



Scan the QR code to access the Arab Times WhatsApp Channel

Bahrain's King Hamad praises Kuwait Amir's role in enhancing bilateral ties

Bahraini Defense Force and Kuwait forge stronger military partnership



KUNA photo
Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa receives Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.



KUNA photo
Crown Prince of Bahrain and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa with Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah.

MANAMA, Oct 9, (KUNA): Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa praised on Wednesday His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's role in developing Bahraini-Kuwaiti relations, and his efforts in supporting joint Gulf and Arab action.

This came during King Hamad's reception of the Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah, who is on a visit to Bahrain.

The King welcomed Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef at Al-Sakhir Palace, and entrusted him to convey his well wishes of good health to his brother His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, wishing Kuwait's people further progress and prosperity.

He expressed his pride in the depth of the historical relations between the two countries, and stressed the importance of coordination between them in what serves their mutual interests, especially during the current circumstances and challenges facing the region.

For his part, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef conveyed to King Hamad the greetings of His Highness the Amir and his good wishes for Bahrain and its people for their further progress and prosperity.

Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef also expressed his thanks and appreciation to the King of Bahrain for the generous hospitality and warm reception.

Crown Prince of Bahrain and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa expressed on Wednesday his appreciation of the Kuwaiti leadership's role in strengthening cooperation and the bilateral ties.

Continued on Page 5

Emergency preparedness takes center stage

Kuwait food supply steady, prices firm

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (Agencies): The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has reaffirmed that Kuwait's strategic stockpile of food commodities remains secure, with goods flowing into markets as usual. Commerce inspectors have secured commitments from food company owners to maintain current prices despite the prevailing regional circumstances.

The ministry, through its Department of Commercial Control and Consumer Protection, has stated that it will persist with inspection tours of food warehouses in the upcoming period and will closely monitor efforts to enhance the coun-

try's food security.

On Tuesday, the Kuwaiti Cabinet had reviewed the General Department of Civil Defense preparations to deal with any emergency and to ensure the safety of citizens and residents amid the unfolding regional escalation.

This came during the Cabinet's meeting, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Sabah, where First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Al-Sabah underscored the need for unifying all state bodies' efforts and taking all necessary measures to maintain na-

tional security and stability.

Several officials of the Interior Ministry's General Department of the Civil Defense briefed the Cabinet on the department's readiness and emphasized the importance of making sure that all relevant government bodies are well-prepared to deal with any emergency and to take all required measures to ensure safety of the public and protect all important state facilities.

The Cabinet tasked the General Department of the Civil Defense to present a weekly report to it about the measures taken by relevant government bodies in this regard.

UK warns of serious situation in Mideast

Kuwait PM, Mikati discuss Lebanon's situation

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah conveyed the greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, in a phone call on Wednesday.

His Highness the prime minister

affirmed Kuwait's support to Lebanon, and any measures the country may take to protect its safety in the face of the Israeli occupation attacks.

His Highness the premier also pledged to provide the people of Lebanon with the humanitarian aid they need in the nearest time.

Mikati, on his part, hailed Kuwait's continuous support to Lebanon in these hard times.

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib

Mikati affirmed the continuous efforts of Arab and foreign countries to end the Israeli occupation attacks against Lebanon.

In a statement on Wednesday, Mikati said the countries aim to pressure Israeli occupation into implementing a limited-time ceasefire, and demand the full execution of the UN Security Council article number 1701.

Continued on Page 5



Displaced families fleeing Israeli airstrikes in the south and Dahiyeh, register to get a vaccine for their children in an empty building complex, in Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024. (AP)

Experts warn of 'fallout' from Israeli strike on Iran's N-sites

By Najeh Bilal

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: With Israel periodically threatening to target Iran's nuclear facilities, critical and dangerous questions arise about the potential fallout, particularly for the Gulf States, including Kuwait, which is geographically closest to Iran.

The threat of an Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear facilities raises critical questions for Kuwait and its Gulf neighbors. Experts agree that regional coordination and preparedness are essential to mitigate the risks of radioactive contamination.

Whether through pollution barriers in the Gulf waters or updated safety protocols, the Gulf states must act swiftly to protect their populations

and resources from the potential fallout of such an event, highlighted that while the Bushehr reactor -- located over 300 kilometers from Kuwait -- is

What actions will these countries take if Israel follows through with its threats? The situation becomes more concerning given that Iran possesses numerous nuclear reactors, and any conflict could result in missile exchanges between Iran and Israel.

In an effort to assess the likelihood of such an attack, the associated risks, and the potential responses, Al-Seyassah sought insights from a number of experts.

Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmi, an environmental science expert, highlighted that while the Bushehr reactor -- located over 300 kilometers from Kuwait -- is

Continued on Page 5

Newswatch

F-18 crash kills pilot

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): An F-18 fighter jet of the Kuwait Air Force on Wednesday crashed and the pilot embraced martyrdom, official spokesperson of the Ministry of Defense, Staff Brigadier Hamad Al-Sagr, announced. Investigations were underway to determine the details and causes of the accident that happened during a training mission in the North of Kuwait.

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Defense Minister and Interior Minister **Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah** dismissed as untrue the recent media reports that the paid entitlement of 36 months for an officer at the end of military service would be cancelled.

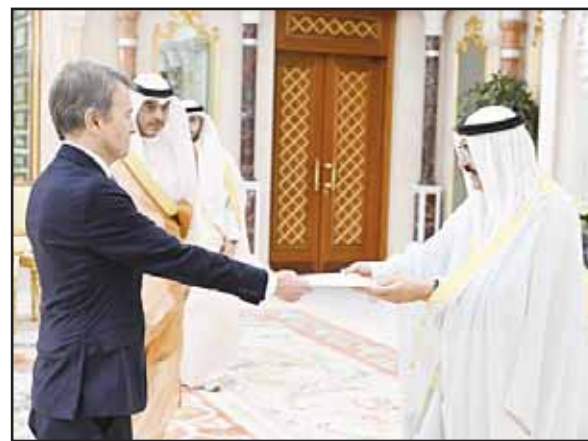
"The issue wasn't on the table at the Cabinet meeting," a statement from the Ministry of Defense quoted the minister as saying on Tuesday. (KUNA)

RIYADH: The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King **Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud** has undergone complete medical examinations conducted for an infection in the lung, the Saudi Royal Diwan (Court) announced on Wednesday.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA), citing the Diwan, said in a statement that the Saudi Monarch has recovered, wishing him good health.

The Royal Court announced, last Sunday, that there had been medical recommendation that the King be subjected to medical examinations due to the lung infection. (KUNA)

Amir receives credentials of ambassadors



Ambassador of Spain



Ambassador of South Korea



Ambassador of France



Amiri Diwan photos
Ambassador of Somalia

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): HIS Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace on Wednesday the credentials of the newly appointed

Ambassadors of South Korea, Czech Republic, Spain, Somalia, France, and Burkina Faso. Senior officials of the state attended the ceremony. (KUNA)

'Improve terror financing awareness'

FATF warns on Kuwait's financial crime gaps

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has echoed concerns previously reported by Al-Seyassah daily regarding the gaps and weaknesses in Kuwait's system for combating money laundering and terrorist financing, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In a press release outlining the interim report on the mutual evaluation results, the FATF raised alarms about "shortcomings and failures" in Kuwait's efforts to tackle these crimes.

The FATF's findings indicate that while Kuwait possesses a robust legal and supervisory framework to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and illicit financial activities, serious deficiencies may hinder effective outcomes in this area.

The organization noted that although Kuwait has an appropriate legal and regulatory structure, there are significant issues related to understanding, investigating, and prosecuting cases of money

laundering and terrorist financing. Despite being a high-income nation with low levels of violent crime, Kuwait faces risks from various illicit activities, including fraud, corruption, forgery, and crimes occurring abroad.

Moreover, the country is exposed to terrorist financing risks due to terrorist acts and groups operating outside its borders.

Continued on Page 5

Local



German-Kuwaiti ties going strong: envoy — See Page 2

Features



Kuwait, a bird-watcher's delight amidst desert — See Page 11

Sports



'Khaleeji Zain 26' unites Gulf nations in Kuwait — See Page 15

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:26	Asr	14:55
Sunrise ..	05:45	Maghrib ..	17:25
Zohr	11:35	Isha	18:42

Local

Weather

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:
By Day: Hot with light to moderate southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 08-28 km/h with a chance for light fog forming over some areas.

By Night: Rather hot to mild and relatively 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 light fog forming over some areas.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	35	23
Kuwait Airport	37	21

Abdaly	37	21
Bubyan	33	20
Jahra	38	22
Failaka Island	33	21
Salmiyah	32	28
Ahmadi	33	19
Jal Aliyah	38	23
Nuwaisib	35	31



Minister of Commerce and Industry, Khalifa Abdullah Al-Askar and the German Ambassador to Kuwait Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz cutting the cake.



German and US ambassadors.



German and British envoys.

Embassy celebrates 'Unity Day'

German-Kuwaiti ties going strong: envoy

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes
 Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Kuwait celebrated the 34th anniversary of German Unity Day at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in downtown Kuwait City.

The guests of honor were the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Khalifa Abdullah Al-Askar and the undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense, Dr. Abdullah Mishal Al-Sabah.

The event was attended by ambassadors accredited to Kuwait, dignitaries, friends of Germany and the media fraternity.

Addressing the gathering on this auspicious day, the German Ambassador to Kuwait HE Hans-Christian Freiherr von Reibnitz said it is a privilege to see "so many gathered here today; I almost feel as if I am in a German diwan! I have come to cherish this unique Kuwaiti tradition since starting my work in this welcoming country.

The German envoy expressed his sincere gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah for their unwavering support and said, "We are also deeply appreciative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Yahya, and our colleagues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who collaborate with us daily to strengthen the German-Kuwaiti partnership."

He said last year during a similar event, "I announced the celebration of 60 years of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Germany. Since then, we have enjoyed wonderful cultural events, engaged in discussions with Kuwaiti youth about the future, and organized business meetings and visits from German parliamentarians and officials.

"Building on this fruitful exchange," he added, "we are preparing to sign a strategic partnership document soon. As we conclude our 60th anniversary year, we look forward to a brighter future for our relations in the next 60 years. As every ambassador says, 'The future begins now!'"

Speaking of what is happening around the world, The German envoy said, "Today, we find ourselves in a time where crises are escalating, casting shadows over many parts

of the world, particularly in our region, resulting in the loss of countless lives and the destruction of livelihoods. The futures of entire generations are at risk as it seems that might and vengeance are taking precedence.

"We witness daily acts of violence perpetrated by individuals against one another. We must ask ourselves: Why should we yield to this vicious cycle of violence and hatred? Should our political analyses and actions be dominated by violence and revenge?"

"I believe the German Unity Day provides a clear answer to this question. In 1989, after years of separation and the loss of freedom, the people of Europe on both sides of the Iron Curtain stood up.

"The German people rose to change the world. Germans from both East and West tore down the Wall, along with the system that emerged from war. On October 3, 1990, we achieved the peaceful unification of East and West Germany, without firing a single shot, in harmony with all our neighbors, and with full recognition by the United Nations," he added.

On this Unity Day, the German envoy said, Germany celebrates peaceful change over war and destruction. The country commemorates the triumph of reason and humanity over vengeance and hostility.

This day holds great significance, not only for Germany and Europe but for the entire world. The challenges in the world do not simply vanish, he said. They may be overshadowed by distressing news from Gaza or Ukraine, but they persist. Climate change, water and energy shortages, and the equitable distribution of resources are just a few examples.

Addressing these challenges within a just regulatory framework and respecting the rule of law remain the cornerstones of Germany's foreign policy and our relationship with our host country, Kuwait, he said.

"In Europe," he stressed, "we strive to confront these issues collectively, establishing the European Union as a significant global player. United Germany firmly supports strengthening relations between the EU, Kuwait, and other partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council. Let us work diligently toward this goal."

Kuwait, Malta explore vistas for trade & tech

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): The Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a virtual meeting on Wednesday with its Maltese counterpart discussing means of promoting the mutual commercial partnership and coordination in various sectors.

The chamber said in a statement that Kuwait, given its strategic geographic location and solid economy, constitutes a promising market for innovation and expansion while Malta is distinguished with a prosperous economy, innovation potentials and skilled labor forces, making it a hub for technology, financial services, tourism and education.

For sake of boosting commercial and investment flows between the two countries, there must be emphasis on diversifying the swapped commodities, increasing direct investments, executing joint ventures and working out economic accords.

The chamber during the long-distance meeting shed light on promising realms, namely innovation, technology, sustainable development, energy, tourism, cultural exchange, education, evolving skills, financial services and investments.

The statement quoted the Maltese Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, George A Said-Zamit, as saying that the meeting was a fruit of an old relationship, indicating that the two sides examined prospects of enhancing cooperation at diverse levels.

For his part, the Chairperson of the Maltese Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Vassalo Cezareo, called for activating the trade relationship, luring investors to the promising sectors, affirming that his country focuses on education, innovation, technology, logistical and health services.

It added that during the meeting, a virtual presentation was addressed by Gozo Island, a Maltese island, regarding the available opportunities in the digital and health sectors, in addition to another identical presentation by the Maltese Economic Development Agency, shedding light on the taxation system, means of supporting startups and medium enterprises, advanced industries, sciences, medical equipment, digital innovation, logistical and financial services as well as aviation.

Amir receives Bangladesh envoy to Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Bangladesh Ambassador to the State of Kuwait Major General Syed Tareq Hussain, OSP, awc, psc, presented his Letters of Credence to Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in a ceremony held at the Bayan Palace (the official palace of the Amir of the State of Kuwait) on Oct 8, 2024.

