally has hit

a wall, leaving investors deflated. The reopening surge from the week-long holiday barely had time to gather steam before fizzling out, and now the once-thrilled bulls are licking their wounds," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.

Shares in food delivery company Meituan tumbled 15.5% while e-commerce giant Alibaba sank 8.8%. Its rival JD.com plunged 11.9%.

In early European trading, Germany's DAX lost 0.8% to 18,953.23 while the CAC 40 in Paris shed 1.2% to 7,485.47. In Lon-

don, the FTSE 100 declined 1.3% to 8,197.15.

The future for the S&P 500 edged less than 0.1% higher while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 0.1%.

In other Asian trading, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index lost 1% to 38,937.54, as the dollar fell to 147.79 Japanese yen from 148.18 yen. A stronger yen tends to pull share prices lower since it hurts profits of heavyweight export manufacturers.

The Kospi in Seoul declined 0.6% to 2,594.36. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dropped 0.4% to 8,176.90.



A currency trader stands by a screen showing the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI), left, and the foreign exchange rate between U.S. dollar and South Korean won at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024. (AP)

Japan logs record surplus

BOJ lifts economic views on 2 regions

TOKYO, Oct 8, (Xinhua): The Bank of Japan (BOJ) on Monday upgraded its economic views on two of the country's nine regions, owing to a steady recovery from a massive earthquake earlier this year and increased car production following the recent vehicle certification scandal.

According to the central bank's quarterly Sakura Report, the assessments of quake-hit Hokuriku in central Japan and the Tokai region centering on Nagoya were revised upward.

The economy has begun to recover moderately, although the effects of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake have been observed in part, the report said, referring to the area hit by the 7.6-magnitude earthquake in January.

Car production has also been on the rise in the Tokai region, where Toyota Motor Corp. is headquartered, as the area recovers from a scandal involving the Japanese automaker's admission of falsifying performance tests in order to obtain government certifications for its vehicles.

Meanwhile, Japan logged a current account surplus of 3.8 trillion yen (about 25.7 billion U.S. dollars) in August, the highest on record for the month as the depreciation of yen boosted dividend payments from overseas subsidiaries to Japanese companies, government data showed Tuesday.

The figure marked a surplus for the 19th consecutive month, preliminary data from the Ministry of Finance showed.

Primary income, including dividends and interest income reflecting returns on overseas investments, booked a surplus of 4.7 trillion yen.

While the weaker yen has contributed to strong overseas sales in sectors like automobiles, the goods trade balance posted a deficit of 377.9 billion yen largely due to increased imports of smartphones and pharmaceuticals.

The services trade balance also recorded a deficit of 104.9 billion yen because of increased purchases of foreign software for corporate digitalization.

Despite these deficits, robust inbound tourism kept the travel balance in surplus, helping to reduce the overall services deficit compared to last year, the data showed.

Japan's household spending decreased 1.9 percent year on year in inflation-adjusted real terms in August as a series of typhoons and emergency information regarding the earthquake affected consumption, government data showed Tuesday.

Households of two or more people spent an average of 297,487 yen (about 2,014.6 U.S. dollars) in August, the first decline in two months, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

The ministry attributed the decline to the effects of typhoons and emergency warnings about the earthquake, which led to the closure of car dealerships and resulted in a 17.1 percent drop in transportation and communication expenses.

Weak domestic demand cited

Germany's economy set to contract

FRANKFURT, Oct 8, (Xinhua): The German government is set to downgrade its economic forecast and expects it to contract further as recent data point to a delayed economic recovery.

The Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action is to revise its growth forecast and expects the economy to shrink by 0.2 percent, down from its previous forecast of 0.3 percent growth, leading German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported on Sunday.

The report attributed the sluggish recovery to a slowdown of industrial activities, weak exports and high energy costs.

The German economy shrank 0.1 percent in the second quarter this year, following an increase of 0.2 percent in the first quarter. It was previously estimated that the momentum of economic recovery could pick up in the second half of this year.

The estimation has failed to materialize according to the monthly report about the economy published by the German Central Bank, Bundesbank, last month.

The central bank warned of stagnation or decline of real gross domestic product in the third quarter. "The German economy continues to be weak," it said.

Weak domestic demand played a

leading role in dragging down the recovery. While high financing costs dampened demand for industrial goods and production plans, private consumption remained weak as consumers chose to save more despite the rise of real income, according to the report.

New orders in the manufacturing sector went down by 5.8 percent in August, compared to the previous month, provisional figures published by the Federal Statistical Office showed on Monday.

Business sentiment among German companies remains gloomy. The ifo Business Climate Index, an indicator of business confidence in Germany, plunged to 85.4 points in September, the fourth decline in a row.

The confidence decline was ubiquitous across the board and the manufacturing index fell to its lowest level since June 2020. "The German economy is coming under ever-increasing pressure," said a statement published by the Munich-based economic think tank.

Despite the pessimism about the 2024 economic growth, the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action appears to be upbeat about 2025 and beyond. The ministry estimates the economy to grow by 1.1 percent in 2025 and 1.6 percent in 2026, according to the Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

ZAGREB, Oct 8, (Xinhua): The European Union (EU) should seek cooperation with China instead of imposing punitive tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles (EVs), Mladen Plese, a Croatian expert on China and Asia, said in an interview with Xinhua on Monday.

"Cooperation with China is not only the best solution but also the only viable one, and the EU will continue to stagnate if it does not seek cooperation," Plese said. He emphasized that through collaboration and knowledge exchange

with China, Europe can develop more technologically advanced EVs.

High tariffs on Chinese EVs will not benefit the European EV industry, Plese warned, adding that European consumers will be "harmful most."

"The EU decision is harmful, above all, for Europe," Plese said.

The European Commission announced Friday that it passed a vote to impose punitive tariffs on Chinese battery electric vehicles, sparking criticism from several European countries and auto industries who warn the move could boomerang against EU competitiveness.

Plese, former editor-in-chief of Croatia's main-

stream daily newspaper Jutarnji List, said the tariffs will not be able to slow down the development of Chinese EVs.

Plese described the EU's decision as "political" and criticized it for disregarding the interests of the European industry and economy. He pointed out that leaders of several major European automakers, including BMW, Mercedes, and Volkswagen, have called for a negotiated solution.

"These are the people who lead the automotive industry in Germany and Europe. The EU should listen to them, as the policy of imposing the tariffs will ultimately backfire on Europe," Plese warned.

Decision harmful for Europe

Punishment for maintaining an illegal monopoly

Google ordered to open Android app store to competition

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 8, (AP): A federal judge on Monday ordered Google to tear down the digital walls shielding its Android app store from competition as punishment for maintaining an illegal monopoly that helped expand the company's internet empire.

The injunction issued by U.S. District Judge James Donato will require Google to make several changes that the Mountain View, California, company had been resisting. Those include a provision that will require its Play Store for Android apps to distribute rival third-party app stores so consumers can download them to their phones, if they so desire.

The judge's order will also make the millions of Android apps in the Play Store library accessible to rivals, allowing them to offer up a competitive selection.

Donato is giving Google until November to make the revisions dictated in his order. The company had insisted it would take 12 to 16 months to design the safeguards needed to reduce the chances of potentially malicious software making its way into rival Android app stores and infecting millions of Samsung phones and other mobile devices running on its free Android software.

The court-mandated overhaul is meant to prevent Google from walling off competition in the Android app market as part of an effort to protect a commission system that has been a boon for one of the world's most prosperous companies and helped elevate the market value of its corporate parent Alphabet Inc. to \$2 trillion.

Google said in a blog post that it will ask the court to pause the pending changes, and will appeal the court's decision.

Donato also ruled that, for a period of three years ending Nov. 1, 2027, Google won't be able to share



A sign is shown on a Google building at their campus in Mountain View, Calif., on Sept. 24, 2019. (AP)

revenue from its Play Store with anyone who distributes Android apps or is considering launching an Android app distribution platform or store. It also won't be allowed to pay developers, or share revenue, so that they will launch an app in the Google Play Store first or exclusively, and can't make deals with manufacturers to preinstall the Google Play store on any specific location on an Android device. It also won't be able to require apps to use its billing system or tell customers that they can download apps elsewhere and potentially for cheaper.

The Play Store has been earning billions of dollars annually for years, primarily through 15% to 30% commissions that Google has been imposing on digital transactions completed within Android apps. It's a similar fee structure to the one that Apple deploys in its iPhone app store - a structure that prompted video game maker Epic Games to file antitrust lawsuits four years ago in an effort to foster competition that could help drive down prices for both app makers and consumers.

A federal judge mostly sided with Apple in a September 2021 decision that was upheld by an appeals court. Still, a jury favored Epic Games after the completion of a four-week trial completed last year and delivered a verdict that tarred the Play Store as an illegal monopoly.

That prompted another round of hearings this year to help Donato determine what steps should be taken to restore fair competition. Google argued that Epic Games was seeking some extreme changes, saddling the company with costs that could run as high as \$600 billion. Epic contended Google could level the playing field for as little as \$1 million. It's unclear how much the changes ordered by Donato will cost Google.

Although Epic lost its antitrust case against Apple, Donato's ruling could still have ripple effects on the iPhone app store as another federal judge weighs whether Apple is making it easy enough to promote different ways that consumers can pay for digital transactions. Apple was ordered to allow in-app links to alternative payment systems as part of

U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers' decision in that case, but Epic contends the provision is being undermined with the creation of another commission system that stifles consumer choice.

The forthcoming Play Store shakeup could be just the first unwelcome shock that antitrust law delivers to Google. In the biggest antitrust case brought by the U.S. Justice Department in a quarter century, U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta in August declared Google's dominant search engine to be an illegal monopoly, too, and is now getting ready to start hearings on how to punish Google for that bad behavior. Google is appealing Mehta's ruling in the search engine case in hopes of warding off a penalty that could hurt its business even more than the changes being ordered in the Play Store.

"Provided the ruling survives the appeals process, Google will almost certainly take a revenue hit," said Emarketer analyst Evelyn Mitchell-Wolf. "No doubt some of the largest app developers like Epic Games will start encroaching on Google Play Store's market share, meaning Google will lose out on its usual cut of subscription and in-app purchases."

The analyst added that, while the Google Play Store will likely continue to benefit from brand recognition since it was the default Android app store for so long, "some consumers may defect if they can get better deals on their favorite apps elsewhere." And app developers will likely take advantage of the opportunity to let consumers know about direct downloads.

"So Google may see fewer Play Store revenues even among the Android users that stick to the default," Mitchell-Wolf said.

Alphabet's shares fell \$4.08, or 2.4%, to close Monday at \$162.98.

The Conversation

How they measure it is the question

More & more, business schools want to show they are making a positive impact on society

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



By Andrew Gaudes
Brook University

Back in 1970, the economist Milton Friedman famously argued that businesses have a single responsibility: to increase profit. For decades, the so-called "Friedman doctrine" amounted to dogma in certain circles, including at many business schools.

A lot has changed since those days. Governments and other education funders are increasingly demanding that universities prioritize social goals, like those set out in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Meanwhile, business schools are dealing with new market pressures, including global rankings that are now taking societal impact into account, and students, professors and accred-

iting bodies that increasingly value social responsibility.

But just what is "societal impact," and can it be measured? As a professor of entrepreneurship and the former dean of a business school that went through the process of determining impact, I have an interest in these questions that is more than just theoretical.

In 2020, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, or AACSB - the organization that accredits more than 600 business schools in the U.S. - made a big decision: It revised its accreditation standards to include engagement and societal impact.

Societal impact, as defined by AACSB, refers to "how a school makes a positive impact on the betterment of society, as identified in the school's mission and strategic plan." While AACSB-accredited schools are now required to "demonstrate positive societal impact," the organization offers schools wide discretion on how they work to-

ward meeting the standard. While the overall response has been positive, business schools have been seeking additional insight that will help them identify and measure their societal impact. After all, universities benefit their communities in many ways. If you wanted to track a business school's impact, where should you even begin?

Based on my personal experience, it's good for a business school to start by looking at its strategic plan.

That's because determining impact is a complex process that requires analyzing massive amounts of data. Because it can be so sprawling, determining and measuring impact is best approached in alignment with the strategic intent of the organization.

A school's strategic plan can serve as a strong basis for identifying areas of impact that align with the school's aspirations. It also sends a message to accreditors and all stakeholders that the areas of impact are close to the core of its operations. (AP)

Accessible and cost effective

Why mobile payment is booming in Africa

NAIROBI/BEIJING, Oct 8. (Xinhua): On the bustling streets of Nairobi, the green glow of the M-Pesa (a mobile money platform) logo is inescapable, from high-end hotels to street vendors. In some tourist hotspots, signs declaring "No Cash" highlight a striking shift: over 90 percent of adults in the East African country now use mobile payments.

Across Africa, digital payments are booming, with 17 percent of consumers using them daily and nearly half at least weekly in 2023. The rise of mobile money has reshaped business and daily lives alike, where smartphones are the new wallets.