Ambassador Tareq Hussain conveyed the warm greetings of the Hon'ble President and the Hon'ble Chief Advisor of Bangladesh during a meeting with His Highness the Amir, held immediately after the presentation of the credentials.

During the meeting with His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Ambassador Tareq Hussain mentioned that Kuwait is the first Gulf country to recognize Bangladesh after its independence. He also recollected Kuwait's historic contribution to Bangladesh's admission to the OIC in 1974. Since the inception of Diplomatic Relations, Bangladesh and Kuwait have been enjoying excellent bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas including political, economic, trade and investment, manpower and defence sectors. The Ambassador also highlighted



Major General Syed Tareq Hussain, OSP, awc, psc holds talks with His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah after presenting his credentials as the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait.

the potentials of skilled manpower and professionals from Bangladesh to Kuwait. He stated that he will do his best to take the brotherly relations between Bangladesh and Kuwait to a new height.

His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait accepted the Letter of Credence as the symbol of friendship between two countries. In his remarks, His Highness the Amir recalled the contribution of Bangladesh Army made in the liberation of Kuwait,

in subsequent mine clearance and reconstructing the nation. His Highness mentioned that Bangladesh is regarded by Kuwait as a very close, brotherly nation and Bangladeshi expatriates are contributing significantly to Kuwait's current development. His Highness also mentioned that Kuwait is interested in collaborating with Bangladesh on projects that will benefit both Bangladesh and the Gulf region in the days ahead.

MoE links e-attendance to bonus disbursement

'Evening shift must prove presence'



Peking University delegation in the White Palace.

'Cultural relations help bridge chinks between civilizations'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Dr. Suad Al-Sabah received at the White Palace a high-level academic delegation from Peking University of China. The delegation is headed by Professor Fu Zhiming, Deputy Dean of the School of Foreign Languages at Peking University. The delegation included Professor Wu Bingbing, Dean of the Faculty of Arabic Language at the Institute of Foreign Studies and Director of the Center for Middle East Studies at Peking University, Dr. Lian Chaoyun, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arabic Language at the Institute of Foreign Studies at Peking University, and Dr. Li Haipeng, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Arabic Language at the Institute of Foreign Studies at Peking University.

The meeting, which was attended by Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah and his son Sheikh Abdullah Mubarak, included a discussion of cultural relations between Kuwait and China, and means to activate it that leads to opening spheres on the Arab and Chinese cultures, and contributes to deepening the dialogue of civilizations. Moreover, the two sides discussed the role of translation and motivating translators to bridge gaps by transferring the most important literature and knowledge of the two civilizations, in addition to academic exchange

and its impact in opening horizons on the history and literature of the two civilizations.

The members of the delegation expressed their appreciation and thanks to Dr. Suad Al-Sabah for the presence of translations of her poetry collections translated into Chinese in the Peking university library, expressing their aspiration to strengthen the bonds of cultural relations between the two countries. In line with the official efforts made to work on the Belt and Road Initiative, so that the two sides move in parallel towards a brighter future for the Chinese and Kuwaiti people. For her part, Dr. Suad Al-Sabah stressed that cultural relations are no less important than diplomatic and economic relations in exchanging knowledge, stressing that culture, especially literature, is the most capable in transmitting the spiritual conscience of civilizations.

Dr. Suad pointed that the Chinese civilization is one of the oldest and most brilliant civilizations in the world, and that literature and arts are considered among its most important components. From this aspect, the Suad Al-Sabah Dar for Culture and Creativity paid attention to its literature and arts, by transferring and translating it to Arabic language, pointing out that the world no longer recognizes borders and barriers in light of the dominance of open spaces, which allowed access to people's cultures.

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The Ministry of Education has tightened control over the disbursement of bonuses to employees assigned in the adult education, training and development centers through the implementation of the fingerprint attendance system as a basic condition for receiving bonus for evening work.

Sources from the educational sector revealed this procedure aims to ensure that bonuses are granted only to bonafide employees who report for work each day and complete the tasks assigned to them.

Sources reiterated that bonuses will be granted only to employees whose attendance is verified through the electronic fingerprint system, as the attendance record is extracted at the end of each work period. Sources clarified that the objectives of this procedure include eliminating violations and increasing efficiency at the workplace.

Sources said the ministry has asked the centers to submit lists of assigned employees in preparation for implementing the new system, indicating that the manual signature mechanism to confirm attendance has ended and the fingerprint attendance system will be adopted.

Sources added the ministry intends to expand the scope of the fingerprint attendance system to include more sectors that operate in the evening in order to improve administrative and financial performance, stressing this is a manifestation of the ministry's commitment to develop the work environment and achieve its goals.

Kuwait's Amir friendly ruler: Algerian envoy

By Fares Al-Abdan
 Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Algerian Ambassador to Kuwait Abdulqader Qasimi Al-Huseini praised his recent meeting with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, during which he presented his credentials.

The Ambassador described His Highness the Amir as "a friendly ruler devoted to his country and the Arab nation." He also expressed his appreciation for the exceptional nature of the meeting.

In a statement to reporters, Al-Huseini stated that HH the Amir is a remarkable leader with a profound and wise vision. He noted the warmth and spontaneity he witnessed during their brief meeting, indicating these are the manifestations of HH the Amir's political insight and acumen.

Although the meeting lasted only a few minutes, Al-Huseini affirmed its significance, as it reflected the strong relationship between Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune and HH the Amir. He recalled Sheikh Meshal's participation in the Arab Summit in Algeria during his tenure as Crown Prince, disclosing the Kuwaiti delegation was the first to arrive and the last to depart at that time.

Citizen's scant care for laws

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): The Ministry of Interior said on Wednesday that a Kuwaiti citizen voluntarily left Kuwait International Airport after refusing to complete the biometric fingerprint procedures required for entry into the country.

In a press release, the ministry's General Directorate of Security Relations and Me-

dia stated that the citizen left based on personal preference, choosing not to comply with the mandatory government procedures. The deadline for Kuwaiti citizens to finish the biometric procedures ended on September 30, while the deadline for the expatriates is set for December 30. There are legal measures set for those refusing to comply.

Appeals upholds 'death' for man convicted of killing mother-in-law

Asian's corpse found on beach; ex-MP's ruling set for Oct 15

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The Court of Appeals, presided over by Judge Nasser Salem Al-Haid, upheld the verdict issued by the Criminal Court which sentenced a Kuwaiti citizen to death after convicting him of murdering his mother-in-law by shooting her using a Kalashnikov rifle on Wafra Road.

According to the case file, the suspect had intent to harm her, and ambushed the victim when she left her estate with her daughter. He surprised them by firing continuously at them with the intention of killing them. Even though they tried to flee, his mother-in-law was unfortunately hit, and she passed away.

After the incident, security forces had searched the area and found the suspect hiding in the desert, where he was allegedly planning to harm other relatives.

The Public Prosecution charged him with premeditated murder, and uncensored possession of a "Kalashnikov" rifle and ammunition. His wife admitted during the investigations that there were ongoing disputes between them, and he had frequently threatened her.

Earlier, the Criminal Court had sentenced him to death by hanging.

A medical committee was summoned at the Court of Appeals to assess the defendant's mental capacity. After determining that he was aware of his actions, the court decided to uphold the original execution ruling, despite the appeal.

□ □ □

Asian's corpse found: The body of an Asian man was discovered on the beach near a shopping mall in Fahaheel area.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received information about a man lying motionless on a beach in Fahaheel area, securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location, and discovered that the man was deceased. His body was referred to the Forensic Medicine Department to determine the cause of death.

A case has been registered to investigate the cause of death.

□ □ □

Ruling adjourned to Oct 15: The Appellate Court has adjourned to Oct 15 the ruling on the State Security case filed against former MP Hussein Al-Qallaf, following the Public Prosecution's appeal against his acquittal by the Court of First Instance.

During the proceedings, the court confronted Al-Qallaf with the charges against him, but he denied them, insisting that his recorded speech, which was widely circulated on social media and WhatsApp, was not intended to target His Highness the Amir, but rather the government.

The Public Prosecution had previously detained Al-Qallaf for 21 days and referred him to Central Prison after charging him with challenging the rights and authority of His Highness the Amir and offending his position. This followed Al-Qallaf's criticism of the Ministry of Interior's procedures for managing Hussainiyas during Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar, in an audio recording.

□ □ □

DCGD team arrests doctor: A team of officers from the Drugs Control General Department, led by their director Brigadier General Mohammed Qabazard, arrested a well-known doctor from his residence in one of the areas within Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate for the possession of narcotics, hashish, marijuana, alcohol and firearms. He was previously convicted in a gambling case, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to security sources, the team successfully located the doctor and seized the illegal items from his home.

The accused, who works at a private hospital, has been referred with the confiscated items to the relevant authorities for necessary legal action.

□ □ □

Woman dies, child injured in accident: A woman, in her 30s, died while her infant son was seriously injured in a traffic accident in Farwaniya Governorate, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source confirmed that the Operations Unit at the Interior Ministry received a report about the accident. Security patrols and emergency medical technicians were immediately dispatched to the accident site. Upon arrival at the scene, they discovered that the woman already succumbed to her injuries; whereas her son was taken to Farwaniya Hospital. The child is in critical condition.

Also, an Asian expatriate died in a traffic accident on Mutlaa Road. His body has been referred to the Forensic Medicine Department for necessary action.

According to a security source, when the Operations Room of the Ministry of Interior received a report about a collision on Mutlaa Road, securitymen and paramedics rushed to the location and saw an individual trapped in the wreckage of his truck.

They rescued him from the wreckage and transported him to Jahra Hospital but he died before their arrival. A case has been filed.

□ □ □

Gold shops in violation: The Ministry of Commerce announced that a collaborative team from the Commercial Control Department and the Precious Metals Department recently carried out an inspection tour of gold shops located in Jahra Governorate, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During this initiative, officials identified and issued seven violation reports against certain shops that failed to adhere to regulations regarding consumer exchange policies.

The inspections revealed that the shops in question did not display the required signage outlining their exchange policy, which mandates that customers can exchange gold and precious jewelry within 24 hours of purchase. This oversight is a violation of the decision to ensure consumers are well-informed of their rights when making purchases.

The Ministry of Commerce emphasized its crucial role in safeguarding consumer rights through rigorous oversight of commercial markets.

The inspections are part of ongoing efforts to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations across the retail sector. By conducting these tours, the ministry aims to promote transparency and clarity in business practices, ultimately fostering a greater sense of trust between merchants and consumers.

Through these proactive measures, the ministry seeks to reinforce its commitment to consumer protection and enhance the integrity of the marketplace, ensuring that shoppers can make informed decisions when purchasing gold and other precious items.

□ □ □

Gang of 4 held for robbing expats: The Ministry of Interior announced that the Capital Governorate Investigation Unit at the Criminal Investigation General Department arrested a gang of four Africans who have been robbing expatriates, reports Al-Anba daily.

The accused were referred to the competent authorities to take legal measures against them.

□ □ □

Car owner cheated of KD1,800: A Bedoun lodged a complaint at Maidan Hawally Police Station against an unidentified person who allegedly swindled him of KD1,800, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the complainant stated that his car engine broke down; so he went to a car repair shop in Maidan Hawally, where he reached an agreement with the accused to carry out repair works and replace the engine for KD1,800. However, the complainant was surprised when he returned to get his car, as the shop was closed, the source added.

After the registration of the case, the shop license holder -- an expatriate -- was summoned for questioning. He revealed that he rented out the shop and was recently informed about the closure due to lack of revenues, vehemently denying any connection to the Bedoun's supposed transaction. He provided the detectives with the tenant's information. Upon completion of investigations, it was proven that the tenant defrauded the Bedoun as he did not make any repair or changed the engine of the vehicle, the source concluded.

ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'The rising threat: nuke risks from Iran's Bushehr reactor to Kuwait'

"IN LIGHT of the recent developments on the Arab and Iranian arenas, and the mutual threats between Israel and Iran, I remembered concerns I had conveyed in articles I published some time ago," columnist and former deputy director-general of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Iqbal Al-Ahmed wrote for Al-Qabas daily.

"Worries that transformed their danger, expectations and fear of them into words that translated fears of things that are very likely to happen, while we are unaware of our situation. Here are excerpts from some of these articles."

"*The Iranian 'Bushehr reactor' is only 60 kilometers away from the coast of Kuwait. We will be the first to be affected by any strong earthquake that might strike the ground beneath it one day, so that our Arabian Gulf would be polluted from the nuclear point of view. The water stations that desalinate seawater and send it to our homes to drink and wash with will stop and also water needed to produce electrical energy at the same time."

"We will certainly live a catastrophe at that moment in every sense of the word because a person can live ten days without food, but it is impossible to live four days without water."

"*If -- God forbid -- a disaster occurs, whether intentionally or unintentionally by the other side, we will be the first country whose shores will be touched by nuclear pollution."

"You can imagine the magnitude of this disaster, which will not stop at water pollution, but will extend to shutting down the desalination plants along the Kuwaiti coast, which we depend on for every drop of water."

"Consequently, the Gulf water security is in danger. These are words that we may not understand seriously and as they should, but they carry in their content an unusually dark and frightening image, if they are not dealt with seriously and with the utmost priority."

"I am not here to cause panic, because that is not our role, and we do not seek it. Rather, our role is to warn and alert only from time to time, so that perhaps there will be a conscious government that prepares for the emergency in advance, and not just as a reaction, when this reaction is like not having it."

"The question in all my articles was:

"Has our wise government taken into consideration such circumstances that could occur at any moment and without prior warning?"

"When the Gulf waters are contaminated with nuclear energy, this means that water purification plants will have to stop working immediately and faster than we can imagine. The water stored underground may compensate for our need for water, with great caution and rationing, temporarily, but only for a few days."