What has contributed to the rapid development and widespread adoption of mobile payments in Africa?

The number of digital payment users in Sub-Saharan Africa increased by 191 million between 2014 and 2021, according to the World Bank. In 2022, McKinsey estimated Africa's digital payments market would grow by 152 percent from 2020 to 2025.

What are some of the favorable conditions that led to the rapid adoption of digital payment in Africa? Firstly, the number of smartphone users is rapidly increasing among a young and urbanizing population, creating a solid foundation for digital payments.

Secondly, digital payments are more convenient and efficient compared to traditional financial services which are often too expensive and not accessible in some areas. Moreover, the rapid expansion of mobile Internet coverage supports the widespread adoption of digital payments across the continent.

For many Africans, owning a phone is easier than having a bank account. Thus, mobile payment, with its very low access threshold, has become the preferred payment method.

This payment method is fast, convenient, and cost-effective, especially for cross-border transfers.

It is estimated that the average fee for a 200-U.S.-dollar mobile payment transfer is only 2.77 percent, significantly lower than the 6.09 percent for traditional payment methods. According to data obtained by dLocal, an international payment platform, the number of registered mobile payment accounts worldwide exceeded 1.75 billion by the end of 2023, with over 156 companies operating in this sector in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mobile money

Mobile money is the leading and most dynamic form of digital payment in Africa. Africa remains the region with the largest and fastest growth in

the global mobile money sector, according to The State of the Industry Report on Mobile Money 2024 released by GSMA, an international mobile operator association.

In 2023, the number of mobile money accounts in Africa reached 856 million, accounting for 49 percent of registered accounts worldwide, and 136 million new accounts were opened, representing over 70 percent of total global growth.

M-Pesa in Kenya is a representative case. As one of the largest mobile money platforms in Africa, M-Pesa has made Kenya a leader in financial inclusion in sub-Saharan Africa. According to data from the Communications Authority of Kenya, by March 2024, the number of mobile money users in Kenya reached 38.7 million, representing 75 percent of the total population. Among them, M-Pesa held a market share of 94.9 percent.

M-Pesa, which means "mobile money" in Swahili, was officially launched by Kenya's telecommunications company Safaricom in 2007. Since 2012, Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. has been a partner of the telecom operator to provide technical solutions, assist in system upgrades, and bring new products and services to Africa.

What's On



Photo of the workshop.

Interactive workshops foster skills in debate, teamwork and creativity

NBK sponsors LOYAC's 'Kilma' program to empower youth

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: As part of its ongoing commitment to supporting the development of youth, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) proudly sponsors LOYAC's "Kilma" program, which empowers young individuals with essential skills in public speaking, critical thinking, and leadership through debate. This strategic partnership with LOYAC reflects NBK's dedication to investing in the future of Kuwait by nurturing the next generation of leaders.

LOYAC's "Kilma" program directly addresses these needs in today's world, offering a unique 3-week experience for Arabic-speaking youth aged 13 to 17. The program runs from October 6th to October 24th, held at NBK Headquarters, and is designed to develop key skills and cultivate youth who are capa-

ble of critical thinking, evidence-based reasoning, and open-minded debate.

Joanne Al Abdul Jaleel, NBK Public Relations Manager, expressed NBK's enthusiasm for supporting such a vital initiative, stating, "NBK's sponsorship and participation in the Kilma program are part of our long-standing strategic partnership with LOYAC. We are deeply committed to empowering young people to achieve their potential and contribute positively



Joanne Jaleel

to society."

She continued, "The Kilma program is one of the initiatives that invest in youth, providing them with opportunities to refine their public speaking, critical thinking, and teamwork skills. We believe that investing in human capital is an investment in our collective future, and Kilma aligns with NBK's broader vision to support the aspirations of the next generation."

"By offering youth the chance to engage in such activities, NBK and LOYAC aim to prepare the next generation to face the challenges of an increasingly complex world with intelligence, empathy, and an open mind", she added.

Throughout the course of the Kilma program, shy and reserved participants are given the platform to build self-

confidence, interact with peers from diverse backgrounds, and broaden their perspectives. They are encouraged to engage in debates that foster rational discourse while embracing creativity and persuasion. Participants are challenged to construct well-researched arguments, present them confidently, and engage in meaningful debates on various topics. Through interactive workshops, creative exercises, and public speaking activities, participants not only enhance their debating skills but also strengthen their abilities in active listening and collaboration.

LOYAC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating programs that help youth develop professionally, enhance their personal growth, and find purpose through service to others.

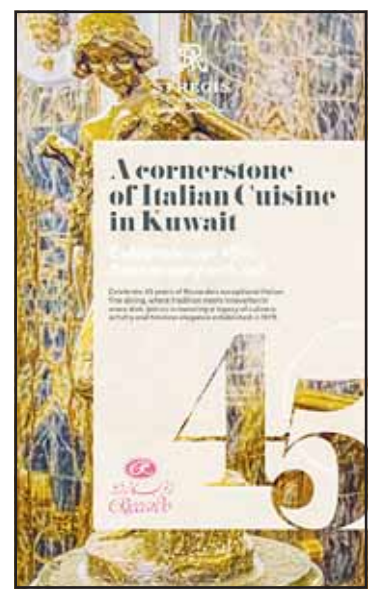
Restaurant sets standard for refined dining with authentic Italian cuisine

Riccardo marks 45 years of culinary excellence at The St. Regis Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Riccardo Restaurant proudly celebrates 45 years of exceptional Italian fine dining, marking a milestone in culinary excellence. Riccardo is one of Kuwait's first luxury dining establishments and boasts a rich legacy of offering unparalleled gourmet experiences. Since its establishment in 1979, Riccardo has become a symbol of sophistication and culinary artistry in Kuwait, known for its elegant ambiance, outstanding service, and exclusive dining experience.

Riccardo has set the standard for refined dining, offering impeccable service alongside a classic, opulent atmosphere that has attracted discerning diners for decades. A crucial part of Riccardo's lasting appeal lies in its dedication to crafting authentic Italian cuisine with a modern twist. Each dish masterfully balances tradition with innovation, blending classic Italian recipes with contemporary techniques to create a unique dining experience.

The restaurant's menu celebrates the finest traditions of Italian gastronomy, using premium ingredients sourced locally and from Italy. Guests are treated to the freshest seasonal ingredients and rich, authentic flavors. Every dish re-



Poster

flects Italy's cultural and culinary heritage, presented with a level of sophistication that sets Riccardo apart.

Complementing the dining experience is Riccardo's timeless elegance. Its meticulously crafted décor, vibrant



Riccardo Italian Restaurant.

interior colors, and lavish textures create an atmosphere of luxury, while authentic Italian music transports diners to the heart of Italy. Over the past 45 years, Riccardo has maintained its iconic heritage while embracing culinary innovation, making it a top destination for those seeking an unforgettable dining experience in Kuwait.

On this occasion, Mr. Fahed Abushaar, Cluster Director of The St. Regis

Kuwait, Sheraton Kuwait, and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait, expressed his pride in the enduring success of Riccardo Restaurant. He attributed this achievement to the talented culinary team and their unwavering commitment to maintaining Riccardo's distinguished reputation. Mr. Abushaar also extended his heartfelt gratitude to Riccardo's loyal patrons for their continued trust and support.

Earn up to 7 tokens with the new ABK Visa Infinite Advantage card

Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait launches Visa Infinite Advantage credit card

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) is proud to announce the launch of its new ABK Visa Infinite Advantage credit card, a distinctive addition to the Advantage program. Designed to provide cardholders with exceptional and exclusive benefits, this card reflects the Bank's ongoing commitment to rewarding clients for their loyalty and trust in ABK's diverse solutions to meet their financial and banking needs.

With the ABK Visa Infinite Advantage card, customers earn 7 tokens when making purchases outside of Kuwait and 4 tokens for transactions within the country. Cardholders can access lounges at many international airports, receive personal assistance services locally and globally, and benefit from a travel insurance policy worth up to \$2.5 million. Additionally, the card offers Pearl Assist services, including free transportation to and from Kuwait International Airport, reception and assistance at four major airports—Turkey, London, Dubai, and Spain—a luggage delivery service, and other perks to enhance their overall banking experience.



Ms. Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK

On this occasion, Johair Marafi, General Manager of Retail Banking at ABK, stated, "We continue to work on offering products that enhance the banking experience for our customers, keeping pace with their evolving banking and financial needs. This launch



underscores our commitment to innovation and elevating our competitive position in the banking sector within Kuwait."

The ABK Visa Infinite Advantage card also rewards customers for every banking transaction, offering exclusive deals when booking travel tickets, hotels globally, car rentals, cashback, shopping vouchers, and discounts at restaurants and cafés. Customers can also enjoy entertainment experiences such as cinema and sporting activities.

Marafi emphasized that the launch of the ABK Visa Infinite Advantage credit card demonstrates ABK's dedication to continuously enhancing its services and products to attract new customers while catering to the needs of the existing clientele. The Bank aims to reach all segments of society in its role as a responsible banking institution within Kuwait.

Customers can apply for the credit card today at any ABK branch, through the Bank's website, or via its mobile app. Marafi encouraged everyone to follow ABK's website and social media pages to stay updated on the diverse products, solutions, services, and campaigns launched throughout the year.

Al-Rabeh campaign crowns 536 winners

Kuwait Finance House reveals 20 winners of 'Al-Rabeh' draw

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the winners of the Al-Rabeh draw with 20 customers winning cash prizes worth KD1,500 each for the 38th and 39th weeks of 2024.

The winners of KD 1,500 are: Nourah Azran, Maram Al-Shammari, Ahmad Al-Osaimi, Aisha Al-Shammari, Bander Shaleesh, Aisha Hamed, Boby Cherian, Jaber Al-Bathali, Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi, Ghadeer Al-Azmi, Adel Al-Ibrahim, Amani Abu Gamaz, Arwa Al-Rabiah, Wafaa Al-Jraiyi, Mishref Al-Daihani, Mohammad Salama, Hanan Al-Saeed, Hamad Al-laho, Jaafar Al-Kankoni, Hadi Al-Ajmi.

The Al-Rabeh campaign provides prizes and draws that offer customers several chances of winning "weekly, monthly and quarterly". The campaign crowns 536 winners throughout the year.

The draw took place under the supervision of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The campaign is part of KFH's ongoing efforts to offer exceptional products and services that meet customers' aspirations, enhance the Bank's leadership in the local and global markets, as

well as reflect its excellence in offering innovative banking solutions as per the highest quality standards.

The Al-Rabeh account is a salary account available to customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Customers can open Al-Rabeh account in any of KFH branches in Kuwait, or through the Bank's online channels. The account can be opened in the Kuwaiti Dinar and is targeted for customers wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts. Salary transfer is a prerequisite for customers to enter the draw provided that the transfer of salary to Al-Rabeh account is constant.

Regarding the terms and conditions of the prizes and draws, a customer is able to deposit 3 salaries during the 3 months prior to the draw, and the minimum balance of the account should not be less than KD 50 at the end of each month during the 3 months prior to the draw. Ten draws take place on a weekly basis for amount of K.D 1,500 for 10 winners each. 1 KG of KFH gold will be drawn monthly for one winner and K.D 25,000 for one winner every quarter, reaching a total number of 536 winners during the year.



The campaign visual.

Campaign focuses on employee well-being

Warba launches 'You Are Precious to Us' campaign

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Warba Bank has launched its annual "You Are Precious to Us" campaign, aimed at raising awareness of breast cancer risks among its female employees. This initiative coincides with Breast Cancer Awareness Month, highlighting the bank's commitment to social responsibility and supporting its staff in adopting preventive measures against breast cancer.

Awatef Abdulaziz Hamadah, Specialist Public Relations & Corporate Events Management, emphasized that the campaign aligns with global efforts to combat breast cancer, reflecting Warba Bank's dedication to increasing awareness among female employees about the risks, the importance of early detection, and proactive prevention.

Hamada stated, "At Warba, we are committed to embracing such initiatives because we deeply value the well-being of our employees and strive to foster a healthy work environment."

The campaign encourages the bank's female employees to undergo regular screenings, aiming to minimize the risks associated with the disease. Warba Bank also extends its efforts through social media channels, offering guidance on prevention and emphasizing the importance of early detection.



Awatef Abdulaziz Hamadah

By fostering a positive and collaborative work environment, Warba Bank seeks to enhance teamwork and build a sense of belonging among its staff. This initiative reflects the bank's dedication to creating a workplace where everyone feels valued and engaged.

Warba Bank has achieved significant milestones in a short period, establishing itself as a leading provider of high-value Sharia-compliant banking services for individuals and companies. Warba is among the top local Islamic banks, contributing to its growing reputation as a trusted institution for all community members.

Canada embassy organizes 'Come Plant With Us' event

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: For the 3rd year in a row, the Canadian Embassy in Kuwait is partnering with the UN Habitat, Shamiya Greenhouse and the Canadian Women's Network to organize the "Come Plant With Us" -- a children's event to celebrate the Canadian Thanksgiving and encourage environmental awareness on Saturday, Oct 12 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

The event is open to the public but prior registration is required. Entry fee: used plastic bottles to recycle

The registration is on a first come first served basis using the link <https://form.jotform.com/231605758087059> and is only required for children, not adults.

To enter on the day, children must bring clean plastic items for recycling.

ICAI Kuwait Chapter hosts successful CPE event on NRI opportunities

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India - Kuwait Chapter (ICAIKC) successfully conducted a Continuing Professional Education (CPE) event on the theme, "Opportunities for NRIs in the Next Trillion Dollar Economy". The event provided a platform for experts to explore the promising prospects and strategies for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) as India's economy continues its exponential growth.

The event was expertly hosted by CA Sweta Chitra, Executive Committee Member, and CA Joseph Peter, Committee Member, ensuring a smooth and engaging session.

CA Aditya Dhanuka, Chairperson of ICAI Kuwait Chapter, expressed his appreciation to the speakers and attendees, stating, "This event has been a fantastic opportunity for our members to gain crucial insights into the evolving economic landscape of India. The potential for NRIs is vast, and we are thrilled to facilitate these valuable conversations, helping our members make informed



Photo during the event.

decisions about their financial futures."

The event featured an esteemed lineup of speakers, including Mr. Akhil Chatuvedi, Executive Director and Chief Business Officer of Motilal Oswal, who delivered a compelling keynote address. He highlighted India's path toward becoming a trillion-dollar economy and identified key sectors poised

for rapid growth, including technology, healthcare, infrastructure, and renewable energy.

Mr. Chatuvedi offered a detailed analysis of how NRIs can actively participate in and benefit from India's economic revolution.

Also presenting were CA Amit Desai, a seasoned professional in the

Digital Payments industry, and Mr. CHP Kumar, Managing Director - Upscale Investment Pvt Ltd, a prominent financial leader in the field of financial planning. Both speakers offered valuable insights into the emerging investment landscape, financial planning, and regulatory framework that will shape the future of NRI investments in India.

CA Amit Desai focused on tax-friendly initiatives and new regulations encouraging NRIs to invest in India, while Mr. CHP Kumar shared an in-depth analysis of portfolio management strategies and identified high-growth sectors that promise strong returns for NRI investors.

The event was well-attended by members of the ICAIKC who were keen on understanding how NRIs can play a pivotal role in India's economic rise. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A session, providing the audience with practical takeaways and a deeper understanding of the opportunities available to NRIs in the burgeoning Indian economy.



Poster of plant a tree event.

Dump Matsumoto's journey in 'The Queen of Villains'

Netflix series explores women's dreams in pro wrestling world

TOKYO, Oct 8, (AP) — "The Queen of Villains" is a typical coming-of-age tale about a young woman's road to empowerment and self-discovery - except it all takes place in the body-slaming, arm-twisting world of Japanese professional wrestling.

The Netflix series, which began airing last month, tells the story of Dump Matsumoto, a real-life wrestling legend from the 1980s who grew up poor with a father who was often absent or abusive.

Matsumoto grew up angry, she said, and went on to create in her wrestling persona a ferocious, almost camp villain character, known in the sport as a "heel," complete with outlandish Kabuki-like facial makeup, chains, sticks and a grotesque scowl. She loomed large as a symbol of fearless and defiant womanhood.

"I gave it my all to be evil," Matsumoto said. A hefty woman with a friendly smile, Matsumoto makes a point even now to adamantly deny that she was ever a nice person or acknowledge that many people in Japan, especially women, love her.

"I still beat people up in matches. I stuck forks in them and made them bleed," she said, adding, "All the people who pretend to be good are the truly evil ones."

"The Queen of Villains" follows the friendship be-

tween Matsumoto and Chigusa Nagayo of the popular wrestling tag team known as the Crush Gals. Nagayo served as an adviser, trainer and choreographer for the series' dramatized wrestling scenes.

Japanese professional wrestling fans still talk about the matches between Matsumoto and the Crush Gals, including the ones they fought in the US.

The actresses in the series spent two years training for their roles. They gained weight and muscle, and learned techniques like the "giant swing," in which a wrestler grabs her opponent's legs and moves in a dizzying circle, or the "flying knee kick," which involves a jump and kick to the body while airborne.

The trick in professional wrestling is to execute the punches and body slams convincingly but in a controlled way to avoid serious injuries. A wrestler also must know how to fall properly.

One key fight scene took a month to film as the actors went over each move, again and again.

"Dump played a role to be hated by the entire nation," said Yuriyan Retriever, a professional comedian who stars as Matsumoto in the series.

"Previously, there was a limit, maybe even unintentionally, beyond which I couldn't go. But when I played



This image released by Netflix series shows Yuriyan Retriever in a scene from the film 'The Queen of Villains.' (AP)

Dump, all those emotions had to come out and be expressed," she said.

She felt like she was no longer playing a role, she said, but that she had become Dump Matsumoto.

"It's frightening to be hated, and I don't think anyone

wants to be hated," Retriever said.

"When I finished a cut, I was crying. And my body was shaking. I can't express it in words, but I understood all the pressures Dump must have felt."

The series not only presents a women-beating-the-odds story against a backdrop of sexism and abusive management but it also captures the postwar period of the Showa-era in a way that feels authentic. The scenes used thousands of extras, many of them serious wrestling fans.

Some viewers say the real-life wrestling was more intense than the dramatized version in the new series.

Rionne McAvoy, an Australian filmmaker who is a professional wrestler was hit with a stick by Matsumoto, said: "The actors often fail to capture the intensity, grit and charisma required for these roles."

But for most viewers, it's real enough and heartbreaking.

"This is an eternal but emotional story portraying ordinary girls who passionately pursued a dream, found friendship and also themselves," director Kazuya Shirai-shi said.

"It gave me a chance to reflect on my own 15-year filmmaking career, what I truly want to be, what kind of films I want to make. I just wanted to tell their story, which is also everyone's story."



Actor Nicholas Alexander Chavez

Shows debut

Chavez hungry for what's next

LOS ANGELES, Oct 8, (AP) — Nicholas Alexander Chavez has had a "very surreal" few weeks promoting and premiering his first roles in prime time, in a pair of shows debuting within one week of each other.

Chavez, 25, plays Lyle Menendez in Netflix's "Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story" and Father Charlie, a true-crime obsessed priest in FX's "Grotesquerie." Both shows are co-created by Ryan Murphy.

"We were working on the tail end of 'Monsters' when Ryan called and said he had a really, really exciting new show called 'Grotesquerie' that he was working on," recalled Chavez. "He was very passionate about the project, and he had a great role in it for me."

"Grotesquerie" stars Niecy Nash-Betts as an alcoholic detective who has teamed up with a nun (Micaela Diamond) to investigate a serial killer case.

Character

To get into character for "Grotesquerie," Chavez would listen to music. "Don't Do Anything Illegal" by Charles Manson was on his Father Charlie playlist. For "Monsters," Chavez's prep was different because he was playing a real person and could watch old court videos.

In 1996, Lyle and his younger brother Erik (played by Cooper Koch) were sentenced to life in prison for the 1989 killing of their parents, Jose and Kitty in their Beverly Hills home. The brothers alleged they were sexually abused by both parents for years and feared for their lives. Last week, prosecutors in LA said they were reviewing new information about the case and would decide whether a resentencing is warranted.

Chavez has already achieved success in daytime on ABC's "General Hospital" as Spencer Cassadine, a grandson of Genie Francis' Laura (of Luke and Laura fame.) He played the role of a spoiled prince with daddy issues from 2021 until January 2024. Chavez won a Daytime Emmy Award for outstanding younger actor in a drama in 2022.

"Soap fans are incredibly loyal, and I'm really, really thankful that they are interested in following my journey, even though I'm not on the show anymore," said Chavez.

Now that both "Monsters" and "Grotesquerie" are out, Chavez says he's "itching" to get back to work.

"My life feels whole and complete between the words action and cut. I live for those moments. I think that is the purpose of my entire existence," said Chavez. "Nothing brings me more satisfaction and joy as a human being than the craft of acting. I can't wait to see what the future holds."

Film

Actors reflect on emotional weight of their role

Inside 'We Live in Time' with Pugh, Garfield

TORONTO, Oct 8, (AP) — In "We Live in Time," Florence Pugh and Andrew Garfield act an entire life of a relationship - a gamut of dating, falling in love, having a child and reckoning with cancer. So when Garfield recently went on a six-day retreat in the woods without his phone, one of his first texts was to his co-star.

"I came out and I sent Florence a message. I just felt compelled," Garfield says. "When you reconnect with yourself, you reconnect with a bunch of stuff that matters to you. And I was just like, man, I haven't let Florence know for a few months how much this film and this time with her meant to me."

"We Live in Time," directed by John Crowley ("Brooklyn," "The Goldfinch") and penned by playwright Nick Payne, is the kind of movie that provokes an emotional response, including for its two stars. In playing their characters, Almut and Tobias, across a decade of time, "We Live in Time" poignantly condenses, and remixes into a non-linear narrative, a wide spectrum of life. Right alongside each other are romance and heartbreak, stolen moments and life-changing ones, birth and death.

Premiere

It was enough to go through together as actors that Pugh and Garfield, when they spoke the morning of the film's premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival last month, were still mourning it.

"I've never had this happen before in this way. We've literally spent the last two days trying to unpack it and everybody wants us to unpack it. And we don't know," says Pugh. "When we finished the movie, every scene that got closer and closer to the end, it became harder and harder to process that we weren't going to be able to do it anymore."

As two of the most in-demand actors of their generation, Pugh, 28, and Garfield, 41, have transformed themselves into all kinds of roles. They have donned Marvel costumes and joined period ensembles. Pugh was memorably outfitted in an elaborate flower dress for "Midsommar." But "We Live in Time," which A24 opens in theaters Friday, is a particularly unadorned view of two of the best actors working. It's the first film in which Garfield has used his real voice.

"They're two very beautiful creatures to look at, and have looked fantastically beautiful on screen - and do look very beautiful in this, by the way, just not in a glammed-up, aspirational fashion," says Crowley. "They're also both British actors who have made significant inroads in American cinema, and to some eyes, people might only know them from that. To have them speak in their own accents allowed those roles to fall back much closer to them."

Chemistry can be a tricky thing to pin down. Crowley, whose 2007 film "Boy A" was Garfield's feature film debut, cast Garfield first. After



Andrew Garfield, (left), and Florence Pugh pose for a portrait to promote the film 'We Live in Time' on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, in New York. (AP)

that came Pugh. Crowley prefers to keep dress rehearsals subdued in order to save the energy for shooting. But there were, he says, "flickers of something very special" between them.

"Much like two championship tennis players warming up, they couldn't not once in a while hit the ball in an extraordinary way and have the other person hit it back," says Crowley.

In an interview together, the connection between Garfield and Pugh was abundantly clear. Their reac-

tion to the meme that sprung from the movie's first image (in which a carousel horse appeared to be their uninvited co-star), was, itself, a viral video that hinted at their natural comic patter. But whatever chemistry is, Garfield is more inclined to attribute it to staying present as actors.

"You can't predict it. I knew Florence was a magnificent actor. But that's all I knew. I didn't know whether we'd work together well. Neither of us did," Garfield says. "But for me, honestly, it exceeded

my expectations. It's an incomparable thing. There's no way of comparing my experience with Florence with any other experience I've had.

"I said this to Florence last night, I was like, 'It's weirdly, in a way, one performance. It's like we're stitched together.'"

For Pugh, chemistry is about showing up with the right intentions.

"We were willing and wanting to do that for each other," says Pugh. "There's plenty of times when you're willing to do it and someone isn't.

And that's also fine because you can also create your own chemistry with yourself, I suppose.

"But it's so much more hard work and much less fun," adds Garfield, smiling. "Just like self-pleasure."

In some ways, Garfield and Pugh were living alongside "We Live in Time" and experiencing some of its chapters of life with their characters, albeit from different perspectives. When Almut is diagnosed with late-stage ovarian cancer, she is forced to make difficult decisions that weigh having children with her ambition as a chef.

"If you want to be successful, if you want to actually give your career a good crack at it, you're going to be running through the time that is most optimum for having children," says Pugh. "It's stuff that I'm now having to figure out since we made the movie, since the movie's coming out. It's for all ages of women that are trying to navigate this unbelievably tricky dilemma."

Some of the challenges faced by Almut and Tobias were deeply familiar to the actors. Garfield's mother died of cancer in 2019. Others took more imagination. Neither Garfield or Pugh have children, but a lengthy birth scene, in a gas station bathroom, is the movie's most show-stopping moment. To experience Almut's cancer treatment, Pugh was convinced she needed to cut her hair. Crowley filmed Garfield cutting Pugh's hair for the scene.