"But what if the crisis lasts for weeks... What will the state do?"

"Have you seriously researched this issue and studied all available solutions that guarantee the provision of potable water for a long period of time, because any nuclear leak into desalination plants will not be disposed of immediately and quickly."

"This is just a reminder..."

* * *

"What is happening in Lebanon is extremely dangerous, extremely criminal, and extremely disregarding of international treaties and agreements related to civilians and not harming them."

"We hope that the grief will be lifted from the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples who are paying the price of an unequal war, the price for which is paid by none other than the innocent people."

"Unfortunately, the bitter truth is that the weakness of our peoples, the weakness of their cohesion, the weakness of their vision, and the conflict of their interests that keep us at this level of weakness in the face of any external dangers."

Also:

"The citizen and the observer feel that change is beginning to appear, at least in terms of dealing with many issues. The positive feeling has started to increase in the course of government decisions, while oversight has begun to surface in reforming the legal and administrative distortions caused by previous administrations."

Major General M. Faisal Al-Jazzaf wrote for Al-Seyassah daily.

"Optimism is required and patience is the goal of instilling positive feelings among citizens to be reassured that the wheel of real reform has started to move, and that consolidating the law and implementing it are the bases. However, the truth must be told -- that reassurance began through the directives of His Highness the Amir, may Allah protect and preserve him, as well as his leadership towards the path of reform."

"We are on the cusp of economic, security, social and livelihood changes, so we must be patient and work hard for the future. Indeed, this must be the basic goal in the citizen's thinking, and that going backwards is impossible and a waste of time."

"The State needs the support of everyone -- whether the official or the citizen. Demolition is easy, but construction is difficult, so it requires solidarity. Let us all make our path move from stagnation to development in order to build the future Kuwait we have been dreaming of."

"Citizenship is a responsibility, a duty before being a right. While the State is responsible for taking care of society, it must also protect the rights of society by fulfilling its duties. The nation rises whenever the two wheels come together."

"Kuwait is facing many big challenges internally and externally. Only its people can rise above these challenges."

"We ask Allah to protect Kuwait and its people from all forms of harm under the leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince, may Allah protect them."

"May Allah have mercy on our righteous martyrs."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes and Mahmoud Ateyieh



KUNA photo

Director General of KPA Sheikh Khaled during the meeting.

Civil defense committee meets

KPA scrambles to prep for eventualities

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): Kuwait Ports Authority (KPA) on Wednesday organized a meeting of the civil defense committee for coping with possible emergencies and crises.

The KPA Director General Sheikh Khaled Salem Al-Sabah, who had ordered formation of the commission, said in a press release after the meeting that it was held under chairmanship of the acting assistant director general of the marine operations and Al-Shauba Port, with attendance of his assistants and director generals of several divisions.

He added that the port authority's commission has been formed upon a request by the upper civil defense committee (No 300, 2/2024), for supplying "them with a contingency plan for coping with hazards at the local level, in line with recommendations by the cabi-

net to unifying the state departments' efforts and ensure readiness to maintain security, safety of the citizens, residents and vital installations, "in the shadow of the developments happening in the region."

The commission will re-examine catastrophes and crises that had happened over the past years and lay out schemes for coping with recurrence of such events, Sheikh Khaled Salem Al-Sabah added.

The commission is entitled to order personnel evacuation, specify responsibilities, required tasks from the port authority workers during crises and measures that need to be taken for ordering personnel out of the installations.

Sheikh Khaled has affirmed all necessary precautions will be taken to ensure regular marine navigation.

Move to manage emergencies and crises

SJC announces new measures to tackle Cassation Court's backlog

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: To tackle the significant backlog of appeals pending before the Court of Cassation, the President of the Supreme Judicial Council, Counselor Dr. Adel Borsly, has announced a series of strategic decisions, reports Al-Jarida daily.

These decisions include the establishment of 10 new judicial circuits that will convene in the evening. This initiative is aimed at addressing the backlog of appeals that date back to before the year 2020, with these circuits set to commence operations on November 1.

Informed sources have indicated that Dr. Borsly is also planning to introduce two additional departments specifically designed to examine appeals, further addressing the accumulation of cases within the court.

This move aims to streamline the adjudication process and reduce the overall number of pending appeals. The existing morning departments will continue to handle the appeals presented to them.

The Court of Cassation has been facing challenges due to a limited number of advisors responsible for adjudicating cases.

This shortage has highlighted the urgent need to increase the number of judges in alignment with the court's operational needs moving forward.

The decision to confront the backlog of appeals comes in response to the alarming statistic of nearly 70,000 accumulated appeals recorded last year, primarily concerning commercial and administrative cases. This accumulation has necessitated decisive action from the judiciary to alleviate the pressure on the court system.

These initiatives reflect a proactive approach to improving judicial efficiency and ensuring timely resolutions for those seeking justice. The emphasis on expanding judicial capacity and optimizing operational

processes is expected to enhance the overall effectiveness of the legal system.

□ □ □

Draft law being discussed: The Council of Ministers is currently discussing the draft law on the establishment of a specialized agency for managing emergencies and crises in preparation for its approval in order to deal with the current situation in the region; which is troubled by wars, natural and environmental disasters, epidemics and cyber threats, reports Al-Anba daily quoting sources.

Sources revealed the draft law will be presented soon at government meetings for approval; taking into consideration the surrounding political, security and economic circumstances that entail the need to establish the agency.

Sources affirmed that the initiative will be comprehensive, as it shall comprise of detailed strategies to address various emergencies and crises. Sources said the main goals are to address the challenging regional situation marked by escalating conflicts and wars; as well as responding to natural, industrial and environmental disasters, disease outbreaks and cyber threats.

Sources disclosed the agency will focus on developing the country's level of preparedness to handle emergencies and crises. Sources stated that its tasks include preventing, mitigating and managing crises; in addition to containing any resulting developments. Sources confirmed there will be coordination between the agency and other concerned government entities through effective information and data sharing.

Sources added the project also includes the establishment of an operations and command center for the agency. Sources indicated the center will oversee policy formulation and strategic planning for crisis management. It will also have the capability to seek support from public benefit organizations, the private sector and civil society in crisis situations; as well as to coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to request international assistance if necessary, sources concluded.

10 packs of heroin seized from expat

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: An Asian died in an accident on Mutla'a Road, reports Al-Anba daily.

A security source revealed that the Interior Ministry's security patrols received information from motorists about the accident and rushed to the scene, along with firefighters to deal with the situation. The Asian was taken to the hospital, where he died.

The body of was referred to the Forensic Medicine Department.

Initial investigations revealed the Asian's car collided with another vehicle, and that he was trapped in the wrecked car.

□ □ □

DCGD personnel arrest expat: Support patrols from Farwaniya Security Direc-

torate referred an expatriate to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) at the Interior Ministry after arresting him in Farwaniya with 10 packs of pure heroin in his possession, reports Al-Anba daily.

According to a security source, the support patrols were monitoring the area at night recently when they noticed the suspicious movement of the expatriate. They asked him to stop for routine inspection, but he fled on foot. Then, the officers chased and arrested him. They subjected him to precautionary search that led to the discovery of the abovementioned narcotics.

During interrogation, he admitted that he is selling drugs on behalf of another person; and that he was on his way to deliver the confiscated narcotics.



WE ARE BUDGET-FRIENDLY

MUGHAL MAHAL

FAHAHEEL

Weddings | Seminars | Conferences | Celebrations

Sea view | Ample car parking

For more enquires Call: 23911174 / 23911175

Mr. Jack: 97644421

Email: fahaheel@mughalmahal.com

info@mughalmahal.com

Four winners to attend Sydney Space Conference

KIC concludes first-ever 'Kuwait Space Hackathon'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: As part of its commitment to fostering sustainable social development, Kuwait Investment Company (KIC) successfully concluded the inaugural "Kuwait Space Hackathon," the first of its kind in the country, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Held in conjunction with World Space Week, this event was designed to celebrate the contributions of space science and technology in improving human life.

KIC's initiative aimed to enhance the scientific impact of this global celebration by bringing it to Kuwait with significant involvement from international experts.

In a press release, KIC expressed its intention to promote innovation in Kuwait by hosting the hackathon in cooperation with the College of Engineering and Petroleum at Kuwait University and the World Space Week Organization. This event highlighted KIC's dedication to enriching national talents and developing human capital.

The competition saw the participation of 50 selected students from 85 applicants. Four winners were awarded a full grant to attend the 2025 Sydney Space Conference, with KIC covering all expenses for the winners.

The hackathon benefited from international expertise, with a jury composed of specialists in space sciences. Eng. Lama Al-Ariman, the World Space Week Organization Ambassador in Kuwait, played a crucial role in organizing the event, setting international standards for the curriculum, and selecting the winning projects.

CEO of KIC, Fawaz Al-Ahmad, emphasized the company's focus on qualitative initiatives to advance the skills of future generations, preparing them for competition in the global labor market.

He highlighted that organizing the "Kuwait Space Hackathon" reflects KIC's ongoing efforts to integrate social responsibility with its core business



Al-Seyassah photo

Kuwait Investment Company CEO Fawaz Al-Ahmad and Australian Ambassador Melissa Kelly in a group photo with the winners.

strategies. This initiative, he said, aligns with Kuwait's goal of building a knowledge-based economy driven by innovation.

Al-Ahmad also stressed the company's broader objective of supporting the national economy by contributing to the development of Kuwait's human capital.

By sponsoring youth initiatives like this, KIC plays a critical role in promoting scientific excellence and nurturing the talents of Kuwaiti students.

One of the major achievements of this initiative, Al-Ahmad noted, is the elevation of KIC's global presence. By partnering with the World Space Week Organization, the company's name will be associated with over 16,000 events in more than 90 countries worldwide, furthering its reputation as a national leader in both investment and social responsibility.

In keeping with its long-term goals, KIC provided the winning teams with comprehensive grants to attend the Sydney Hackathon 2025, reinforcing its commitment to creating lasting opportunities for Kuwaiti youth. This initiative reflects KIC's strategy of supporting pioneering national projects that contribute to Kuwait's socio-economic growth.

Al-Ahmad extended his gratitude to Kuwait University for hosting the event and to the Australian Ambassador to Kuwait, Melissa Kelly, for attending the closing ceremony.

He also recognized the efforts of Eng. Lama Al-Ariman for her technical supervision of the hackathon and thanked the national initiative "Partners for Employment" for their collaboration in organizing the event.

'Career Pathways' fails to meet goals

Students unprepared

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: According to educational sources, the "Career Pathways" program in secondary education has failed to meet its objectives. This program is one of the important projects in the government's work program for the Ministry of Education and aims at diversifying educational outputs to meet the labor market's needs.

They explained that the project encountered several difficulties and challenges, making its implementation complex and unfeasible. A major issue was the lack of cooperation of some educational institutions with the Ministry of Education. These institutions insisted on overseeing field or practical education themselves, resulting in repeated clashes between the ministry and these institutions.

Statistics in this regard indicate that approximately 146,461 students in government schools and over 68,000 students in private education were unable to benefit from the "Career Pathways" project. This totals more than 200,000 students who have graduated from the 12th grade in the last five years without acquiring the necessary professional skills, which negatively impacted their opportunities in the labor market.

The sources went on to explain that the director of the "Career Pathways" project at the Ministry of Education apologized for not continuing to manage the project. The team experienced frustration due to ongoing indecision regarding the project's implementation, which has been overseen by several ministers in recent years. Each minister has left the project in limbo, oscillating between forming committees to study it and canceling them without reaching a decisive conclusion on its activation.

Despite numerous amendments to the "Career Pathways" project, those in charge have been unable to achieve tangible results. The issue is not due to errors in implementation or a lack of material and human resources, but rather the absence of a common commitment among educational institutions to move forward with the initiative.

The professionals in the educational field continue to stress the urgent need to implement "Career Pathways" in secondary education to equip students with the skills necessary for the labor market. However, experts warn that the project may remain stalled unless the mechanisms for cooperation between the Ministry of Education and various educational institutions are re-evaluated.

The sources said, "If these pathways are implemented correctly, they could help bridge the skills gap between educational outcomes and labor market needs. There is a pressing need to reconsider the project and activate it in a way that benefits students and aligns with the requirements of the labor market."

KUNA, Greece's envoy explore joint media initiatives



KUNA photo

Director General of KUNA, Dr. Fatima Al-Salem, during a meeting with the Greek Ambassador to the country, Ioannis Plotas.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): Director General of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Dr. Fatima Al-Salem discussed on Wednesday with Greece's Ambassador to Kuwait Ioannis Plotas ways of enhancing media cooperation between Kuwait and Greece.

Additionally, they discussed ways of employing media as a means of connection and enriching relations between the two countries.

During the meeting, Al-Salem pointed out modern media's role in enhancing cultural and economic relations. Media cooperation between both agencies allows better access to the rights of news and images, alongside this, Al-Salem wishes to look into ways of exchanging experience between the two media organizations.

For his part, Ambassador Plotas praised the part

Kuna plays in media, expressing his wish to enhance media cooperation between Greece and Kuwait.

He stressed the importance of exchanging media visits and organizing joint workshops aimed at developing journalistic skills, and adopting project that enhance cultural and civil interactions between the two sides. Media can play a big part in highlighting trade and touristic opportunities, deepening bilateral relations, he added.

Plotas pointed the longstanding relations throughout time between the two countries, stressing media's role in building bridges that deepen relations in multiple aspects. The two sides agreed on continuing discussions towards greater media cooperation that help achieve deeper Kuwaiti-Greek relations focused on innovation in media.