Experience

"I wanted this to be gone now so I knew how she feels in these scenes that I've read in the script and thought about, but that I can't imagine how she felt yet," Pugh says, pointing at her hair. "I loved that day. It was a very powerful day."

The experience has left both actors trying to hold onto something from "We Live in Time." Garfield began the interview by opening up a book, offering a poem and then reading aloud Kabir's "To Be a Slave of Intensity."

"Just to remind myself that I'm a person, I guess," he explains. "And because this film is about being as vitality alive as humanly possible. I think it's really hard to remember how to do that sometimes - a lot of the time. In fact, it's all set up against us doing it. So we need practices to keep us in touch with that."

If "We Live in Time" is ultimately about making peace with the fleeting nature of all that's precious, and trying to appreciate those moments when they're happening, Garfield is doing his best to carry on that mentality and be grateful for the time he and Pugh had together.

"Every relationship is sacred. Every deep intimacy is sacred," Garfield says. "And I think it's such an amazing thing and a brave thing to do to actually address it and go: This is over now. We're ending this now - much like Tobias and Alma have to do. So I think it all becomes life, art, imitation, whichever way around."

Variety

ULAN BATOR: A new drama inspired by renowned Chinese contemporary writer Yu Hua staged in Mongolia as part of celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Mongolia.

Directed by Myagmarnaran Batbold of Orfey Theatre, the adaptation of Yu Hua's novel "To Live" has been enchanting audiences at the Cultural Center in Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia, since its premiere on Oct. 1.

The drama provided audiences with opportunities to experience powerful narratives. (Xinhua)

KANSAS CITY, Mo.: Taylor Swift was back at Arrowhead Stadium on Monday night to see her boyfriend, Travis Kelce, and the Kansas City Chiefs play the New Orleans Saints after the pop superstar had missed the team's previous two games on the road.

Swift was in the final days of a break from her record-setting Eras Tour, which resumes with the first of three shows Friday night at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami. The



Swift

tour's North American leg continues in New Orleans and Indianapolis before heading to Toronto and Vancouver in November and December. The final show is scheduled for Dec. 8.

Swift also missed Kelce's annual Kelce Car Jam over the weekend, a charity car show that raises money for his 87 and Running foundation, which helps underserved youth in the areas around Kansas City and Cleveland. There was still plenty of star power with Patrick Mahomes and his wife, Brittany, joining Kelce's parents his brother, retired Eagles center Jason Kelce.

Swift began her high-profile romance with Kelce last season, when he invited the "Anti-Hero" singer to watch him in a September matchup

with the Bears. Since then, the two have spent plenty of time together, often with cameras following every move.

Swift has stayed out of the spotlight the past couple of weeks, though. That after a particularly headline-grabbing week in which she endorsed Kamala Harris for president, took home seven trophies from the MTV Video Music Awards, and show up to see the Chiefs beat the visiting Cincinnati Bengals.

Swift has become close friends with the Mahomes family over the past year. That created some controversy when the 14-time Grammy winner said she supported Harris over Donald Trump in the November election; Trump has referenced the quarterback's wife after she had

liked - and then unliked - an Instagram post by the Republican presidential nominee. (AP)

BEIJING: China recorded 2.1 billion yuan (about 29.7 million US dollars) in box office takings for the 2024 National Day holiday, the China Film Administration said Tuesday.

A total of 52.09 million movie tickets were sold during the holiday. Domestic films raked in 2.02 billion yuan at the box office, accounting for 95.87 percent of the total, the administration said.

Domestic production "The Volunteers: The Battle of Life and Death" led the charts with a box office revenue of 805 million yuan during the holiday. (Xinhua)

Obituaries



Cissy Houston performs during McDonald's Gospelfest 2013 on May 11, 2013 in Newark, N.J. Houston, the mother of Whitney Houston and a two-time Grammy winner who performed alongside superstar musicians like Elvis Presley and Aretha Franklin, died Monday, Oct. 7, in her New Jersey home. She was 91. (AP)

Author Segal dead

Cissy, Houston family matriarch, dies at 91

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 8, (AP): **Cissy Houston**, a two-time Grammy-winning soul and gospel artist who sang with Aretha Franklin, Elvis Presley and other stars and knew triumph and heartbreak as the mother of Whitney Houston, has died. She was 91.

Cissy Houston died Monday morning in her New Jersey home while under hospice care for Alzheimer's disease, her daughter-in-law Pat Houston told The Associated Press. The acclaimed gospel singer was surrounded by her family.

"Our hearts are filled with pain and sadness. We miss the matriarch of our family," Pat Houston said in a statement. She said her mother-in-law's contributions to popular music and culture are "unparalleled."

"Mother Cissy has been a strong and towering figure in our lives. A woman of deep faith and conviction, who cared greatly about family, ministry, and community. Her more than seven-decade career in music and entertainment will remain at the forefront of our hearts."

A church performer from an early age, Houston was part of a family gospel act before breaking through in popular music in the 1960s as a member of the prominent backing group The Sweet Inspirations with Doris Troy and her niece Dee Dee Warwick. The group sang backup for a variety of soul singers including Otis Redding, Lou Rawls and The Drifters. They also sang backup for Dionne Warwick.

Houston's many credits included Franklin's "Think" and "You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman," Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl" and Dusty Springfield's "Son of a Preacher Man." The Sweet Inspirations also sang on stage with Presley, whom Houston would remember fondly for singing gospel during rehearsal breaks and telling her that she was "squirrelly."

Albums

"At the end of our engagement with him, he gave me a bracelet inscribed with my name on the outside," she wrote in her memoir "How Sweet the Sound," published in 1998. "On the inside of the bracelet he had inscribed his nickname for me: Squirrelly."

The Sweet Inspirations had their own top 20 single with the soul-rock "Sweet Inspiration," made in the Memphis studio where Franklin and Springfield among others recorded hits and released four albums just in the late '60s. The group appeared on Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl" and sang background vocals for The Jimi Hendrix Experience on the song "Burning of the Midnight Lamp" in 1967.

Houston's last performance with The Sweet Inspirations came after the group hit the stage with Presley in a Las Vegas show in 1969. Her final recording session with the group turned into their biggest R&B hit "(Gotta Find) A Brand New Lover" a composition by the production team of Gamble & Huff, who appeared on the group's fifth album, "Sweet Sweet Soul."

During that time, the group occasionally performed live concert dates with Franklin. After the group's success and four albums together, Houston left The Sweet Inspirations to pursue a solo career where she flourished.

Houston became an in-demand session singer and recorded more than 600 songs in multiple genres throughout her career. Her vocals can be heard on tracks alongside a wide range of artists including Chaka Khan, Donny Hathaway, Jimi Hendrix, Luther Vandross, Beyoncé, Paul Simon, Roberta Flack and Whitney Houston.

Cissy Houston went on to complete several records, including "Presenting Cissy Houston," the disco-era "Think It Over" and the Grammy-winning gospel albums "Face to Face" and "He Leadeth Me."

In 1971, Houston's signature

vocals were featured on Burt Bacharach's solo album, which includes "Mexican Divorce," "All Kinds of People" and "One Less Bell to Answer." She performed various standards including Barbra Streisand's hit song, "Evergreen."

Never far from her native New Jersey or musical origins, Houston presided for decades over the 200-member Youth Inspirational Choir at Newark's New Hope Baptist Church, where Whitney Houston sang as a child.

Cissy Houston would say that she had discouraged her daughter from show business, but they were joined in music for much of Whitney's life, from church to stage performances to television and film and the recording studio. Whitney's rise seemed inevitable, not only because of her obvious talents, but because of her background: Dionne and Dee Dee Warwick were cousins, Leontyne Price a cousin once removed, Franklin a close family friend.

Whitney Houston made her debut on national television when she and Cissy Houston sang a medley of Franklin hits on "The Merv Griffin Show." Cissy Houston sang backup on Whitney's eponymous, multi-platinum first album, and the two shared the lead on "I Know Him So Well," from the 1987 mega-seller "Whitney."

They would sing together often in concert and appeared in the 1996 film "The Preacher's Wife." Their most indelible moments likely came from the video for one of Whitney's biggest hits from the mid-1980s, "Greatest Love of All." It was filmed as a mother-daughter homage, ending with a joyous Whitney exiting the stage of Harlem's Apollo Theater and embracing Cissy Houston, who stood in the wings.

Lore Segal, an esteemed Vietnamese American author and translator whose gift for words helped her family escape from the Nazis and who later drew upon her experiences as a Jewish refugee and immigrant for such fiction as "Other People's Houses" and "Her First American," died Monday at 96.

Segal, a longtime resident of Manhattan's Upper West Side, died in her apartment after a brief illness, her publisher Melville House said in a statement.

After settling in the US in 1951, Segal wrote novels, short stories, essays and children's books and translated the Bible and Grimm's fairy tales, which featured illustrations by her friend **Maurice Sendak**. Her life - filtered through memory and imagination - was her greatest muse. "Other People's Houses," released in 1964 and originally serialized in the New Yorker, closely followed her childhood in Austria, her years in foster care in London during World War II and her arrival in New York, where the growing familiarity with the city's sights and sounds - "charged thus upon the air" - makes the "alien into a citizen."

"Her First American" continued her early experiences in the U.S., while "Lucinella" was a comic novella inspired by her time in the 1970s at the Yaddo artist retreat in upstate New York. Segal, who taught at Columbia University, Princeton University and several other schools, satirized academic life in "Shakespeare's Kitchen."

In 2019, she compiled her fiction and nonfiction in the anthology "The Journal I Did Not Keep," in which she summarized the importance and imperfection of recapturing the past.

"I believe that the act of remembering and telling the story of what we remember will always be to some extent fatal to the thing remembered," she wrote. "So what really happened?"

Her many admirers included such author-critics as **Cynthia Ozick**, **Vivian Gornick** and **Alfred Kazin**. In 2008, she was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for her novel "Shakespeare's Kitchen." The American Academy of Arts and Letters inducted her in 2023.

Hannah Gutierrez-Reed gets probation

'Rust' film armorer guilty of gun charge in separate case

SANTA FE, N.M., Oct. 8, (AP) The weapons supervisor in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer by Alec Baldwin on the set of the Western film "Rust" pleaded guilty Monday to a separate criminal charge of carrying a gun into a licensed liquor establishment.

Movie armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed agreed to change her plea to guilty on the charge in exchange for a reduced sentence of 18 months supervised probation.

Judge T. Glenn Ellington approved the agreement that allows Gutierrez-Reed to begin probation while serving out an 18-month prison term at a New Mexico state penitentiary for involuntary manslaughter in the fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins.

In the "Rust" case, prosecutors blamed Gutierrez-Reed for unwittingly bringing live ammunition



Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, the weapons supervisor on the set of the Western film "Rust," (right), sits beside paralegal Carmella Sisneros at the start of her plea hearing at the First Judicial District Courthouse in Santa Fe, N.M., Monday, Oct. 7. (AP)

onto the movie set and for failing to follow basic gun safety protocols.

Gutierrez-Reed shuffled into the Santa Fe courtroom Monday in a beige jumpsuit, handcuffs and ankle shackles to change her plea to guilty and waive her right to trial.

"I'd just like to apologize to the court and thank you for your judgment today," she said.

The case stems from evidence that a few weeks before "Rust" began filming in October 2021, Gutierrez-Reed carried a gun into a downtown bar in Santa Fe where firearms are prohibited.

Special prosecutor Kari Morrissey said Gutierrez-Reed filmed herself in the bathroom of the bar with a handgun - explaining how she snuck in the prohibited firearm in a video that was obtained when authorities searched the armorer's phone during the "Rust" investigation.

Gutierrez-Reed was convicted in March at trial of involuntary manslaughter in the fatal shooting

of Hutchins. She has an appeal of that conviction pending in a higher court.

Baldwin, the lead actor and co-producer for "Rust," was pointing a gun at Hutchins during a rehearsal for the film when the revolver went off, killing Hutchins and wounding director Joel Souza.

In July, Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer dismissed an involuntary manslaughter case against Baldwin halfway through a trial based on the withholding of evidence by police and prosecutors from the defense. Morrissey has since asked the judge to reconsider.

Under terms of her plea agreement, Gutierrez-Reed is prohibited while on probation from possessing firearms, consuming alcohol or drugs and must pay \$180 in fees while submitting a sample of her DNA to a criminal database and completing an addiction treatment program.

Film



Sufjan Stevens performs 'Mystery of Love' from the film 'Call Me By Your Name' at the Oscars on March 4, 2018, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Artists bring new sound to musical theater stage

Alt-rock wave sweeps Broadway stage

NEW YORK, Oct. 8, (AP): Ryan Miller, lead singer of alternative rock band Guster, has a new gig that even he's a little surprised about: Musical theater songwriter. He laughs that he's gone all Broadway.