KUNA photo

A group shot after signing the memorandum of understanding.

NCCAL inks landmark agreement to 'revitalize' Bait Al-Othman Museum

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) signed, Wednesday, a memorandum of understanding with the committee for the management and development of the late Abdullah Abdullatif Al-Othman's estate to establish strategic partnership.

This cooperation aimed at enhancing cultural and creative activities at Bait Al-Othman Museum.

In a press release the NCCAL described signing the memorandum as a pioneering and ambitious step towards strengthening Kuwait's cultural heritage by promoting the role of Arabic language, culture, and historical continuity of the museum.

The signing was attended by the NCCAL Secretary-General Dr. Mohammad Al-Jassar as the head of the council, and by Al-Othman office Vice Supervisor and a member of the trustee committee Engineer Adnan Al-Othman, the statement added.

It mentioned that this partnership would last for five years, renewable, with the aim of enriching Kuwait's cultural scene by strengthening cultural identity, preserving national heritage, and promoting the creative economy.

The agreement covers essential clauses,

including launch plans to preserve historical, architectural, and cultural character of the museum, while developing educational programs.

Dr. Al-Jassar expressed his happiness with this partnership, saying it would highlight Kuwait's civilizational image aligning with the visions and goals that the NCCAL seeks to achieve.

He announced that the museum would reopen soon to visitors after finishing all the necessary maintenance work.

On his part, Engineer Adnan Al-Othman emphasized the importance of this partnership and expressed his joy at the launch of this national project.

He said that this agreement is a key factor that the museum would continue to develop and prosper.

He stated that the committee is committed to develop Bait Al-Othman into an institution that embraces creative industries and promotes Arabic language in all its activities.

Bait Al-Othman Museum is one of Kuwait's unique archaeological sites, showing the ancient history and the development of Kuwaiti architecture, late philanthropist Abdullah Abdullatif Al-Othman, began constructing it in stages, started in the late 1940s, until 1960.

News in Brief

Governor meets officials: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Athbi Al-Nasser received Brigadier Saleh Al-Azmi, Director General of the Farwaniya Security Directorate, and Saud Al-Mutairi, Director of the Farwaniya Mosques Department, at his office in the governorate's general office yesterday morning, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

During the meeting, Sheikh Al-Nasser emphasized the importance of the ongoing cooperation between the Farwaniya Security Directorate and the Farwaniya Mosques Administration.

292 nominated: The Civil Service Bureau announced the nomination of 292 male and female Kuwaitis registered in the central employment system, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

These prospective employees hold specialized diploma qualifications, for specific government agencies.

The bureau has called on candidates to visit the employer to whom they were nominated directly without the need to visit the bureau.

Campaign ends: The Public Relations Department of Kuwait Municipality announced the successful conclusion of a large-scale evacuation campaign, conducted in coordination with the ministries of Defense and Interior, as well as the Environment Public Authority and the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fisheries Resources (PAAAFR), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

564 days granted

DGCA secures 4th contract extension

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: According to informed sources, the Central Agency for Public Tenders (CAPT) approved the request of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for the fourth extension of a contract to design and construct the new runway and rebuild the eastern runway at the Kuwait International Airport.

They explained that DGCA submitted the request for a 564-day extension of the contract starting from July 21, which would change the initial completion date to February 4, 2026. This extension will incur no additional costs to the contract's value.

The project aims to expand and develop the airport's infrastructure, increase the capacity and operational capabilities for both private and commercial aviation, as well as air cargo, as well as enable DGCA to accommodate all types of aircraft, including the new generation of large aircraft.

Meanwhile, the sources revealed that the DGCA has referred two projects to the State Audit Bureau (SAB) for review and to express any observations or requirements. This includes an auction for a license to provide baggage wrapping services for passengers in the baggage weighing areas of the T1 passenger terminal. It also referred a request for a time extension regarding the agreement for project management services related to the structural plan projects of 2012 at Kuwait International Airport, with the value of the projects under audit by SAB totaling KD 3.4 million.



October

Room Promotion



One Night Stay in a Queen Cabana
for 2 persons with inclusive of breakfast
was BHD 76.230

Now BHD 49.550 Net



One Night Stay in a 2 Bedroom Chalet
for 4 persons inclusive of breakfast
was BHD 170.247 Net

Now BHD 110.661 Net



Bahrain CPR holders are entitled to a 35% discount on room rates throughout the week

Promo period from 1st October to 31st October 2024 Terms & conditions apply*

Tel: +973 17701201 - Ext. 351 | Email: reservation@albander.com | www.albander.com | @albanderhotelandresort

China's role in global economics examined amid academic politicization

Maxime Izoulet explores influence of political narratives on global academic research

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Reconnaissance Research, in collaboration with Research Journey, hosted a roundtable discussion featuring French scholar Dr. Maxime Izoulet, an Associate Researcher at the European Institute for Development Studies (IEED). During the session, Izoulet addressed how political narratives have influenced academic research, citing examples of attempts to

dismiss data that offers perspectives on China beyond the Western efforts to demonize it. He highlighted the double standards in dealing with countries like China and how the politicization of academic content undermines decision-making and impairs the public's access to unbiased information.

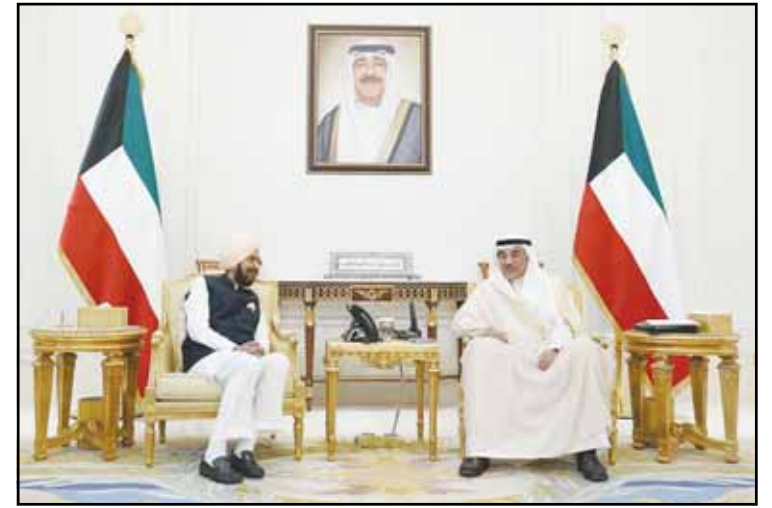
Izoulet further emphasized that China has become increasingly immune to

economic sanctions due to its shift toward a more self-sufficient financial model. He noted that China continues to drive global economic trends and exerts as much influence on Western economies as they do on China, signaling a significant shift in global economic power dynamics.

His visit to Kuwait is part of the HESPRI initiative — Elevating Higher Education Public Policies: An Empowering SPRInboard — which aims to enrich public policy discussions and further integrate higher education into the global policy landscape.

Dr. Al-Anoud Al-Sabah, founder of Research Journey, said: "We are pleased to collaborate with Reconnaissance Research, a center that, since its establishment in 2019, has shown a strong commitment to fostering academic and professional engagement. This partnership represents a shared vision for promoting intellectual exchange in Kuwait and beyond."

Abdulaziz Al-Anjeri, founder and CEO of Reconnaissance Research, added: "We are honored to host Dr. Maxime Izoulet and to partner with Sheikha Al-Anoud in organizing this event. Her personal achievements in advancing informed dialogue have created a unique opportunity for collaboration. Together, we aim to build bridges and foster meaningful discussions."



His Highness the Crown Prince receives President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

Crown Prince receives OCA Pres

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Wednesday received President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Raja Randhir Singh at Bayan Palace, on his election as the new president of OCA.

His Highness the Crown Prince congratulated him on this occasion, wishing him continued success in advancing the Asian sports and services to all athletes in Asian countries. Singh expressed his sincere gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince for supporting OCA.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Al-Yahya, Director of the Office of His Highness the Crown Prince Lieutenant General (retired) Jamal Theyab, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs at the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince Mazen Al-Issa, Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Nawaf Al-Sabah, Member of the Board of Directors of Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Jaber Thamer Jaber Al-Sabah, Director General of the Olympic Council of Asia Hussain Al-Musallam, and Deputy Director General of OCA Vinod Kumar Tiwari attended the meeting.



Reconnaissance Research logo



Research Journey logo



Group photo from the event.

Bahrain's King

Continued from Page 1

This came during the reception of Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah by the Bahraini Crown Prince at Gudaibiya palace in Bahrain.

The Bahraini Crown Prince stressed the importance of mutual visits between official from Kuwait and Bahrain, and their role in strengthening bilateral cooperation and ties.

During the meeting, Prince Salman Al-Khalifa and Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef reviewed the Bahraini-Kuwaiti cooperation and partnership, emphasizing the continuous progress they were witnessing and the consolidation of the historical ties between Kuwait and Bahrain.

The meeting discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields in a way that served the interests of both countries and ways to enhance the process of joint Gulf action, as well as the overall developments on the regional and international arenas.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef discussed on Wednesday with Bahraini Defense Force Commander-

in-Chief and Field Marshal Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa ways of enhancing military cooperation.

This came about during a meeting between the First Deputy PM and the Commander-in-Chief on the occasion of his official visit to Bahrain.

The two sides discussed ways of enhancing military cooperation in order to increase relations and advance mutual Gulf progress.

Additionally, they agreed on the importance of cooperation between Kuwait and Bahrain's militaries, in areas of exchanging experience and securing peace in the two countries.

The meeting touched on overall regional and international developments, as well as the challenges both countries face and the views on them.

Earlier, Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al-Sabah and Bahraini Interior Minister Sheikh Rashed bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa discussed ways to bolster cooperation between the two sides.

On his part, Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef commended during the meeting the longstanding relations between Kuwait and Bahrain especially within the Interior sphere.

He stressed the importance of mutu-

al visits to boost cooperation and face any security challenges and crimes in the region.

The Kuwaiti minister arrived in Bahrain on an official visit and Bahrain's Interior Minister and other senior officials received him.

The First Deputy PM arrived in Bahrain earlier today on an official visit, where he was received by Bahrain's Commander-in-Chief at Bahrain's International Airport.

Kuwait PM,

Continued from Page 1

In the same context, NNA said an exchange of fire occurred between Israeli occupation forces and Hezbollah fighters near Naqoura city in southern Lebanon.

It added that sirens were launched at level three (extreme danger) in the UNIFIL center, as Naqoura was under artillery attacks by Israeli aggression force.

Israeli occupation force launched air raids on west Baalbek city, killing one person and injuring others, while another raid on a house in the city killed two people and injured others.

Another raid against an apartment in Chouf city in Mount Lebanon killed and injured a number of citizens, said NNA.

Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary David Lammy warned on Wednesday of the seriousness of the situation in the Middle East, calling for increased efforts to reduce tension.

This came in a statement issued by the British Foreign Office before Lammy's departure to Bahrain and Jordan to hold talks with the leaders there in order to establish security and stability in the region.

"The situation is currently extremely dangerous, and any escalation or miscalculation is not in anyone's interest," Lammy said, stressing the importance of reaching a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon to allow assistance to the affected civilians and secure the release of the hostages.

FATF warns

Continued from Page 1

The FATF stated that Kuwait has a basic grasp of the money laundering risks at the national level but only a limited understanding of the risks as-

sociated with terrorist financing.

There is an urgent need for the concerned authorities to enhance their comprehension of these risks, which includes conducting thorough assessments of the non-profit sector, virtual asset service providers, and the misuse of legal entities for money laundering.

The FATF acknowledged that Kuwait has increased the number of money laundering investigations. However, challenges remain in securing convictions for money laundering without establishing the underlying predicate crime.

Most cases under consideration involve straightforward instances of self-money laundering. Investigations and prosecutions related to terrorist financing appear limited, with many cases failing to secure convictions in court.

Experts warn

Continued from Page 1

one of Iran's older and inactive reactors, but it still presents risks.

According to him, most of the chemical and nuclear materials have been relocated to northern Iran, but the northern reactors could pose a threat if targeted by Israeli missiles. Despite the Bushehr re-

actor being free of active hazardous materials, the proximity of Iran's northern reactors to Kuwait and other Gulf countries remains a serious concern.

Dr. Al-Ajmi stressed the importance of coordination between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, particularly in implementing early warning systems to detect any pollution or radioactive leakage. Given the tense relations between Iran and Israel, it is vital to update cooperation protocols among Gulf countries to prepare for any potential nuclear disaster.

In the event of a radioactive leak, Dr. Al-Ajmi warned that contamination could spread through both water and air, influenced by factors such as wind direction and temperature.

The mountainous terrain could help limit the spread of radiation, but Kuwait's reliance on Gulf waters for desalination makes pollution in these waters a significant risk.

As a precaution, he called for the activation of pollution barriers in Gulf waters, which are already used by many oil companies to mitigate environmental damage.

Dr. Al-Ajmi also emphasized the need for Kuwait's ministries -- particularly health, electricity, and water -- to increase preparedness in case of a nuclear disaster.

MALABAR
GOLD & DIAMONDS

Malabar
With you
In all your
Celebrations

**ASSURED GOLD COINS ON
GOLD & DIAMOND JEWELLERY**

**FREE 1 GRAM
GOLD COIN**

On purchase of
Diamond & Precious
gem jewellery worth
KWD 420

**GOLD RATE
PROTECTION**

Pay 10% in advance
and get Gold rate
Protection

**FREE 1/2 GRAM
GOLD COIN**

On purchase of
Diamond & Precious
gem jewellery worth
KWD 250

0% ZERO DEDUCTION
ON OLD GOLD
(916) EXCHANGE

100% VALUE ON
DIAMOND
EXCHANGE

Special buy counters
with attractive discounts

Offer valid until 2nd November 2024

Scan to view the
festive jewellery collection

Shop 24/7 at www.malabargoldanddiamonds.com

Download Our Mobile App

OVER 360 BRANCHES SPREAD ACROSS KUWAIT, UAE, OMAN, QATAR, BAHRAIN, SAUDI ARABIA, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, USA, INDIA, UK, CANADA & AUSTRALIA

*T&C apply. Solitaire jewellery is excluded from the offer.