"I just went full-into the ballpit - just, like, face-first, take-me-whenever-this-is-going," he said before a recent rehearsal of his bright new musical "Safety Not Guaranteed" at Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Miller is part of a growing trend of alt-rockers bringing a new sound to the space carved out by giants like Stephen Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The Avett Brothers are about to have "Swept Away" land on Broadway, Florence + The Machine frontwoman Florence Welch is working on a musical about "The Great Gatsby" and Jack Antonoff is scoring "Romeo & Juliet." Radiohead's Thom Yorke is laboring on "Hamlet Hail to the Thief," a mashup of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and his band's music.

Arcade Fire's Will Butler is fresh off the success of the Tony-winning play "Stereophonic." Sufjan Stevens songs found a place on Broadway last season with "Illinois" and the folk-rock band Jamestown Revival is fueling the reigning best new musical, "The Outsiders."

"There seems to be a wave and we're kind of catching it at a good time," says Miller. "It felt like there was already some soil that was being laid that I wouldn't have to break down."

Tony Award-winning producer John Johnson, who is helping create that wave by backing the musicals "Swept Away," "Stereophonic" and "Safety Not Guaranteed," says the change reflects the rise of tastes of Millennials and Gen-X.

If, before the pandemic, the standard theatergoer was a suburban woman in her 60s, she's being replaced by folks in their 30s to 50s from chic neighborhoods in Manhattan and Brooklyn, as well as bedroom communities in New Jersey like Maplewood and South Orange.

"We're kind of following the path of the generational shift in the audience that's happening right now," Johnson says, adding that these new theatergoers "are open to new stories, new voices, as well as the voices that they grew up with."

Alt-rock has been heard on Broadway before, of course, with shows like Duncan Sheik's "Spring Awakening," and Alanis Morissette's "Jagged Little Pill," but rare is a cluster like theater is enjoying now.

Scott Avett, lead vocalist and multi-instrumentalist for the Avett Brothers, has watched as his 2004 album "Mignonette" - based on a book about men adrift for days in the middle of the ocean - finds a new life on stage.

"It's surreal, for sure," he says. "The blooming of the story with the songs and the concept has been very surreal," adding: "It feels like quite flattering and affirming."

The songs have been wedded to a story by John Logan and the Avetts wrote one song specifically for the show, "Lord Lay Your Hand On My Shoulder."

The leap to Broadway, in one way, isn't that strange for the Americana band, who have always written narrative-driven and character-based songs.

Show

"Show tunes are like the longing coming from somebody that then is exaggerated to the stage," says Avett. "We grew up projecting that from a smaller place."

If "Swept Away" began as a book that became an album, "Safety Not Guaranteed" started life as a 2012 sci-fi comedy starring Aubrey Plaza, who played one of a trio of journalists hunting whoever placed an intriguing classified ad: "Wanted: Someone to go back in time with me. This is not a joke," it reads. "Must bring your own weapons. Safety not guaranteed."

Aside from the time-travel silliness, the film and musical is about the fading dreams of aspiring professionals in their 20s and 30s who see diminished opportunities and want to go back to the comfort of the past.

Miller initially had no intentions of making musical theater. When not touring with his four-piece band, he scores films, appears on podcasts and even starred in his own PBS series. Broadway or Broadway-adjacent didn't appeal.

Miller, who lives in Vermont, was simply turned off by the sheer amount of time it usually took: Fellow

Vermont creators Anais Mitchell's "Hedestown" took 14 years and Trey Anastasio's "Hands on a Hardbody" took 10 years and closed after less than a month.

But Miller found himself gradually sucked in and enjoying a timeline that was accelerated. He was originally asked just to attend a workshop performance of "Safety Not Guaranteed" studded with Guster songs - basically, a Guster jukebox - and loved it. "Have I just been like a closeted theater kid my whole life?" he asked himself.

Soon he was writing original songs for it. He was a natural, since he had scored the film, knew the characters and the emotional beats. He wrote five new stage songs in a month and sent them to book writer Nick Blaemire.

"I remember after I finished that fifth song, I sent it to Nick, I was like, 'Man, really fell in love with this.' Like something happened and I'm going to be really bummed if I don't get to just see it once."

Miller then went on a writing tear, offering some 15 new songs in place of the Guster ones. "This was the rule: I was like, 'Just let me beat it. If I don't beat it, we'll all know and that's it.'"

One new song - "I Wanna Go Back" - shows Miller clearly having fun, with the lyrics: "We're losing our hair/It doesn't seem fair/All the best of our days are behind us and gone/Xbox/cheap buzz/tan lines/peach fuzz."

Only three Guster songs - including "One Man Wrecking Machine" - made the cut. The rest are from Miller, who relished the storytellers' task of creating songs specifically tailored for the characters and moments.

"It's been like, one of the greatest thrills, I think, of my artistic career to have been brought/stumbled/actively weaseled my way into this world. And I'm totally smitten," he says.

More and more alt-rockers may follow, attracted by the chance to show their multi-hyphenateness and the constancy. No matter how successful a rock band is, life on the road means one or two nights in a city; a stage show, on the other hand, is more like a residency.

who is now serving 20 years in prison after being convicted of child sex convictions in Chicago.

The Grammy Award-winning R&B singer, born Robert Sylvester Kelly, was found guilty in 2022 of three charges of producing child sexual abuse images and three charges of enticement of minors for sex.

His lawyers argued that a shorter statute of limitations on child sex crime prosecutions should have applied to offenses dating back to the 1990s. Current law permits charges while an accuser is still alive.

The justices did not detail their reasoning in declining to hear the case, as is typical. And none publicly dissented. (AP)

Variety

LAS VEGAS: Federal prosecutors in Nevada have quietly dismissed a long-dormant sex abuse case against **Nathan Chasing Horse**, though the former "Dances with Wolves" actor still faces criminal charges elsewhere.

The federal case was tossed Oct. 1, just as state prosecutors were finalizing the dismissal of their own indictment against Chasing Horse under an order from the Nevada Supreme Court.

The back-to-back dismissals are a stunning development for a legal saga that began with Las Vegas police arresting Chasing Horse and raiding his home last January, leading to the state's 18-count indictment in **Clark County** District Court. (AP)

PASADENA, Calif.: Tennis great **Billie Jean King** will preside over the 136th Rose Parade as grand marshal next year.

King, who turns 81 next month, was introduced Monday in a shower of confetti on the lawn of Tournament House as "Philadelphia Freedom," the hit song **Elton John** wrote for her, blared.

"I'm still kicking," she said, smiling.

King will ride the 5 1/2-mile route through the streets of Pasadena on Jan. 1 and be part of the coin flip for the 111th Rose Bowl football game later that day.

"We looked forward to it every year," she said, recalling her childhood in Long Beach. "My mother and I always loved parades."

The parade's theme of "Best Day Ever!" celebrates life's best moments. (AP)

WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal Monday from the singer **R. Kelly**,



Kelly

Hinton and Hopfield revolutionize machine learning

Pioneers in artificial intelligence win Nobel Prize in physics

STOCKHOLM, Oct 8, (AP): Two pioneers of artificial intelligence - John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton - won the Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday for helping create the building blocks of machine learning that is revolutionizing the way we work and live but also creates new threats to humanity, one of the winners said.

Hinton, who is known as the Godfather of artificial intelligence, is a citizen of Canada and Britain who works at the University of Toronto and Hopfield is an American working at Princeton.

"This year's two Nobel Laureates in physics have used tools from physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today's powerful machine learning," the Nobel committee said in a press release.

Ellen Moons, a member of the Nobel committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, said the two laureates "used fundamental concepts from statistical physics to design artificial neural networks that function as associative memories and find patterns in large data sets."



John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton, (seen in picture), are awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics, announced at a press conference at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden Tuesday Oct. 8. (AP)

She said that such networks have been used to advance research in physics and "have also become part of our

daily lives, for instance in facial recognition and language translation." Hinton predicted that AI will end up

having a "huge influence" on civilization, bringing improvements in productivity and health care.

"It would be comparable with the Industrial Revolution," he said in the open call with reporters and the officials from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

"Instead of exceeding people in physical strength, it's going to exceed people in intellectual ability. We have no experience of what it's like to have things smarter than us. And it's going to be wonderful in many respects," Hinton said. "But we also have to worry about a number of possible bad consequences, particularly the threat of these things getting out of control."

The Nobel committee that honored the science behind machine learning and AI also mentioned fears about its possible flipside. Moon said that while it has "enormous benefits, its rapid development has also raised concerns about our future. Collectively, humans carry the responsibility for using this new technology in a safe and ethical way for the greatest benefit of humankind."

Hinton shares those concerns. He quit a role at Google so he could more freely speak about the dangers of the technology he helped create.

On Tuesday, he said he was shocked at the honor.

"I'm flabbergasted. I had, no idea this would happen," he said when reached by the Nobel committee on the phone.

Hinton, now 76, in the 1980s helped develop a technique known as back-propagation that has been instrumental in training machines how to "learn."

His team at the University of Toronto later wowed peers by using a neural network to win the prestigious ImageNet computer vision competition in 2012. That win spawned a flurry of copycats, giving birth to the rise of modern AI.

Hinton and fellow AI scientists Yoshua Bengio and Yann LeCun won computer science's top prize, the Turing Award, in 2019.

we were very misguided and what we were doing was a very surprising thing for apparently intelligent people to waste their time on. My message to young researchers is, don't be put off if everyone tells you what are doing is silly."

Hopfield, 91, created an associative memory that can store and reconstruct images and other types of patterns in data, the Nobel committee said. Hinton used Hopfield's network as the foundation for a new network that uses a different method, known as the Boltzmann machine, that the committee said can learn to recognise characteristic elements in a given type of data.

Six days of Nobel announcements opened Monday with Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun winning the medicine prize for their discovery of 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.



Dasman Diabetes wins award.

'DoseWatch' ensures safety

Dasman Diabetes Institute wins Safety Star Award '23

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Diagnostic Radiology Department at Dasman Diabetes Institute has been honored with the 2023 Safety Star Award from the Ministry of Health. This recognition is a testament to the department's dedicated efforts to improve radiation safety during CT scans, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The department has successfully integrated a cutting-edge tool called "DoseWatch," which accurately moni-

tors the radiation dose administered to patients in real-time.

This innovative tool allows for the precise tracking of radiation exposure, ensuring that it remains within the limits set by the Radiation Protection Department.

The implementation of DoseWatch not only enhances patient safety but also demonstrates the department's commitment to adhering to the highest standards of care in medical imaging.

Regional medical excellence showcased

Kuwait hosts TAVI training program

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: Kuwait hosted the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) Academy's training program, marking the first time this prestigious event was held outside of Europe, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The initiative aimed to provide advanced training for cardiology and catheterization consultants from Europe and the Middle East, highlighting Kuwait's growing reputation as a center for medical education and expertise.

The training program was organized by Chest Hospital in collaboration with Al-Adan Hospital, where participants engaged in hands-on training and theoretical sessions focused on the latest techniques in aortic valve replacement via catheterization.

During the course of the program, five successful aortic valve replacement surgeries were performed, demonstrating the practical application of the skills acquired. Specifically, three surgeries took place at the Chest Diseases Hospital, while the remaining two were conducted at the Al-Dabous Heart Center at Al-Adan Hospital.

The program featured notable attendees from Kuwait, including Dr. Khaled Al-Marri, Head of the Cardiac Catheterization Unit; Dr. Abdullah Al-Enezi, Head of the Cardiology Department at the Chest Diseases Consultant Hospital; Dr. Ahmed Al-Shatti, Head of the Cardiac Catheterization Unit at the Salman Al-Dabous Consultant Center and Dr. Abdullah Ismail, Con-

sultant Cardiologist and Interventional Catheterization Specialist at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital.

The participants expressed high praise for the exceptional skills and professionalism displayed by Kuwaiti medical personnel, reinforcing the country's commitment to advancing healthcare education.

The successful execution of this training program not only enhances the expertise of participating cardiologists but also solidifies Kuwait's position as a leading destination for advanced medical training in the region.

This initiative reflects the nation's dedication to improving healthcare outcomes and fostering international collaboration in medical practice.

Early detection key to cancer recovery

Symposium highlights early breast screening

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: In celebration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Cultural Committee of the Department of Sociology and Social Service at the College of Social Sciences hosted a comprehensive symposium under the title 'The Importance of Early Breast Cancer Screening'.

The event was held to raise awareness about the critical role of early detection in combating breast cancer.

Dr. Maryam Al Shatti, a prominent speaker at the symposium, provided valuable insights into the examination process for breast cancer screening.

She detailed the examination methods, highlighted key symptoms to watch for, and discussed potential causes of the disease.

Dr. Al Shatti emphasized the importance of regular screenings, stating that they are available at all medical centers. She shared compelling statistics indicating that early detection significantly increases the recovery rate to over 95%, enhancing patients' quality of life.

Furthermore, she noted that early screening often leads to faster and eas-



Photo from the event

ier treatment options.