INTERNATIONAL



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris is photographed with the hosts during a commercial break at The View on Oct 8, in New York. From left are Sara Haines, Ana Navarro, Whoopi Goldberg, Harris, Alyssa Farah Griffin, Joy Behar and Sunny Hostin. (AP)

Trump slams VP interview

Harris gets personal in media blitz

NEW YORK, Oct 9, (AP): Kamala Harris wanted to help voters get to know her better with a cascade of media appearances Tuesday, but the most lasting impression might have been her unwillingness to break with Joe Biden.

Asked on ABC's "The View" how she would be different from the president she's served under for four years, Harris said "we're obviously two different people" and "I will bring those sensibilities to how I lead."

However, she was not able to identify a decision where she would have gone another way. "There is not a thing that comes to mind," Harris said.

The exchange encapsulated Harris' struggle to portray herself as a candidate who can deliver the change voters crave while also remaining loyal to the current administration. Some Harris aides privately winced as gleeful Republicans swiftly circu-

lated clips of her response and Donald Trump swiped at her in a social media post, calling it "her dumbest answer so far."

It wasn't until later in the show that Harris named something that she would do differently than Biden - she would put a Republican in her Cabinet.

The Democratic nominee said she would welcome contributions from the other party "because I don't feel burdened by letting pride get in the way of a good idea."

The interview was a reminder that friendly media venues - the women of "The View" were nearly rapturous in their embrace of Harris - can be as treacherous for politicians to navigate as hardball journalistic interrogations. And it came at a delicate moment for Harris, whose motorcade whisked her from studio to studio in New York on Tuesday.

She faced a similar question dur-

ing a taping of CBS' "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, who asked Harris "what would the major changes be" from Biden. She offered nothing other than saying "I'm obviously not Joe Biden, so that would be one change" - then emphasized that she's also not Trump.

Even though Harris' abbreviated and unexpected bid for the presidency is more than half over, she is still racing to introduce herself to voters who haven't made up their minds about her or whether to cast ballots in this year's election. Her interviews Tuesday, which included sitting down with radio host Howard Stern, were an attempt to reach as many people as possible with only four weeks to go until the end of the campaign. She also recently spoke to CBS' "60 Minutes," which aired Monday night, and Alex Cooper's podcast "Call Her Daddy," which was released Sunday.

Hurricane approaches Florida

Biden postpones foreign trip to monitor Milton

WASHINGTON, Oct 9, (AP): US President Joe Biden said he is postponing a planned trip to Germany and Angola to stay at the White House to monitor Hurricane Milton, as it spins closer to Florida's Gulf Coast.

"I just don't think I can be out of the country at this time," he said at the White House after senior members of the administration updated him on the storm and the government's preparations. Biden warned that Milton "could be one of the worst storms in 100 years to hit Florida," and said he's working "to increase the size and presence" of the federal government's response.

He said people in the storm's path should heed local orders to evacuate and leave "now."

"You should have already evacuated," Biden said, seated with some of the officials who briefed him. "It's a matter

of life and death, and that's not hyperbole. It's a matter of life and death."

He asked commercial airlines and other companies for help with evacuations.

"I'm calling on the airlines and other companies to provide as much service as possible to accommodate evacuations and not to engage in price gouging, to just do it on the level," Biden said.

It was unclear when Biden's overseas trip might be rescheduled and the White House did not announce new travel dates. The president had been scheduled to depart Thursday for Germany, where he had planned to host a summit on the war in Ukraine with allied nations at a US military base before continuing on to Angola.

Maj.Gen Pat Ryder, the Pentagon press secretary, said officials would look for a date and location to replace Satur-

day's planned meeting on Ukraine.

The German government issued a statement saying "we very much regret the cancellation, but of course we understand due to the situation in Florida."

Biden had promised to visit Africa during his term in office, which ends in January. He said Tuesday that he still intends to make the journey.

"I'm still planning on visiting all the places I said I'd be and all the conferences I said I'd participate in," he said.

This year's hurricane season has caused havoc for political calendars in the closing weeks of the presidential campaign. Less than two weeks ago, Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, cut short a West Coast trip to return to Washington after Helene made landfall. She later visited Georgia and North Carolina, where some of the worst damage took place.

Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, has also traveled through the Southeast, including two trips to Georgia.

Hurricane Milton churned Wednesday toward a potentially catastrophic collision along the west coast of Florida, where some residents insisted they would stay after millions were ordered to evacuate and officials warned that stragglers would face grim odds of surviving.

The Tampa Bay area, home to more than 3.3 million people, faced the possibility of widespread destruction after avoiding direct hits from major hurricanes for more than a century. The National Hurricane Center predicted Milton, a monstrous Category 5 hurricane during much of its approach, would likely weaken but remain a major hurricane when it makes landfall late Wednesday.



US President Joe Biden steps off Marine One upon his arrival at the White House on Oct 8. (AP)

Some election offices boost security

Early in-person voting begins in Ariz

PHOENIX, Oct 9, (AP): Early in-person voting begins Wednesday in Arizona, making it the first of this year's presidential battleground states where all residents can cast a ballot at a traditional polling place ahead of Election Day.

The start of in-person voting in the closely contested state also is drawing the presidential tickets, with both campaigns scheduling visits there this week.

Wednesday's voting overlaps with campaign stops by both vice presidential nominees - Democratic Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Ohio Sen. JD Vance, a Republican - who will hold separate events in Tucson on Wednesday.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, is scheduled to host a rally in Phoenix on Thursday, while former President Donald Trump will hold one Sunday in Prescott Valley, a Republican stronghold about 90 miles

(144 kilometers) north of Phoenix.

President Joe Biden defeated Trump by just 10,457 votes in 2020, a narrow margin that set off years of misinformation and conspiracy theories among Republicans who refused to acknowledge Biden's win. It also has led to threats and harassment of election workers, prompting some election offices to boost security for their workers and polling place volunteers.

In Maricopa County, which includes Phoenix, some schools have declined to serve as polling locations, citing harassment of workers and other safety concerns.

Early voting, particularly by mail, has long been popular in Arizona, where nearly 80% voted before Election Day in 2020, according to the Secretary of State's Office.

Each of Arizona's 15 counties is required to open at least one site for in-person voting, which runs until the Fri-

day before the Nov. 5 general election. In Maricopa County, a dozen voting centers are scattered around the metro Phoenix area.

Arizona had 4.1 million registered voters as of late July, according to the most recent tally by the Secretary of State's Office. That figure likely is higher as both parties pushed to increase registration before Monday's deadline.

Early in-person voting has been underway in other states for a couple of weeks. It begins next week in four more presidential swing states - Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina and Nevada.

Meanwhile, with less than a month to go before voters head to the polls, the State Election Board is embroiled in a fight with Georgia's most populous county over a monitoring team to observe the county's election practices.



A voter walks to a voting precinct prior to casting his ballot in the state's primary election on July 30, 2024, in El Mirage, Ariz. (AP)

America

Plane crashes on Catalina: A plane crashed Tuesday night on Catalina Island off the Southern California coast near the island's private airport. It was not immediately known if there were injuries or deaths.

Supervisor Travis White with the Los Angeles County Fire Department said the plane crashed at about 8:30 p.m. on the island that is about 25 miles off the shoreline south of Los Angeles. He had no further details, including what kind of aircraft was involved.

Detective Lar Meyers with the Avalon Sheriff's Station on the island said investigators were still making their way to the scene that was near the island's airport. (AP)

Kentucky crash kills 3: Three crew members were killed when a medical helicopter heading to pick up a patient hit a wire and crashed in Kentucky, authorities said.

The crash was reported Monday

evening in Owenton near state Highway 22, Kentucky State Police said in a news release. Troopers determined that an Air Evac Lifeteam flight crashed, killing the three personnel aboard. They were identified by police as Gale Alleman, Bethany Aicken and James Welsh.

The Grant County-based crew was en route to pick up a patient when the crash happened, Air Evac Lifeteam said in a statement posted on social media. (AP)

Zelensky to seek more war support from a dozen countries in SE Europe

DUBROVNIK, Croatia, Oct 9, (AP): Ukraine's president is again seeking political and other support on Wednesday from a dozen countries in southeast Europe at a summit in Croatia, whose president isn't attending in a sign of the divided views on the war with Russia.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is in Dubrovnik for the meeting with Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic and other leaders. Croatian President Zoran Milanovic has criticized Western policies regarding the war as Croatia's political leadership is split over support for Ukraine.

"As long as I'm the president of Croatia, I will not sign for Croatian soldiers to be present in Ukraine," Milanovic said Tuesday, asserting that "the NATO mission to train soldiers in Ukraine is nonsense."

Zelenskyy said on X that "we will discuss international efforts to bring peace closer ... our joint response with partners to security challenges, as well as cooperation on the path to the European Union and NATO."

Kyiv is still awaiting word from Western partners on its repeated requests to use the long-range weapons

they provide to hit targets on Russian soil.

Some Balkan states have been providing Ukraine with short-range ammunition. At a previous summit with southeast European countries in February, Zelenskyy pleaded for more to repel Russian advances.

In Dubrovnik, Zelenskyy will sign an agreement with Croatia on further cooperation, particularly regarding humanitarian aid, demining and war crimes prosecution experience that Croatia has from its own 1991-95 war.



Hungarian Prime Minister and President of EU Council Viktor Orbán delivers his speech in the hemicycle of the European parliament in Strasbourg, France on Oct 9. (AP)

Orbán interrupted by activist during confab

An activist and municipal councilor for a Hungarian opposition party disrupted a news conference in the French city of Strasbourg on Tuesday, as Prime Minister Viktor Orbán was laying out his plans for Hungary's six-month presidency of the European Union.

The activist, Márton Gyekiczki, interrupted Orbán as he was speaking about his opposition to immigration, running toward the podium where Orbán sat and throwing a stack of what appeared to be banknotes at the prime minister.

"How much did you sell out the country for? How much did you sell out the country for, Mr. Prime Minister?" Gyekiczki yelled as the papers scattered. "He sold out to Putin, he sold out to Xi Jinping!" - referring to the leaders of Russia and China.

The disruption came as Orbán was set to address the European Parliament on Wednesday during Hungary's six-month rotating presidency of the bloc. His government

has long been at odds with the EU over what it sees as his curtailing of democratic rights, and has increasingly come under fire for his close relations with autocracies like Russia and China.

Gyekiczki, the activist, who was taken to the ground by a security guard and led out of the room, is a member of Hungary's Democratic Coalition party and a local council member in a Budapest suburb.

The president of that party, former Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány, later wrote on social media that he was "proud" of Gyekiczki for his actions.

"We will say it everywhere and always: Hungary has a traitorous government!" he wrote.

Orbán is expected to receive a mixed reception in the EU parliament on Wednesday. Many lawmakers have pushed for his government to be deprived of EU funds over what they see as rule-of-law and corruption violations.

Two years ago, the parliament declared that Hungary under Or-

bán had become "a hybrid regime of electoral autocracy," taking it out of the community of democracies.

Yet Orbán this year successfully formed the Patriots for Europe group within the parliament, uniting far-right parties from around the continent to form the third-largest group in the EU legislature.

During the news conference on Tuesday, Orbán lamented what he sees as a declining EU economy and lagging competitiveness with the United States and China, saying that he saw that as "the most serious challenge we have to face."

He also argued against recently adopted EU tariffs on Chinese-produced electric vehicles, and railed against immigration which he said was resulting in the destruction of the EU's visa-free Schengen area as countries like Germany, Austria, Italy and Slovenia have introduced temporary border checks along their frontiers. (AP)



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, (centre left), attends a meeting with Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, (third from right), at the Southeast Europe Croatia Ukraine summit in Dubrovnik, Croatia on Oct 9. (AP)

INTERNATIONAL



Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, right, attends an extraordinary Diet session at the lower house of parliament on Oct 9 in Tokyo. (AP)

Japan PM dissolves lower house of parliament

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba dissolved Japan's lower house of parliament Wednesday to set up an Oct. 27 snap election and seek a mandate from voters for his 9-day-old government.

Ishiba took office last week as Fumio Kishida resigned after leading the governing Liberal Democratic Party for three years as it was dogged by corruption scandals.

With the early election, Ishiba is seeking to secure a majority in the lower house for his governing party while he is still fresh and before the congratulatory mood fades.

The move has been criticized as prioritizing an election rather than policies and for allowing little debate. But Japan's opposition has remained too fractured to push the

governing party out of power.

Ishiba announced his plans for an election even before he won the party leadership vote and became prime minister. His Cabinet planned later Wednesday to formally announce the election date and the start of campaigning next Tuesday.

Ishiba and his Cabinet will stay in office until they win the election and are reappointed.

The speaker of the house, Fukuhiro Nukaga, announced the dissolution of the lower, more powerful of the two parliamentary chambers at a plenary session. All 465 lawmakers stood up, cheered "banzai" and rushed out of the assembly room.

"We will act fairly and squarely in

order to win the people's endorsement for the current administration," Ishiba told reporters. "Even while the lower house is dissolved the Japanese government must fully function" in tackling national security, disaster response and deflation, he said. "We will devote all our body and soul for the people."

Ishiba planned to explain the election plans at a news conference late Wednesday, just before heading to Laos to make his diplomatic debut at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit.