Adding a personal touch to the discussion, Mai Al-Hajjaj shared her own experience as a breast cancer survivor.

She articulated that the greatest challenge lies in maintaining hope amid adversity.

Al-Hajjaj described Breast Cancer Awareness Month as a crucial reminder of life's value and the message that a breast cancer diagnosis does not signify the end.

Instead, she encouraged women to harness their strength and resilience in the fight against the disease, underscoring that awareness and knowledge are vital tools in overcoming cancer.

In a related initiative, the College of Arts hosted a course titled "English Language in the Security and Military Field," conducted by Dr. Kamil Shahristan. This course, held in the Dean's Office of the southern building of the College of Arts, marks the resumption of activities within the Consulting and Training Office.

The office plans to offer several more courses throughout the current semester, reflecting a commitment to enhancing educational opportunities and professional development in specialized fields.

Counseling and free testing offered

Health Ministry opens new 'Tatman' clinic to expand HIV and STD prevention services

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Ministry of Health inaugurated its third voluntary testing and counseling clinic, "Tatman," at the Fahaeel Health Center, aimed at enhancing the prevention of HIV (the virus responsible for AIDS) and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The event was attended by Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs, Dr. Munther Al-Hasawi. In a press statement, Dr. Fahd Al-Ghamlas, Director of the Public Health Department, outlined the clinic's range of services. These include pre-test counseling, where comprehensive information about HIV and STDs is provided, along with an assessment of potential risk factors. The clinic also offers rapid HIV testing, ensuring timely results for those seeking testing.

Dr. Al-Ghamlas noted that visitors to the clinic can also opt for testing for other diseases, such as hepatitis, syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea, expanding the clinic's role in comprehensive health screening.

Dr. Bashayer Al-Sarraf, a preventive health physician in the Ahmadi Health District, added that the clinic operates during morning hours and provides patients with post-test counseling.

These sessions explain test results,



A photo during the 'Tatman' clinic inauguration.

KUNA photo

offering guidance on how to respond and proceed based on the findings. The clinic also educates patients on reducing their risk of exposure to HIV and STDs. For those needing further care, referrals to specialized medical authorities are available. Dr. Al-Sarraf emphasized that "Tatman" clinics prioritize confidentiality and voluntary participation, with tests approved by international medical standards.

The clinics also distribute printed and digital educational materials to raise awareness. Additionally, a hotline is available for confidential inquiries about HIV and testing procedures.

This clinic joins two other "Tatman" locations -- one at Jahra Hospital (Infectious Diseases Hospital) and another at the Public Health Department in the Sabah Specialized Medical District -- further expanding access to critical HIV and STD prevention services across Kuwait.

SpaceX launches ESA's asteroid deflection mission

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 8, (Xinhua): SpaceX launched the Hera mission of the European Space Agency (ESA) to interplanetary transfer orbit on Monday.

The spacecraft was launched from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station

in Florida at 10:52 a.m. Eastern Time. Later SpaceX confirmed Hera's deployment.

Hera is a planetary defense mission that will study the impact of NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission spacecraft had on the

Dimorphos asteroid.

Hera will provide valuable data for future asteroid deflection missions and science to help humanity's understanding of asteroid geophysics as well as solar system formation and evolutionary processes.

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Action tied to injuries and retirements

Germany rushes into a new phase of post-Euro 2024 rebuild

DUESSELDORF, Germany, Oct 8, (AP): Florian Wirtz is only 21 and he's already one of the most experienced players in a new-look Germany team.

As Germany switches focus to the 2026 World Cup, injuries, retirements and a short-term focus on Euro 2024 have left it with a Nations League squad that lacks international experience but isn't especially young either.

Wirtz, the star attacking midfielder from Bayer Leverkusen, is the second youngest player in the squad but also the fifth most experienced player on 25 caps, as Germany prepares to play Bosnia-Herzegovina on Friday and the Netherlands on Monday.

None of the three goalkeepers in the squad - Oliver Baumann, Alexander Nübel and Oliver Blaswich - have ever played for Germany. With Barcelona's Marc-André ter Stegen in-

jured for months to come, one of them will have to step up.

Six of coach Julian Nagelsmann's preferred players were unavailable with injuries as of Tuesday; Leipzig left back David Raum the latest to drop out. New faces such as Jamie Leweling, Jonny Burkardt and Tim Kleindienst are Bundesliga regulars but untested at international level.

"Though it's a shame that this time we have to do without some injured regulars who contributed through the home Euros in the summer, we're very much looking forward to seeing our new players in the team environment and in training," coach Julian Nagelsmann said on Monday in remarks reported by dpa.

Even before Bayern's Jamal Musiala, Arsenal's Kai Havertz and West Ham's Niclas Füllkrug all dropped out injured, Germany's squad was

looking threadbare after a spate of high-profile retirements following the run to the quarterfinals at Euro 2024.

Toni Kroos, Manuel Neuer, Ilkay Gündogan and Thomas Müller called time on Germany after Euro 2024, taking a combined 451 caps' worth of experience with them.

There's a wider effect, too, from the pressure Germany felt to succeed when it hosted Euro 2024.

Short-term thinking was Germany's official policy when Nagelsmann was appointed last year on a contract that ran only through to Euro 2024, and he focused on getting a misfiring group of experienced players to gel again. Nagelsmann later extended his stay through to the 2026 World Cup.

Germany can usually count on Musiala and Wirtz, two of the brightest young talents in world soccer, but

other young players once hyped as Germany's future have yet to break through.

Borussia Dortmund's Karim Adeyemi has lacked consistency and had injury problems. Striker Youssoufa Moukoko and defender Arnel Bella-Kotchop were Adeyemi's teammates at the 2022 World Cup but haven't been selected since. Progress seems to have stalled for 21-year-old forward Maximilian Beier since he joined Dortmund this season, too.

One player who'll be expected to perform against Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Netherlands is Bayern forward Serge Gnabry, back in the team after 11 months away.

In a sign of how much things have changed, Gnabry's 22 international goals mean he's scored more for Germany than everyone else in the squad put together.



German national soccer team members, from left, Serge Gnabry, Jonathan Burkhardt and Jamie Leweling practice before the Nations League matches in Herzogenaurach, Germany. (AP)

Djokovic in Shanghai 4th round



Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays a forehand return against Flavio Cobolli of Italy during the men's singles third round match in the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China. (AP)

Serbian to face Safiullin who beat Tiafoe

SHANGHAI, Oct 8, (AP): Pursuing a 100th career title, Novak Djokovic had an easier time in his second match at the Shanghai Masters in ousting Flavio Cobolli 6-1, 6-2 on Tuesday.

Djokovic clinched with his 19th winner, placing a forehand behind the Italian who was racing back across the baseline after being pushed wide by the service.

The fourth-seeded Serb did not allow a break point in the third round, after previously being stretched to two tiebreakers and saving set points against Alex Michelsen of the United States.

Djokovic, who has won four of his 99 titles in Shanghai, next faces 61st-ranked Roman Safiullin who upset the 13th-seeded American Frances Tiafoe 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (5).

Stefanos Tsitsipas' rivalry with Daniil Medvedev will add another chapter after the Greek player beat Alexandre Muller 6-3, 7-5.

The 12th-ranked Tsitsipas and the Russian former U.S. Open champion will meet for a 14th time, and first in nearly a year. The fifth-ranked Medvedev has a commanding 9-4 lead in the head-to-head series, which has spilled over into a war of words off the court in the past.

"I consider him someone that I respect on the tour, much more than I did before," Tsitsipas said. "We've had some heated things on the court in

the past, but I think those things have resolved themselves over time."

Tsitsipas had to wait out a two-day rain delay to play his third-round match against Muller, but looked in complete control until losing his serve at 5-3 in the second set. Unperturbed, the Greek broke back to love to clinch the match and renew his six-year rivalry with Medvedev.

No. 16-ranked Ben Shelton put away Roberto Carballes Baena 6-3, 6-4, firing eight aces and 24 winners to line up top seed Jannik Sinner in the fourth round.

Seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz also

advanced with ease, beating Japan's Yosuke Watanuki 6-3, 6-4, while Grigor Dimitrov, playing in his 100th Masters event, beat Alexei Popyrin 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Gael Monfils upset 15th-ranked Ugo Humbert 7-6 (7), 2-6, 6-1 in an all-French matchup. The 38-year-old Monfils, ranked 46th, is the second oldest player to reach the Shanghai fourth round in Shanghai, behind only Roger Federer (also 38) in 2019.

"It's never easy to play Ugo, he's really aggressive, playing fast off both wings and takes a lot of time from you," said Monfils, who plays second-

ranked Carlos Alcaraz next.

Also, Tomas Machac, who made the semifinals in Tokyo, eased past Australian Alexander Vukic 6-4, 6-2 and next faces No. 13-ranked Tommy Paul in the third round.

Katerina Siniakova had a comfortable 6-3, 6-1 victory over Alexandra Eala of the Philippines to set up a second-round match against defending champion Aryna Sabalenka.

Second-ranked Sabalenka, who won the title the last time it was played in 2019, needs only to make the quarterfinals at Wuhan to regain top spot in the rankings from Iga Swiatek, who withdrew from the women's Asian swing citing fatigue and personal reasons. Swiatek recently split with coach Tomasz Wiktorowski.

Magda Linette of Poland routed No. 23-ranked Ludmila Samsonova 6-2, 6-2, and Ekaterina Alexandrova beat former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin of the U.S. 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

Other winners included Britain's Katie Boulter, American Amanda Anisimova, Bulgaria's Viktoriya Tomova and Romania's Jaqueline Cristian, who has Paris Olympics gold medalist Zheng Qinwen next.

After snapping a 24-match losing streak at the China Open last week, Zhang Shuai's change of fortune turned in Wuhan as she lost to Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan 6-4, 6-4 in the first round.

The top eight seeds, including Sabalenka and China Open champion Coco Gauff, received a first-round bye.



Taylor Fritz of the United States plays a backhand return against Yosuke Watanuki of Japan during the men's singles third round match in the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China. (AP)

Kane trains alone after joining England with suspected leg injury

LONDON, Oct 8, (AP): Captain Harry Kane trained alone on Tuesday after joining England with an apparent leg injury for Nations League games against Greece and Finland.

England said the striker was "working indoors on an individualized program" at St. George's Park. Kane was substituted in the 72nd minute of Bayern Munich's 3-3 draw with Eintracht Frankfurt on Sunday after having treatment for what seemed to be an issue with his right thigh.

He was checked over by the English Football Association upon arrival at the team's training camp on Monday, Bayern said.

England plays Greece on Thursday and Finland on Sunday.

Manchester United is set to be without injured defender Harry Maguire for the rest of October amid the team's struggles in 14th place in the English Premier League.

Maguire posted on his Instagram account on Tuesday it "will be a few weeks on the sideline for me but will come back stronger."

He did not specify the injury that caused him to be replaced at halftime of a 0-0 draw at Aston Villa on Sunday.

Three days earlier in the Europa League, Maguire scored late to secure a 3-3

draw at Porto after United let slip an early two-goal lead.

United's early season results have put pressure on Erik ten Hag with speculation that the club could replace him with Thomas Tuchel, the former Bayern Munich, Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain coach.

The next fixtures are against Brentford and West Ham in the Premier League and a visit to Fenerbahce coached by José Mourinho, the former boss at Old Trafford.

AC Milan defender Theo Hernandez was suspended for two matches on Tuesday for his actions at the end of Sunday's Se-

Fahaheel faces Al-Sahel

Kuwait Handball League kicks off

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The 58th edition of the Handball League kicked off today, featuring two matches in the first round. Fahaheel will open the tournament against Al-Sahel at 5:00 pm, followed by Khaitan facing Al-Tadamon at 6:30 pm, all taking place at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall.

The first week of matches will conclude tomorrow, Thursday, with Al-Yarmouk going up against Kazma and Al-Arabi playing against Burgan. The first round wraps up on Friday with three matches: Al-Sulaibikhat vs. Al-Salmiya, Al-Nasr vs. Al-Qadisiya, and Kuwait vs. Al-Qurain.

This year's league will feature 14 clubs, excluding Al-Jahra and Al-Shabab. The Competitions Committee has announced that the general league "merger" will run until March 28, 2025, starting with a single-division preliminary round. The top six teams will qualify for the Premier League, competing for the title while retaining their points from the merger. The Premier League will adopt a "three divisions" system, where the team with the most points at the end is crowned champion.

Conversely, teams ranked from seventh place downward in the "merger" will compete in the First Division League, which will consist of two divisions playing a "home and away" format, also retaining their points.

Each club is permitted to include two foreign players in their roster, with the option to replace a foreign player due to injury at any point during the season. Additionally, five youth team players may participate alongside the first team.

Secretary of the Handball Federation Qaed Al-Adwani emphasized that this year, Kuwaiti sports fans can look forward to a highly competitive league marked by enhanced technical quality and team contracts. He noted that the clubs have secured high-level professionals, raising the overall standard of the league, making it difficult to predict the leading competitor until the tournament's latter stages.