Opposition leaders have criticized him for rushing to hold an election allowing only three days of parliamentary debate on his policies and before achieving any results. (AP)



Barricades are placed near the Unification Bridge, which leads to the Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone in Paju, South Korea on Oct 9. (AP)

N.Korea vows to block border with S.Korea

North Korea said Wednesday it will permanently block its border with South Korea and build frontline defense structures to cope with "confrontational hysteria" by South Korean and U.S. forces, while not announcing an expected constitutional revision to formally designate South Korea its principal enemy and codify new national borders.

While the moves were likely a pressure tactic, it's unclear how they will affect ties with South Korea since cross-border travel and exchanges have been halted for years. North Korea's military said it will "completely cut off roads and railways" linked to South Korea and "fortify the relevant areas of our side with strong defense structures," according to the North's of-

ficial Korean Central News Agency.

The North's military called its steps a "self-defensive measure for inhibiting war and defending the security" of North Korea. It said that "the hostile forces are getting ever more reckless in their confrontational hysteria." It cited what it called various war exercises in South Korea, the deployment of U.S. strategic assets and its rivals' harsh rhetoric.

South Korea's military said later Wednesday that it won't tolerate any attempt by North Korea to change the status quo. It said South Korea will "overwhelmingly punish" North Korea if it launches provocations. A South Korean military statement said North Korea's nuclear and missile programs have threatened peace on

the Korean Peninsula.

South Korean officials earlier said North Korea had already been adding anti-tank barriers and reinforcing roads on its side of the border since April in a likely attempt to boost its front-line security posture and prevent its soldiers and citizens from defecting to South Korea. In a report to parliament on Tuesday, South Korea's Unification Ministry said that North Korea has been removing ties on the northern side of cross-border railways and nearby lamps and planting mines along the border. KCNA earlier Wednesday said the Supreme People's Assembly met for two days this week to amend the legal ages of North Koreans for working and participating in elections. (AP)

Forum platform for engagement between superpowers, region

ASEAN leaders meet in Laos to discuss Myanmar war, disputed sea

VIENTIANE, Laos, Oct 9, (AP): Southeast Asian leaders gathered Wednesday for an annual forum that will focus on the civil war in Myanmar and territorial tensions in the South China Sea, two key challenges that have tested the bloc's credibility.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Laos will be followed by two days of meetings with global powers including China, the United States and Russia, which are contending for influence in the region.

The timing of the meetings in the capital, Vientiane, makes it likely the talks will also touch on the escalating conflict in the Middle East, although Southeast Asia has faced only indirect fallout.

ASEAN's influence has historically been limited even among its own members, but the forum has been a platform for engagement between superpowers and the region.

The 10 member states of ASEAN - Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei and Laos - will also hold talks with other dialogue partners including Japan, South Korea, India and Australia on topics ranging from the economy, to climate change and energy.

Laos Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone welcomed new leaders from Thailand and Singapore to the summit in his opening speech.

"We help one another, and work

together the ASEAN way," he said. "We will discuss and strengthen cooperation between ASEAN members and other dialogue partners, along with upholding the unity and centrality of ASEAN."

Thailand's Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who took the premiership in August, is the bloc's youngest leader at 38. Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong took over in May from Lee Hsien Loong, who stepped down after 20 years. Vietnam also has a new leader after President To Lam took office in August, but the country is being represented by Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh.

President Joko Widodo of Indonesia, ASEAN's biggest member, is skipping the forum as his successor Prabowo Subianto prepares to take office later this month, sending Vice President Ma'ruf Amin in his stead. It will also be the first overseas trip for Japan's new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who was confirmed just last week.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will fill in for President Joe Biden at the meetings, while China will be represented by Premier Li Qiang.

Frayed U.S.-China relations, especially "escalatory and irresponsible" moves by Beijing to coerce smaller claimant countries in the disputed South China Sea, will be a major agenda item for Blinken, said Dan Kritenbrink, a top U.S. diplomat for Asia.



From left to right: Myanmar's Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Aung Kyaw Moe, Philippine's President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Thailand Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Laos' President Thongloun Siphouth, Laos' Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, Indonesian Vice President Ma'ruf Amin, and East Timorese Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao hold hands during the opening ceremony of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Vientiane, Laos on Oct 9. (AP)



Supporters of Indian National Congress and National Conference party celebrate early leads in election outside a counting center on the outskirts of Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir on Oct 8. (AP)

BJP secures 29 seats

Biggest Kashmir party wins most seats in election

SRINAGAR, India, Oct 9, (AP): Kashmir's biggest political party opposed to India's stripping of the region's semi-autonomy won the most seats in a local election, according to official data on Tuesday, following a vote seen as a referendum against the move by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government five years ago.

National Conference, or NC, won 42 seats, mainly from the Kashmir Valley, the heartland of the anti-India rebellion, according to the data. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party secured 29 seats, all from the Hindu-dominated areas of Jammu. India's main opposition Congress party, which fought the election in alliance with the NC, succeeded in six constituencies.

"People have supported us more than our expectations. Now our efforts will be to prove that we are worth these votes," Omar Abdullah, the NC leader

and the region's former chief minister who won from two seats, told reporters in the main city of Srinagar.

His father and president of the party, Farooq Abdullah, said that the mandate was to run the region without "police raj (rule)" and try freeing people from jails. "Media will be free," he said.

Late Tuesday, Modi in an address to his party workers in New Delhi said the peaceful election in the region was "the victory of the Indian Constitution and democracy." "The people of Jammu and Kashmir gave the mandate to the NC alliance. I congratulate them too. If we look at the vote share percentage, BJP has emerged as the biggest party" in the region, he said.

The vote will allow Kashmir to have its own truncated government and a regional legislature, called an assembly, rather than being directly under New Delhi's rule.

However, there will be a limited transition of power from New Delhi to the assembly as Kashmir will remain a "union territory" - directly controlled by the federal government - with India's Parliament as its main legislator. Kashmir's statehood must be restored for the new government to have powers similar to other states of India. But it will not have the special powers it enjoyed before the 2019 changes.

"People have given their mandate," Farooq Abdullah said. "They have proven that they don't accept the decision that was taken on August 5," he added referring to India's move in Aug. 2019. Hundreds of the NC workers gathered outside counting centers and at the homes of the winning candidates to celebrate the party's victory. Waving the party flags, they danced and burst firecrackers while chanting pro-Kashmir and pro-party slogans.

Africa

Mozambique votes for prez: Mozambique is voting for a new president on Wednesday in an election that is expected to extend the ruling party's 49 years in power since the southern African nation gained independence from Portugal in 1975.

Daniel Chapo, 47, is the candidate for the ruling Front for the Liberation of Mozambique, or Frelimo, seeking to succeed President Filipe Nyusi, who has served a maximum two terms.

Analysts say the strongest challenge to Chapo and Frelimo's dominance will likely come from 50-year-old independent Venancio Mondlane, a newcomer to national politics.

People also will vote for the makeup of Parliament and for provincial governors in a country of some 33 million people that

went through a bloody, 15-year civil war that ended in 1992, and more recently has been shaken by an ongoing violent jihadist insurgency in the north. (AP)

US sanctions RSF leader: The United States sanctioned a senior leader of Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces for "leading efforts" to supply weapons for the 17-month-long war, which has killed more than 20,000 people and wrecked the northeastern African country.

Algoney Hamdan Daglo Musa controls the UAE-based Tradive General Trading LLC, a front company that imported vehicles to Sudan on behalf of the paramilitary RSF and retrofitted them with machine guns, the US Department

of Treasury said Tuesday.

Algoney is the brother of RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. (AP)

Burkina Faso suspends VOA: Burkina Faso's military junta has suspended Voice of America's broadcasts for three months over its coverage of militant attacks in the country and in neighboring Mali, the state news agency reported, in the latest measure targeting media freedom in the country.

Burkina Faso's media regulator said a broadcast by VOA in September was intended to "undermine the morale" of the armed forces in the two countries, the L'Agence d'Information du Burkina (AIB) news agency reported late Monday. (AP)

'Continuation of previous policy'

Mexico prez lays out plan to combat cartel violence

MEXICO CITY, Oct 9, (AP): Mexico's new president laid out a plan Tuesday to combat drug cartel violence, but analysts say it appears to be largely a continuation of previous policy.

President Claudia Sheinbaum said that she plans to increase intelligence and investigative work, but her main focus will apparently remain the "hugs, not bullets" approach used by her predecessor.

Sheinbaum took over last week from her mentor, former President Andres Manuel López Obrador, who largely failed in his own plan to bring down Mexico's homicide rate. López Obrador refused to confront the cartels, instead relying on the armed forces and appeals to gangs to keep the peace.

"There is a continuity in the militarization of public safety," Mexican security analyst David Saucedo said. "There will also be a continuation of social programs to try to prevent



Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum gives a media briefing from the National Palace in Mexico City on Oct 2 the morning after her inauguration. (AP)

youths from being recruited by organized crime."

Sheinbaum's top security official, Omar García Harfuch, said that "we will continue with the strategy begun in the administration of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, to give priority attention to the poorest families."

Mike Vigil, a former head of the DEA's foreign operations, said that the new plan appears to be "more of the same."

In 2023, Mexico had a homicide rate of about 24 per 100,000 inhabitants, more than four times higher than the U.S. rate. But officials said that they were also worried about extortion, a crime that the cartels have increasingly turned to along with migrant smuggling, to supplement their income.

Sheinbaum blamed the killings in Guanajuato, the state with the highest number of homicides in Mexico, on low wages.

	Change	Closing pts		Change	Closing pts
JAPAN	-	Nikkei 225	+340.42	39,277.96	
EGYPT	-	EGX 30	+323.80	31,175.43	
PAKISTAN	-	KSE 100	+70.55	85,738.13	
SAUDI	-	TASI	-99.84	11,927.33	
DUBAI	-	DFMGI	-6.67	4,422.33	
PHILIPPINES	-	PSEI	-112.73	7,424.52	

Business



Sheikha Intisar and Dr. Swaika cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the event.



Sheikha Intisar with the Indian envoy seen talking to one of the participants at the event.



Sheikha Intisar with Dr. Swaika pose for a photo with other embassy officials.



Photo from the event



Photo from the event

Ambassador Swaika highlights India's vast tourism potential

Indian Embassy in Kuwait hosts B2B networking event to boost tourism

By Paulo Francisco X. Fernandes
Arab Times/Al-Seyassah Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The Embassy of India in Kuwait organized a B2B networking event to promote Indian tourism at the Millennium Hotel & Convention Centre.

This event saw the participation of a delegation comprised of ten prominent entities from India's tourism industry, showcasing the diverse and rich heritage of the country as a travel destination.

The event was inaugurated by HE Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, alongside the Ambassador of India to Kuwait, HE Dr. Adarsh Swaika.

Sheikha Intisar welcomed the initiative, reflecting on her fond memories of visiting India, including her recent trip to Rajasthan earlier this year.

In her remarks during the event, Sheikha Intisar, President of the Intisar Charity Association, praised the strong and historic bilateral relations between India and Kuwait.

She emphasized the mutual commitment of both nations to deepen cooperation across various sectors and noted the significant cultural connections, stating that many Indian terms are part of the Kuwaiti dialect.

She described India as a safe and peaceful country, rich in cultural diver-

sity, and commended the Indian community in Kuwait for their dedication and hardworking nature.

Sheikha Intisar encouraged Kuwaiti tourists to explore India, portraying it as a vast continent with a wealth of experiences and opportunities waiting to be discovered.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Swaika emphasized India's vast tourism potential, highlighting attractions that range from picturesque hill stations and serene beaches to historic forts and unique niche tourism products such as adventure tourism, medical tourism, yoga tourism, and wildlife safaris.

He pointed out that India boasts 43 UNESCO World Heritage sites, underscoring the cultural and historical significance that makes India an appealing travel destination.

The ambassador also addressed the growing trend of medical tourism to India, which is characterized by high-quality and affordable healthcare services.

In the previous year, the Embassy issued over 8,000 multiple-entry tourist visas, a figure expected to rise in the coming year. With an impressive growth trajectory, Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India surged to 9.24 million in 2023 and are projected to reach 30.5 million by 2028. India welcomes 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the tourism sector under the automatic route, facilitating investments in tourism infrastructure, including the development of hotels, resorts, and recreational facilities.

The Indian delegation included representatives from various prestigious organizations, such as Maharajas Express -- luxury train experiences by the Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), Taj Hotels & Resorts, Six Senses Fort Barwara in Jaipur, and Six Senses Vana in Dehradun.

Other participants included wellness centers like Prakriti Shakti -- CGH Earth Experience Hotels, MEDISAFAR, and Somatheeram Ayurveda, along with destination management companies such as Trail Blazer Tours India (TBI) and Gateway Malabar Holidays. Airlines IndiGo and Akasa Air were also represented at the event.

The event attracted over many tour operators and travel agents from Kuwait, who engaged in B2B interactions with the visiting delegation.

These discussions revolved around India's tourism offerings and potential opportunities for collaboration with their Kuwaiti counterparts. The event was well-attended by key stakeholders in the tourism sector, including social media influencers and representatives from print and electronic media.

This "Exploring Incredible India 2.0" B2B Networking Event is part of the Embassy's ongoing initiative to position India as a preferred travel destination for Kuwaiti tourists.

The Embassy has been actively conducting tourism promotion events in Kuwait, utilizing both B2B and B2C formats, and continues to engage regularly with local tourism stakeholders to enhance travel opportunities to India.