The handball league championship commenced in the 1966-1967 season, with eight out of 16 teams having won the title. Kuwait Club holds the record for the most league titles, having won 14 times, including during the 70-71 and 74-75 seasons, and the last 12 seasons. Al-Salmiya follows with 11 titles, while Al-Arabi has won 10. Kazma has claimed the title six times, and both Al-Qadisiya and Al-Sulaibikhat have five titles each. Al-Fahaheel has four championships, while Khaitan has won twice.

The 58th edition of the Handball League features seven national coaches in the first round, a significant increase compared to previous seasons, show-



A file photo of players in action.

casing the growth in the local coaching level and the clubs' confidence in them. The coaches are: Haitham Al-Rashidi (Kuwait Club), Yaqoub Al-Moussawi (Al-Salmiya), Ahmed Foulad (Al-Arabi), Hussein Habib (Burgan), Walid Fayrouz (Al-Sulaibikhat), Osama Al-Failakawi (Al-Yarmouk), and Abdulrahman Nashmi (Al-Fahaheel).

In addition, there is one Croatian coach, Slavko (Al-Qadisiya), two Serbian coaches, Bozo (Kazma) and Zekia (Al-Qurain), a Bosnian coach, Dever (Al-Nasr), two Egyptian coaches, Sameh Abdel-Razzaq (Al-Sahel) and Ayman Al-Alfi (Al-Tadamon), and a Tunisian coach, Moez Ben Mahfouz (Khaitan).

The foreign professionals include Qatari Frankis Marzo, Orange Angel Hernandez (Kuwait Club), Tunisian duo Anwar Ben Abdullah and Mohammed Farad (Kazma), Montenegrin Vldan Lipovina, Egyptian Abdullah Farouk (Qadisiya), Tunisian Mohammed Al-Soussi, German Valentin Spohn (Salmiya), Tunisian Osama Al-Jaziri, Croatian Luka Stjepanic (Al-Arabi), Japanese Yasuhira, Croatian Stipe Mandalic (Burgan), Estonian duo Karl Tom and Denir Janima (Al-Sulaibikhat), Egyptian Mahmoud Noman, Algerian Al-Hajji Sadok (Al-Nasr), Austrian Boris Zikovic, Montenegrin Vasil Kalogerovic (Al-Qurain), and Iranian Afshin Sadeghi (Fahaheel), who has not yet arrived. Al-Tadamon and Al-Yarmouk have yet to sign any foreign professionals.

Kuwait Club handball coach Haitham Al-Rashidi stated that his team's players are fully prepared for the championship, highlighting their training camp in Croatia aimed at enhancing their performance for continued championship success. Burgan coach Hussein Al-Habib noted that this year's league will be highly competitive due to the notable improvement in the participating teams, adding that the match schedule aligns well with the team's technical staff's vision for competitiveness.

China reaches men's semifinals

ASTANA, Oct 8, (Xinhua): China overcame world No. 1 Wang Chuqin's shocking defeat in the opening set to dispatch Iran 3-1, reaching the men's team semifinals of the Asian Table Tennis Championships on Tuesday.

As the first Chinese paddler out of the gate, Wang conceded a grueling 11-8, 3-11, 9-11, 13-11, 11-9 loss to 14-year-old Benjamin Faraji, who sits 209 places lower than him in the world rankings.

Riding the wave of his favorable form in recent tournaments, 19-year-old Lin Shidong helped China restore parity, also through five exhilarating games, ultimately triumphing 13-11, 11-13, 18-16, 5-11, 11-6 over Noshad Alamiyan.

After Liang Jingkun swept past Mohammad Mousavi Taher in straight games, Wang secured redemption with a 3-1 victory over Alamiyan to secure the defending champions' spot in the semifinals.

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SPORTS

Royal Stars win 9th edition of KDD KBL in thrilling finale

Shuttle Stingers contend with runners-up trophy

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes

Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Indian Badminton Association Kuwait (IBAK) recently concluded the 9th edition of the Kuwait Badminton League (KBL) at its Salwa Gym (Saad Al Awzi School) -- on Sept 26, 27 and Oct 3, 2024.

The tournament, which featured top-tier talent from across Kuwait, offered spectators a thrilling showcase of skill, endurance, and exemplary sportsmanship.

The tournament culminated in a gripping final match between the teams "Royal Stars" and "Shuttle Stingers," with the "Royal Stars" emerging victorious after a fiercely contested battle.

The game was a nail-biter, keeping spectators on the edge of their seats as both teams delivered stellar performances.

While "Shuttle Stingers" secured the runners-up position, the "Royal Stars" were praised for their strategic play, teamwork, and persistence, which ultimately led them to claim



The winners Royal Stars.

the championship. Both teams were recognized for their exceptional display of talent.

The semi-finalists, Team 5.30 and USC, also put up strong performances throughout the competition, proving themselves to be formidable contenders in this fiercely competitive event.

In total, six teams – Team 5.30, Thanjai Ninjas, Royal Stars, USC, Shuttle Stingers, and ISA – battled for supremacy. The tournament featured 90 matches across 18 ties, with a total of 198 games played and 7,109 points scored, showcasing the intensity of the competition.

The prestigious KDD KBL 2024 badminton tournament was inaugurated by V.V. Subramanian, Vice-President and Chief Business Officer of KDD, in the presence of Dr. Manimara Chozhan, Chairman of IBAK, along with other committee members.

In his opening remarks, Subramanian congratulated all participating players and hinted at exciting plans for the upcoming 10th edition of the league, expressing KDD's ongoing commitment to supporting the sport.

The event attracted widespread attention from badminton enthusiasts in Kuwait and was praised for its

high level of organization and competition.

The KDD KBL tournament, which has become a cornerstone event in IBAK's annual calendar, not only highlights local talent but also fosters camaraderie and sportsmanship among the players. IBAK extended its heartfelt thanks to KDD for their generous sponsorship and support, which contributed significantly to the success of the tournament.

With the conclusion of this year's event, excitement is already building for the next major competition, the IBAK Slam, an international tournament that will see players from different countries compete on a global stage.

The IBAK committee expressed gratitude to all members, coordinators, umpires, and line judges for their professionalism and dedication, ensuring the smooth execution of the tournament.

The remarkable level of competition promises even more excitement and fierce rivalries in future events, as the badminton community in Kuwait eagerly looks forward to the next chapter in IBAK's tournament history.

IBAK can be reached on www.ibakwt.org or ibakcommittee@gmail.com



Runners-up Shuttle Stingers.



Team 5.30 players celebrate.



Players celebrate with a trophy at the end of the tournament.

Preparation for Asian Cup continues

Kuwait U-17 holds Egypt to 1-1 draw

By Hassan Mosa

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

ALEXANDRIA, Oct 8: The Kuwait U-17 national team played to a 1-1 draw against the Egyptian U-17 team in a friendly match as part of their training camp in Alexandria.

Kuwaiti began its camp in Alexandria earlier this week, which will continue for nine days. It is set to play another friendly match against the Russia before returning to Kuwait mid-next week. Upon its return, it will hold an internal camp to prepare for the upcoming Asian Cup qualifiers.

Kuwait will host the Group 7

matches of the Asian Cup qualifiers from October 19 to 27, facing off against Australia, Indonesia, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The winners of each of the ten groups, along with the five best second-place teams, will qualify for the finals, which will be held in Saudi Arabia next year.

Kuwait head coach, Croatian Ferdo Milin, made it a point to give as many players as possible a chance to participate in the recent friendly. The same approach will be taken in the match against Russia, as the coaching staff aims to assess the readiness of the entire squad before the qualifiers begin.



Participants pose for a group photo after the awarding ceremony.

'The group is obviously younger, with less experience'

France starts post-Griezmann era amid Mbappé controversy

PARIS, Oct 8, (AP): Antoine Griezmann has retired from France duty. Kylian Mbappé is absent, nursing a minor thigh injury in Madrid.

Ahead of Nations League matches against Israel and Belgium, France's leadership is scarce.

"The lack of experience doesn't help," France coach Didier Deschamps admitted this week.

Mbappé is France's usual captain while Griezmann, who surprisingly announced the end of his international career last month, was the vice-captain. Together, they led France to the 2018 World Cup title and were Deschamps' most influential players in recent years.

Deschamps has yet to announce who will wear the captain's armband for the upcoming matches.

"The end of Antoine's international career and Kylian's absence, that leaves room," Deschamps said. "The group is obviously younger, with less experience."

For sure, the armband won't be going to veteran midfielder N'Golo Kanté. He was left out of the squad because

of an adductor injury. Neither will experienced defender Dayot Upamecano, who has 27 caps for France but had to withdraw from the squad with a right thigh injury.

Deschamps said he will choose among players who are capable of taking on the responsibility of captaincy, without it altering their behavior, or diminishing their level of performance.

Following a mediocre European Championship where it reached the semifinals without playing well, France is in need of good and convincing results. Its previous Nations League matches were not entirely reassuring - defeat to Italy followed by a win against Belgium.

Italy has a three-point lead over France and Belgium in their group after two rounds. France plays Israel on Thursday and travels to Belgium four days later.

Mbappé, who has 48 goals for France, failed to score against Italy and Belgium and Deschamps later said he had not been his usual self during the international break.

After the Real Madrid forward went on as a substitute in Real Madrid's 1-0 loss at Lille last week, his omission from Deschamps' squad came as a surprise. And that surprise turned into controversy when the Tricolors captain started a Spanish league game for Madrid following his omission from the France squad, amid sharp criticism from fans.

Deschamps insisted that Real Madrid is Mbappé's employer, not the French Football Federation, and he took the best option to avoid putting the striker in a delicate position.

"I know very well that he's not going to go against his club," Deschamps said. "You have to do what's in the player's best interests without putting him in difficulty."

Deschamps is hoping his rejuvenated squad will bring an extra dose of enthusiasm that has been lacking in France's previous outings, but without getting carried away.

"You have to channel everything," he said. "There is an emotional aspect, managing the emotions will be impor-

tant."

Tipped as a potential replacement for Griezmann, Chelsea forward Christopher Nkunku has been recalled by Deschamps and could play for France for the first time in more than a year after struggling with injuries.

"Antoine Griezmann left an immense legacy with the French team," Nkunku said on Tuesday. "I'm not trying to replace him, I just want to give my best."

Asked for his views on what makes a good leader, Liverpool defender Ibrahima Konaté said, "It's something you are born with."

Konaté added he was "saddened" by Griezmann's decision to retire. "He was a typical example of a leader."

Now that the way is clear for someone to take his place, Konaté said he could see himself taking over and mentioned the names of goalkeeper Mike Maignan, defender Jules Koundé and Aurélien Tchouaméni as possible new leaders.

"A leader," Konaté said, "has to be there when things go wrong."

Iniesta announces retirement after 22-year career

MADRID, Oct 8, (AP): Andrés Iniesta, who scored Spain's World Cup-winning goal in 2010 and was one of the key players who made Barcelona's tiki-taka thrive for so long, announced his retirement from soccer on Tuesday.

The 40-year-old Iniesta ended a 22-year career that also included two European Championship titles and four Champions League trophies.

"I never expected that this day would come, I never imagined it," an emotional Iniesta said in a ceremony at an exhibition center in Barcelona. "But all the tears from the last few days are tears of emotion, or pride, they are not tears of sadness. They are tears of this kid who had the dream of being a soccer player and who succeeded after a lot of hard work, effort and sacrifice."

Since leaving Barcelona in 2018, he had been playing with Vissel Kobe in Japan, and for the last year with club Emirates in the UAE Pro League.

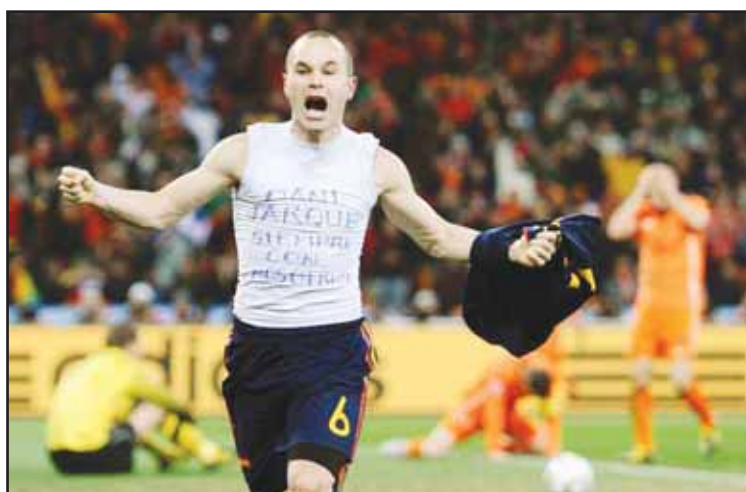
Iniesta made his first-team debut with Barcelona in 2002, and appeared 674 times.