Boursa Kuwait sees gains amid calm global markets

427.6 million shares traded in session

By Mahmoud Shendi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Boursa Kuwait closed Wednesday with the general index rising by 10.14 points, or 0.14 percent, to reach 7,045.88 points. A total of 427.6 million shares were traded through 19,503 cash transactions, amounting to KWD 73.9 million (USD 225.3 million).

The main market index gained 26.29 points, or 0.42 percent, reaching 6,325.05 points, with 305.8 million shares traded through 12,894 cash transactions, valued at KWD 39.14 million (USD 119.3 million).

The premier market index edged up 6.34 points, or 0.08 percent, to close at 7,577.14 points, with 121.8 million shares traded through 6,609 transactions, worth KWD 34.8 million (USD 106.14 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 index advanced by 41.48 points, or 0.66 percent, to 6,311.06 points, with 238.6 million shares traded through 9,120 transactions, totaling KWD 30.16 million (USD 91.9 million).

On Tuesday, Boursa Kuwait closed with a positive session, as the general index rose by 51.3 points (0.7 percent), reaching 7,035 points. This boost raised the

market's total value by KD 303 million to KD 41.6 billion, up from KD 41.297 billion, supported by renewed active buying amid calm global financial markets.

The trading session saw approximately 329 million shares exchanged across 17,728 cash transactions, with a total value of KD 62.5 million (about \$190.6 million).

Despite the positive performance, market analysts remain cautious, noting that geopolitical tensions, particularly in the Gulf region, could disrupt oil supplies and global financial stability if conflicts escalate.

Gulf stock markets also rebounded, reducing recent losses driven by fears of a wider regional conflict. The Saudi market index rose by 1 percent, closing at 12,027 points, with total trades valued at 8.2 billion riyals.

Dubai Financial Market gained 0.8 percent, and the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange rose 1.2 percent, with both markets posting significant trading volumes. Meanwhile, the Qatar Stock Exchange recovered its morning losses, closing 0.58 percent higher.

In a separate development, the Capital Markets Authority of Kuwait issued a license to the Kuwait Financial Centre Company for the private marketing of 35,000 shares in MKZ Development 43, based in the Cayman Islands.

The offering is targeted at professional clients, with a share price of 1,000 euros. The license is valid for one year, renewable annually.

Brent and WTI crude prices drop

Kuwait oil price surges to \$79.12 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9, (KUNA): Kuwait oil price went up by 82 cents to US 79.12 per barrel on Tuesday compared to USD 78.30 per barrel last Monday, said the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on Wednesday.

The Brent crude and West Texas Intermediate still witnessed huge drops due to geopolitical developments in the world, bringing the price of both down by USD 3.75 and USD 3.57 each, to land at USD 77.18 pb and USD 73.57 pb respectively.

UN-brokered agreement restores Libyan oil flow

Libya's oil production expands to 1.13 million barrels per day

TRIPOLI, Oct 9, (Xinhua): Libya's oil production has rebounded sharply, reaching 1.13 million barrels per day on Tuesday, just days after the country's eastern-based government lifted a blockade on oil fields and ports, the state-owned National Oil Corporation (NOC) reported.

The revival follows a political agreement brokered by the United Nations to resolve a dispute over control of the country's central bank, highlighting the intricate link between Libya's oil sector and its fractious politics.

"We expect to return to pre-closure production levels within days," the NOC said in a statement, crediting the recovery to "guidance from

our leadership and the tireless efforts of our employees and partner companies."

The reopening of oil facilities came after representatives from Libya's rival power centers -- the Tripoli-based High Council of State and the eastern House of Representatives -- reached an accord on Sept. 26 to appoint new management at the central bank.

This agreement, facilitated by the UN support mission in Libya, aimed to end a standoff that had led to the closure of oil fields and ports in August.

Libya's oil industry, the backbone of its economy, has frequently been caught in the crossfire of political

disputes since the fall of former leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

The country remains divided between two administrations: one in the east, backed by the House of Representatives, and another in Tripoli, supported by the internationally-recognized Presidential Council.

The latest crisis erupted when the Tripoli-based Presidential Council attempted to replace the central bank governor, a move the eastern government rejected as overstepping its authority.

In response, the eastern administration shut down oil production, describing it as "a precautionary measure" against unauthorized control of the bank.

Over 9,000 meetings held at Bahrain's global aviation summit

Bahrain aims for 100 new air routes by '26

MANAMA, Oct 9, (Xinhua): Bahrain plans to expand its air connectivity to 100 new destinations by 2026, a senior official revealed on Tuesday, following the conclusion of Routes World 2024, a key event in the global aviation sector.

The 29th edition of the summit, held in Bahrain, facilitated more than 9,000 meetings between airline and airport representatives and attracted over 2,300 delegates from 230 airlines and 530 airports worldwide.

Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah, CEO of Bahrain Airport Company, underscored the importance of the event in positioning Bahrain as a hub for strategic partnerships and innovation in aviation.

"We are committed to driving the continued growth of this crucial sector," he said.

Bahrain's Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Mohamed bin Thamer Al Kaabi highlighted the conference's role in shaping the future of global aviation and enhancing air connectivity.

The event also saw participation from several Chinese airport groups, including those from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong, which promoted their regions through cultural performances and marketing activities.

Bahrain's Minister of Tourism Fatima Al Sairafi highlighted Gulf Air's newly-launched routes to Shanghai and Guangzhou as a

key move to tap into China's expanding outbound tourism market. Gulf Air is the national carrier of Bahrain and plays a central role in the country's aviation strategy.

She emphasized that these routes would boost transit traffic through Bahrain and align with the country's Tourism Strategy 2022-2026, aimed at strengthening links between tourism and aviation.

Chinese airport officials told Xinhua that international airlines engaged in discussions about launching new direct routes to China, with a focus on leveraging visa-free transit policies to boost tourism and enhance global aviation infrastructure.

20-year naphtha deal to deliver 18 mln tons to Shell

Shell, QatarEnergy expand strategic partnership with new agreement

DOHA, Oct 9, (KUNA): QatarEnergy has announced entering into a long-term naphtha supply agreement with Singapore-based Shell International Eastern Trading Company (Shell).

QatarEnergy said in a statement that the 20-year agreement stipulates the supply of up to 18 million tons of naphtha to be delivered to Shell starting in April 2025.

The statement quoted the State for Energy Affairs and the President and CEO of QatarEnergy Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi as saying "we are delighted to sign QatarEnergy's first 20-year naphtha sales agreement, the largest and longest to date. This is our second such agreement with Shell since 2019 and builds on our strategy of stronger relations with established end-users and partners."

"Today's signing further strengthens QatarEnergy's

relationship with Shell, which is not only a reliable naphtha off-taker but also a major counterpart and strategic partner," said Al-Kaabi was quoted by QNA as saying, noting that they look forward to building on their long-standing relationship with Shell and achieving greater mutual successes along the way.

On his part, CEO of Shell Wael Sawan said, "we are honored to enter into this long-term agreement with our esteemed partner, QatarEnergy," explaining that this deal will support Shell to deliver more value for their customers worldwide.

QatarEnergy and Shell have a long-standing strategic partnership through several shared investments in the energy industry in Qatar and globally, including QatarEnergy LNG projects, the Pearl GTL Plant, and several other joint investments.

Other markets are mostly higher

Chinese stocks sink, with Shanghai down 6.6 pct

HONG KONG, Oct 9, (AP): Chinese shares plunged on Wednesday, with Shanghai's benchmark down 6.6% and Hong Kong's sliding 1.5%, while other world markets mostly advanced.

European stocks opened flat. France's CAC 40 rose 0.2% to 7,538.08, and Germany's DAX was little changed at 19,070.69. Britain's FTSE 100 climbed 0.5% to 8,227.54.

The future for the S&P 500 was 0.3% lower and that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.2%.

Details of economic stimulus plans from officials in Beijing have failed to live up to lofty expectations that had built up after the central bank and other government agencies announced various policies to help revive the ailing property market and spur faster economic growth. The Shanghai Composite lost 6.6% to 3,258.86 after it gained 4.6% Tuesday as it reopened from a weeklong national holiday. The

CSI 300 Index, which tracks the top 300 stocks traded in the Shanghai and Shenzhen markets, gave up 7.1%.

The benchmark in the smaller market in Shenzhen dropped 8.7%. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index shed 1.5% to 20,618.79. That followed a plunge of more than 9% on Tuesday. The government has set a target for about 5% annual growth this year, but the economy expanded at only a 4.7% pace in the last quarter and economists have been revising their estimates for the full year downward.

The moves announced in late September fueled a rally that has since fizzled. But analysts have pointed out that a news conference on Tuesday by China's main planning agency, the National Development and Reform Commission, was unlikely to convey much information about government spending, which is the purview of the Finance Ministry.

That ministry is due to hold a briefing on Saturday that

could provide further details on planned government outlays that so far have fallen short of what investors have been hoping for. "A lack of new stimulus has been the cause of disappointment, with many market participants hoping that its fiscal policies will follow in the footsteps of the financial 'bazooka' delivered in late-September, but there was clearly a step-down in yesterday's announcement," Yeap Jun Rong of IG said in a commentary.

The Shanghai Composite is still up 5.2% from a year ago and more than 10% in the past three months. Hong Kong's index is up nearly 18% from a year earlier.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 index advanced 0.9% to 39,277.96. Shares of the Japanese retailer Seven & i Holdings gained 4.7% after media reported that Canadian convenience store operator Alimentation Couche-Tard had increased its takeover bid by about 20%.

The Lower House of Japan's parliament was dissolved on Wednesday to pave the way for an Oct. 27 general election. Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba hopes to consolidate support after taking office last week, amid signs the Liberal Democrats' ruling coalition remains shaky after Ishiba's predecessor, Fumio Kishida, stepped down following a slew of scandals among the party's lawmakers.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.1% at 8,187.40. South Korea's markets were closed for a public holiday.

On Tuesday, the S&P 500 rallied 1% and the Dow picked up 0.3%. The Nasdaq composite added 1.4%. The 10-year Treasury yield edged down to 4.02 from 4.03% late Monday. The two-year yield, which more closely tracks expectations for what the Federal Reserve will do with overnight interest rates, slipped to 3.96% from 3.99%, late Monday, though it's still near its highest level since August.



An ad by Valor media shows a photo of Elon Musk at a shopping center in Brasilia, Brazil, Monday, Sept. 2, 2024. (AP)

Demands complied with

X to be reinstated in Brazil

SAO PAULO, Oct 9, (AP): The Brazilian Supreme Court's Justice Alexandre de Moraes on Tuesday authorized the restoration of social media platform X's service in Brazil, over a month after its nationwide shutdown, according to a court document that was made public.

Elon Musk's X was blocked on Aug. 30 in the highly online country of 213 million people - and one of X's biggest markets, with estimates of its user base ranging from 20 to 40 million. De Moraes ordered the shutdown after a months-long dispute with Musk over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation. Musk had disparaged de Moraes, calling him an authoritarian and a censor, even though his rulings, including X's suspension, were repeatedly upheld by his peers.

Despite Musk's public bravado, X ultimately complied with all of de Moraes' demands. They included blocking certain accounts from the platform, paying outstanding fines and naming a legal representative in the country. Failure to do the latter had triggered the suspension. "The resumption of (X)'s activities on national territory was conditioned, solely, on full compliance with Brazilian laws and absolute observance of the Judiciary's decisions, out of respect for national sovereignty," de Moraes said in the court document.

"X is proud to return to Brazil," the company said in a statement posted on its Global Government Affairs account. "Giving tens of millions of Brazilians access to our indispensable platform was paramount throughout this entire process. We will continue to defend freedom of speech, within the boundaries of the law, everywhere we operate."

Just two days before the ban, on Aug. 28, X said it was removing all its remaining staff in Brazil "effective immedi-

ately," saying de Moraes had threatened with arrest its legal representative in the country, Rachel de Oliveira Villa Nova Conceição, if X did not comply with orders to block accounts.

Brazilian law requires foreign companies to have a local legal representative to receive notifications of court decisions and swiftly take any requisite action - particularly, in X's case, the takedown of accounts. Conceição was first named X's legal representative in April and resigned four months later. The company named her to the same job on Sept. 20, according to the public filing with the Sao Paulo commercial registry.

In an apparent effort to shield Conceição from potential violations by X - and risking arrest - a clause has been written into Conceição's new representation agreement that she must follow Brazilian law and court decisions, and that any legal responsibility she assumes on X's behalf requires prior instruction from the company in writing, according to the company's filing.

Conceição works for BR4Business, a business services firm. Its two-page website provides no insight into its operations or staff. "Something great is on its way," the top of the site's main page reads in English. Its other page is an extensive privacy policy.

At three of its listed Sao Paulo offices, receptionists told the AP that the company's offices are empty and employees work remotely. Neither Conceição nor BR4Business returned multiple phone calls and emails from the AP. There is nothing illegal or suspect about using a company like BR4Business for legal representation, but it shows that X is doing the bare minimum to operate in the country, said Fabio de Sa e Silva, a lawyer and associate professor of International and Brazilian Studies at the University of Oklahoma.

One of remedies sought

US may ask court to 'break up' Google

NEW YORK, Oct 9, (AP): The U.S. Department of Justice is considering asking a federal judge to force Google to sell parts of its business in order to eliminate its online search monopoly.

In a late court filing on Tuesday, federal prosecutors also said the judge could ask the court to open the underlying data Google uses to power its ubiquitous search engine and artificial intelligence products to competitors.

"For more than a decade, Google has controlled the most popular distribution channels, leaving rivals with little-to-no incentive to compete for users," the antitrust enforcers wrote in the filing. "Fully remedying these harms requires not only ending Google's control of distribution today, but also ensuring Google cannot control the distribution of tomorrow."