"It was something unique to be with the club of your life, to represent Barça, its fans and to wear that jersey," he

said. "It's something I'll always have fond memories of."

Known for his unique ball control and above-average playmaking ability, Iniesta helped anchor a Barcelona midfield that also included Xavi Hernán-

dez and Sergio Busquets - in addition to Lionel Messi in attack - in a squad that thrived for many years with an enchanting and effective ball-possession style that became known as the tiki-taka.



In this file photo, Spain's Andres Iniesta celebrates after scoring the only goal in the World Cup final soccer match against the Netherlands at Soccer City in Johannesburg, South Africa. (AP)

"Iniesta, your football will live on forever," said Barcelona, which streamed the retirement ceremony live.

Iniesta won nine Spanish leagues with the Catalan club, as well as six Copa del Reys.

"One of the most magical teammates, and one of those I enjoyed playing with the most," Messi said of Iniesta on Instagram. "The ball is going to miss you, and so will all of us. I wish you the best always, you're a phenomenon."

Barcelona rival Real Madrid expressed its "recognition, admiration and affection for one of the biggest legends of Spanish and world football."

"Andrés Iniesta has enriched the sport through his football and his values, in addition to the numerous trophies he has won during his career," Madrid said. "His iconic goal in the 2010 World Cup final in South Africa will forever remain in the memory of every Spanish fan."

Iniesta helped Spain dominate world soccer by sweeping up the 2008 and 2012 Euros and the 2010 World Cup, where he scored the extra-time winner with a right-footed shot from inside the area.



Players celebrate with a trophy at the end of the tournament.

Best of the Rest

FIFA bans Italian player Curto: FIFA banned Italian soccer player Marco Curto for 10 games for making a discriminatory remark at South Korea forward Hee Chan Hwang in a preseason game between Como and Wolverhampton.

The 25-year-old Curto also must do "community services and undergo training and education with an organization approved by FIFA," soccer's governing body said in a statement on Tuesday.

Como defended Curto after the game in July, claiming the remark that Hwang "thinks he's Jackie Chan" was not intended to be derogatory.

Hwang reported the incident during the second half, leading to angry responses from his teammates, including Daniel Podence. The Portuguese forward was sent off for punching a Como player.

The South Korea Football Association filed a formal complaint to FIFA, which notified Curto of his disciplinary ban late Monday. (AP)

Young Boys fires coach Rahmen: After two heavy losses in the Champions League and while sitting bottom of the table in Switzerland, Young Boys fired coach Patrick Rahmen on Tuesday.

The Swiss coach's first season with the club saw Young Boys upset Galatasaray in a playoff in August to qualify for the Champions League, yet win just one of nine games so far in defense of its Swiss Super League title.

Young Boys was overmatched in its opening Champions League games, beaten 5-0 at Barcelona last week after starting with a 3-0 loss at home to Aston Villa.

Young Boys said club under-21s coach Joël Magnin will take interim charge of the team, which hosts Inter Milan on Oct. 23.

Magnin led Young Boys to the Swiss title last season as an interim coach replacing Raphaël Wicky, the former Chicago Fire coach, who was fired in March. (AP)

Dutch legend Neeskens dies: Former Netherlands international and Ajax and FC Barcelona midfielder Johan Neeskens passed away at the age of 73 on Sunday morning, the Dutch Football Association (KNVB) announced on Monday.

According to the KNVB, Neeskens had spent the previous two days in Algeria, working for the KNVB WorldCoaches program, when he became unwell. "Unfortunately, medical help couldn't make a difference for him," the KNVB stated in a press release.

With the passing of Neeskens, the Netherlands loses one of its most decorated players of all time. Alongside Johan Cruyff, Neeskens won the European Cup in 1971, 1972 and 1973 with Ajax, and took the Club World Cup in 1972, in addition to several domestic trophies.

In 1974, the Netherlands made it to the final of the FIFA World Cup, with Neeskens scoring an early opening goal from the penalty spot against hosts West Germany, before ultimately losing 2-1. (Xinhua)



England's Jack Leach bowls during the second day of the first test cricket match between Pakistan and England, in Multan, Pakistan. (AP)

Sports

Players determined to achieve a positive result

Kuwait finalizes preparations for key World Cup qualifier against Oman

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

MUSCAT, Oct 8: Kuwait will hold its final training session in Muscat today at 7 pm at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex Stadium in Bousher, which will host tomorrow's match between Kuwait and Oman in the third round of Group Two in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

The Kuwaiti delegation arrived in Muscat after completing a training camp in Dubai that began on September 30. It held an evening training session at the Police Stadium.

Head coach Juan Pizzi, alongside assistant Ahmed Abdul Karim, met with the players before training the previous day, emphasizing the importance of focus and following tactical instructions. Pizzi also addressed some areas of improvement and urged the players to correct these issues to secure a favorable result in tomorrow's match.

Kuwaiti player Faisal Zayed acknowledged that the match against Oman will be tough, noting that luck was not on its side in the first two rounds of the qualifiers. Oman lost 0-2 to Iraq and 1-3 to South

Korea in its earlier matches.

Zayed highlighted the value of the training camp, especially for players who had been inactive with their clubs prior to joining the national team. Meanwhile, teammate Abdul Mohsen Al-Ajmi noted the positive team spirit throughout the camp and expressed Kuwait's determination to achieve a positive result.

Al-Ajmi emphasized that the players are committed to securing its first victory in the qualifiers, hoping that fortune will favor them this time.

A team of referees from Australia arrived yesterday to officiate the match between Kuwait and Oman.

The team is led by field referee Alireza Faghani, assisted by Anton Shchetinin, Ashley Beecham, and fourth official Adam Kersey. Veteran referee Catherine Margaret Jaswicz will oversee the VAR room, supported by Kearney Robinson. Match supervisor Ahmed Shaheer from the Maldives and Qatari referee supervisor Abdulrahman Mohammed also arrived to ensure smooth management of the game.



Players preparing for the World Cup qualifier against Oman.

Agha ton propels Pakistan to 556 in 1st test



Pakistan's Salman Ali Agha plays a shot during the second day of the first test cricket match between Pakistan and England, in Multan, Pakistan. (AP)

England off to brisk start

MULTAN, Pakistan, Oct 8, (AP): England chipped at Pakistan's massive 556, three-centuries total by reaching 96-1 at stumps on day two Tuesday of the first test.

Pakistan started the day on 328-4 and was spearheaded by Salman Ali Agha's unbeaten 104 and Saud Shakeel's 82.

On a pitch which still looks good for batting with little help for fast bowlers or spinners, England raced at nearly five runs per over as Zac Crawley smashed 11 fours in his unbeaten 64. Joe Root was not out on 32.

England lost stand-in captain Ollie Pope without scoring in the second over to a stunning one-handed catch by a diving Aamer Jamal at midwicket off Naseem Shah. England trails Pakistan by 460 runs.

Pope had to open the innings after Ben Duckett injured his left thumb while grabbing a sharp chest-high catch of No. 11 Abrar Ahmed in the slips that finally ended England's sleazy 5 1/2 sessions on the field at humid Multan Stadium.

Fast bowler Brydon Carse was hopeful Duckett will recover overnight and bat on day three. "He's just taken a knock on his thumb, but he will be assessed overnight and he'll be back batting tomorrow," Carse said.

England's Jack Leach took 3-160 and Shoaib Bashir 1-124 but Pakistan dominated both spinners.

Carse's long wait for his first wicket in his debut test came on Tuesday, which he finished with 2-74. Gus Atkinson (2-99) and Chris Woakes (1-69) toiled without finding any reverse swing on the green square.

"Last two days have been immensely tough conditions for everyone out there," Carse said.

"We didn't get that much out of it (pitch) over the couple of days, but credit to the team and everyone for keeping coming back in each session. There's some tired bodies in the camp at the moment, but the lads will rest up and come again tomorrow."

England did well in the first session and allowed Pakistan only 69 runs with Carse breaking the resistance of nightwatchman Naseem, who gloved a legside catch after his test-best 33.

Naseem denied England a breakthrough for 1 1/2 hours and braved a couple of blows. He got a knock on the back of his helmet when he was struck hard by an Atkinson short ball and also received brief treatment when Carse struck the batter's right thumb off another short ball before round-the-wicket worked for the right arm fast bowler.

Leach had Mohammad Rizwan caught at mid-off for a 12-ball duck.

Shakeel, who began the day on 35, showed plenty of resistance and raised his half-century with a swept boundary off Bashir. Shakeel was undone by the off-spinner after lunch and feathered a low catch to Root in the slips.

Agha, dropped early by Woakes on the boundary, took charge with meticulous drives and sweeps.

KFA calls for extraordinary assembly to elect new board

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8: The Secretary-General of the Kuwait Football Association, Dr. Saleh Al-Majroub, has called on clubs to convene for an extraordinary general assembly on the evening of November 6 to elect the president and members of the association's board of directors.

This election will fill the remaining term of the current board, which runs until May 2026, following the collective resignation of the previous board on September 14. Their resignation came in response to events surrounding the Kuwait vs Iraq match held on September 10 as part of the 2026 World Cup Asian qualifiers.

According to Article 35 of the Kuwait Football Association's statutes, the Secretary-General must invite clubs to hold an extraordinary general assembly within 30 days of the board's resignation to elect a new board.

In recent days, clubs have held meetings to coordinate and determine potential candidates for the new board, which will consist of seven members. Sheikh Ahmed Al-Yousef, the former president of the association, has emerged as a leading candidate for the presidency. Other names being considered for board membership include Osama Hussein, Fawaz Bakhit, Salem Saadoun, Dr. Ahmed Ajab, Fahad Al-Mutairi, Mubarak Abdulaziz, and Thamer Anad.

Al-Arabi and Kuwait SC have announced their support for Sheikh Ahmed's candidacy. Kuwait Club President Khaled Al-Ghanim, during the club's Handball Federation Cup celebration, confirmed the club's backing of Sheikh Ahmed for the presidency. He also mentioned that Kuwait Club has yet to decide on its candidate for board membership, with a decision expected in the coming days. Similarly, Al-Arabi Club Board Member Ali Atesh has also expressed support for Sheikh Ahmed's candidacy.

Victorious Kuwait Special Olympics sailing team returns home

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 8, (KUNA): Kuwait's Special Olympics team, representing Al-Tomoooh Sports Club, returned home on Monday after securing the gold medal in the regional modern sailing competition for the Middle East and North Africa, held in Dubai. The competition focused on promoting social empowerment for individuals with disabilities. Kuwait was represented by athletes Sulaiman Al-Nasser and Nawaf Awadh.

Chairwoman of the Kuwait Special Olympics Board, Hanaa Al-Zawawi, expressed her gratitude to the Kuwait Marine Sports Club in a statement to the



Left-right: Manaf Al-Wuhaib and Nawaf Awadh honored upon return to Kuwait.

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), thanking them for their support of Al-Tomoooh's participants and for providing partner ath-



letes to join the competition. Head of the delegation, Sadiqa Al-Ansari, emphasized the strong backing from Kuwait's

public authorities, which helped the Kuwaiti champions make their first appearance in the competition.

Nawaf Awadh, one of the athletes, told KUNA that despite the fierce competition, they managed to win the gold medal thanks to their thorough preparations and the guidance of the technical and administrative staff, led by manager Habbab Al-Hami. He dedicated the victory to Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Manaf Al-Wuhaib, an athlete from the Marine Sports Club, remarked that this achievement is just the beginning of further successes for Kuwaiti sports, especially in the field of intellectual disabilities.

Kuwaiti figure skating star to participate in Chinese GPrix



Sama with coach Martysheva.

WUXI, China, Oct 8: The Kuwait Winter Games Club has announced that its player, Sama Jaragh, who is also a member of the Kuwait figure skating team, will participate in the Grand Prix Championship in the seventh round of the competition. This prestigious event, which begins tomorrow in Wuxi, China, will last for three days.

Salem Al-Ajmi, the director of the Kuwait figure skating team and head of the delegation, emphasized the importance of including Jaragh in this international event, which is organized by the International Skating Union (ISU) and attracts top players from around the world.

Al-Ajmi noted that this marks Jaragh's second appearance in the Grand Prix, following her participation in the Bangkok round last month, where she delivered a commendable performance. He highlighted how these ex-

periences provide invaluable opportunities for the young skater to compete against elite athletes, helping her gain experience and develop her promising future in the sport.

Jaragh has been training under the guidance of Russian coach Yulia Martysheva in preparation for the event. Al-Ajmi praised her dedication and hard work, expressing confidence in her ability to perform well in her international competitions. He further emphasized that exposing Kuwaiti athletes to such high-level tournaments aims to enhance their technical skills and accumulate crucial points needed for qualification to the upcoming Winter Olympics in Milan (Cortina 2026). Al-Ajmi also expressed his gratitude for the club's board of directors, whose support has significantly contributed to the sport's development both locally and internationally.