To that end, the department said it is considering asking for structural changes to stop Google from leveraging products such as its Chrome browser, Android operating system, AI products or app store to benefit its search business. Prosecutors also seem to center on Google's default search agreements in the filing and said any

remedy proposals would seek to limit or ban these deals.

Lee-Anne Mulholland, Google's vice president of regulatory affairs, said in response to the filing that the Department of Justice was "already signaling requests that go far beyond the specific legal issues" in this case. "Government overreach in a fast-moving industry may have negative unintended consequences for American innovation and America's consumers."

U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta ruled in August that Google's search engine has been illegally exploiting its dominance to squash competition and stifle innovation. He has outlined a timeline for a trial on the proposed remedies next spring and plans to issue a decision by August 2025.

Google has already said it plans to appeal Mehta's ruling, but the tech giant must wait until he finalizes a remedy before doing so. The appeals process could take as long as five years, predicts George Hay, a law professor at Cornell University who was the chief economist for the Justice Department's antitrust division for most of the 1970s.

SBA in danger of running out of money

Small business disaster loan program at risk

NEW YORK, Oct 9, (AP): The Small Business Administration could run out of money to fund disaster loans in the wake of Hurricane Helene's devastation.

As is typical after a disaster, the government is offering aid to small businesses that were in Helene's path. The SBA is offering disaster loans for small businesses in some counties in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

But President Joe Biden said in a letter to Congress Friday that aid could run out "in a matter of weeks" if more federal funding is not approved. And now another hurricane, Milton, is bearing down on Florida.

In a statement, the SBA said that it will continue sharing information about its disaster loan programs and assisting borrowers with initial processing and servicing loans. But if funding lapses, all new offers would be held back and delayed until program funding is replenished.

"We look forward to working with Congress to secure the federal resources necessary to ensure the SBA can continue funding affordable disaster loans for homeowners, renters, small businesses, and nonprofits," said U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Isabel Casillas Guzman. "Americans should not have to wait for critical assistance when they need it the most."

As it stands, business owners can apply for two different types of disaster loans. Business physical disaster loans are for repairing or replacing disaster-damaged property, including real estate, inventories, supplies, ma-



A closed business is seen after Hurricane Helene ahead of Hurricane Milton's arrival, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, in Treasure Island, Fla. (AP)

chinery and equipment. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, nonprofit organizations such as charities, churches, private universities, etc., are also eligible. Businesses have until the end of November to apply for these loans.

Economic injury disaster loans are working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, nonprofit organizations meet financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of a disaster. These loans are

intended to assist through the disaster recovery period. The deadline for these loans is June 30, 2025.

Businesses can access loans up to \$2 million. Interest rates are as low as 4% for businesses and 3.25% for nonprofit organizations.

The SBA also offers disaster loans up to \$500,000 to homeowners to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$100,000 to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed personal property.

Business owners can apply for

these loans at <https://lending.sba.gov/search-disaster/>. And more information can be found at <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/hurricane-helene>.

States are offering their own assistance programs too. For example, the Florida Department of Commerce is offering the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program, making \$15 million available for businesses impacted by Hurricane Helene. Eligible small businesses may apply for loans of up to \$50,000 through the program.

Biden warns against price gouging

Airlines say capping fares in the hurricane's path

TAMPA, Florida, Oct 9, (AP): A few airports in Florida began closing and airlines canceled hundreds of flights on Tuesday ahead of Hurricane Milton's arrival. Government officials from President Joe Biden on down warned companies not to overcharge people fleeing the storm's path.

"I'm calling on the airlines and other companies to provide as much service as possible to accommodate evacuations, and not to engage in price gouging - to just do it on the level," Biden said after a hurricane briefing.

Airlines defended their actions, some saying they had imposed fare caps in the last couple days.

By midafternoon Tuesday on the East Coast, airlines had canceled more than 700 U.S. flights, compared with fewer than 200 cancellations on Monday and fewer than 100 each of the two previous days, according to the Flight-Aware tracking service.

About half of Tuesday's cancellations were at Tampa International Airport, which shut down in the morning as Milton approached.

Travelers packed the airport on Monday, hoping to catch one of the remaining flights out of the storm's predicted path. Cerina McQuillan was trying to get her 17-year-old daughter on a flight to New York.

McQuillan said that when she first tried to buy a one-way ticket, prices were around \$200. Then the airline's site crashed.

"All of a sudden it went back on again, and the flights quadrupled in price. It went up to like \$750 within a matter of seconds," she said. "There were prices even as high as \$1,000 for one leg. So wrong! So wrong!"

Jeremy Bingaman, a music-industry podcaster, posted a screenshot of United Airlines fares for flights out of Tampa to St. Louis on Tuesday. They went as high as \$2,351 for refundable tickets in economy class on United Express,



John Fedor, of New Jersey, waits for transportation help to get to a shelter after his flight was canceled Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, at the Tampa International Airport in Tampa, Fla., due to the possible arrival of Hurricane Milton. (AP)

compared with Southwest, which showed tickets at \$399, and American, which displayed flights to Chicago for around \$600.

"Hey (at)united, what's up with the price gouging in Tampa for people trying to evacuate? ... shady," he wrote in an X post that was reposted more than 4,000 times.

None of those flights he highlighted took off - they were all scheduled after the airport suspended operations.

United spokesperson Leslie Scott said the itinerary that Bingaman posted included two connections, and noted that the flight never happened.

"We implemented fare caps on Sunday. Since then, the average price paid for a one-way, economy-class ticket to our hubs from the impacted Florida markets was below \$500," Scott said.

Delta said it capped fares, although it gave no figures. American said it added 2,000 seats leaving from Orlando on Tuesday night after adding 2,000

in Tampa and Sarasota on Monday.

Large U.S. airlines "are working diligently to accommodate customers impacted by Hurricane Milton," said Hannah Walden, a spokesperson for the trade group Airlines for America. She noted that several carriers are allowing consumers to rebook trips to, from or through the storm's path, "allowing passengers to adjust their travel plans if needed. The safety of our passengers and employees is our top priority."

Even when the weather is good, airlines often raise prices on tickets bought hours or a few days before departure, when there are fewer unsold seats left. That can blur the line between price gouging and the airlines' regular practice of maximizing revenue from each flight.

Biden did not give any examples of price gouging this week. A spokesperson for the U.S. Transportation Department said the agency has been in touch

with airlines to get more information about the availability and affordability of flights in the storm's path.

Earlier, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a post on X, "The Department takes all allegations of airline price-gouging seriously. We are keeping a close eye on flights in and out of areas affected by Hurricane Milton to make sure airlines are not charging excessively increasing fares."

William McGee, a travel expert and advocate for the American Economic Liberties Project, which opposes big corporations, said his group has seen the comments on social media about airlines - especially United, Delta and American - raising prices as the hurricane approached Florida.

"We've seen this with growing frequency in the deregulated era in response to natural disasters and terrorist attacks," McGee said. "It's important for consumers who are experiencing this to file complaints with the (Transportation Department) and perhaps share details on social media."

U.S. flight cancellations were expected to soar past 1,600 on Wednesday, when Milton was forecast to come ashore along Florida's central Gulf coast. The bulk of those cancellations are in Florida.

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport said it would close after the last flight Tuesday and reopen on Friday. Orlando International Airport planned to shut down Wednesday morning, and nearby Melbourne Orlando International Airport said it would stop flights Wednesday afternoon until Friday.

Travelers struggling to get out of Florida expressed exasperation and fatigue over high prices, canceled and delayed flights, and poor customer service.

John Fedor, a roofer from the Philadelphia suburbs, and his wife were trying to get home after a Caribbean cruise.

Google loses final EU court appeal against 2.4 billion euro fine in antitrust case

LONDON, Oct 9, (AP): Google lost its final legal challenge on Tuesday against a European Union penalty for giving its own shopping recommendations an illegal advantage over rivals in search results, ending a long-running antitrust case that came with a whopping fine.

The European Union's Court of Justice upheld a lower court's decision, rejecting the company's appeal against the 2.4 billion euro (\$2.7 billion) penalty from the European Commission,

the 27-nation bloc's top antitrust enforcer.

"By today's judgment, the Court of Justice dismisses the appeal and thus upholds the judgment of the General Court," the court said in a press release summarizing its decision.

The commission punished the Silicon Valley giant in 2017 for unfairly directing visitors to its own Google Shopping service to the detriment of competitors. It was one of three multi-billion-euro fines that the commission

imposed on Google in the previous decade as Brussels started ramping up its crackdown on the tech industry.

"We are disappointed with the decision of the Court, which relates to a very specific set of facts," Google said in a brief statement.

The company said it made changes in 2017 to comply with the commission's decision requiring it to treat competitors equally. It started holding auctions for shopping search listings that it would bid for alongside other

comparison shopping services.

"Our approach has worked successfully for more than seven years, generating billions of clicks for more than 800 comparison shopping services," Google said.

At the same time, the company appealed the decision to the courts. But the EU General Court, the tribunal's lower section, rejected its challenge in 2021 and the Court of Justice's adviser later recommended rejecting the appeal.

European consumer group BEUC hailed the court's decision, saying it shows how the bloc's competition law "remains highly relevant" in digital markets. "Google harmed millions of European consumers by ensuring that rival comparison shopping services were virtually invisible," director general Agustín Reyna said. "Google's illegal practices prevented consumers from accessing potentially cheaper prices and useful product information from rival comparison shopping

services on all sorts of products, from clothes to washing machines."

Google is still appealing the other two EU antitrust penalties, which involved its Android mobile operating system and AdSense advertising platform. The company was dealt a setback in the Android case when the EU General Court upheld the commission's 4.125 billion euro fine in a 2022 decision. Its initial appeal against a 1.49 billion euro fine in the AdSense case has yet to be decided.



Corporate sponsors are joined by the Head of Marketing at Gulf Bank.

Six participants to train for marathon with coach AlHathal

Gulf Bank announces winners of social media competition for '642 Marathon'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Gulf Bank has announced the six winners of its interactive social media competition, who will be sponsored and trained to compete in the Gulf Bank 642 Marathon, the only marathon in Kuwait with international accreditation.

In partnership with Suffix Sports Event Management Company and sponsored by Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa Commercial Company, DISC (Diversified Integrated Sports Clinic), and Basic Diet Kuwait, the six participants will participate in an extensive six-week training program, overseen by Coach Mohammed AlHathal.

This initiative seeks to inspire a lifestyle transformation by promoting regular exercise and healthy eating as fundamental components of daily life. This focus is especially important given the increasing prevalence of diabetes, obesity, and heart disease in the community, highlighting the urgent need for en-

hanced fitness and lifestyle changes.

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon annually attracts thousands of athletes and running enthusiasts from around the world, featuring a vibrant atmosphere and a scenic route that highlights iconic landmarks. Participants will enjoy the stunning sights of the Kuwait Towers, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, the Grand Mosque, Souq Al-Mubarakiya, and Gulf Bank's historic headquarters, among other notable sites.

The Gulf Bank 642 Marathon features four categories designed to accommodate participants of all abilities: a 5K walk or run, a 10K run, a half marathon (21K), and a full marathon (42K). Participants aged 11 and older can join the 5K, while those 16 and older are eligible for the 10K. The half marathon is open to runners aged 18 and above. Both beginners and experienced runners are encouraged to register. Interested

participants can sign up through the following link: Gulf Bank 642 Marathon Registration.

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

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

As part of its commitment to providing exceptional customer experience

KFH offers various services through Baitak Concierge

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Deputy General Manager - Products at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Nehal Almosalem, said that KFH offers a variety of services through its Baitak Concierge service. This is part of KFH's commitment to providing exceptional experience and saving customers time and effort.

Almosalem explained that the Baitak Concierge service acts as a personal assistant, offering an outstanding service to assist customers with their transactions, needs, and personal/family requirements. This service is provided in collaboration with Q'go Concierge with the aim of meeting customers' needs and offering services wherever and whenever they are needed.

She added that the beneficiaries of this service are all Al Ruwad custom-



Nehal Almosalem



Baitak Concierge

ers, as well as Al Tamayoz customers who hold Visa Signature, World MasterCard, Visa Diamond Charge, or Diamond Tayseer cards.

Almosalem also revealed that the service allows the aforementioned cus-

tomers to access a variety of services, including a personal assistant to oversee their daily tasks and a private secretary to handle all necessary matters. Baitak Concierge offers government-related services such as renewing civil

IDs, passports, and driver's licenses, applying for visas, and providing limousine services, roadside assistance, business representation, customs clearance, luggage delivery from the airport to customers' homes, and medical examinations for domestic workers. Once a service is requested, it is efficiently provided to alleviate the burdens of KFH customers and save them time and effort.

Almosalem emphasized that Baitak Concierge is part of KFH's strategy, dedicated to delivering exceptional customer service and providing valuable benefits and amenities. This fosters stronger relationships and loyalty between KFH and its customers, as the bank consistently prioritizes their needs, ensuring they feel valued and proud to be part of the KFH community.

Limited-time offers available until Nov 2

Actor Anil Kapoor reveals festive season offers from Malabar Gold & Diamonds

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 360 showrooms across 13 countries, has announced their much-awaited festive season offers. Malabar Gold & Diamonds brand ambassador and Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor unveiled the offers. Adding more sparkle to the numerous celebrations in the season, customers can get assured gold coins with their gold & diamond jewellery purchases. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has also unveiled their Festive Edition collection, a stunning array of exclusive jewellery designs in gold, diamond and precious gems, designed to be an alluring attraction to customers. The limited period offer can be availed across all Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms till the 2nd November 2024.

For every diamond or precious gem jewellery purchase worth KWD420, customers will get free 1gm Gold Coin and for diamond and precious gem jewellery purchase worth KWD250 they will be eligible for ½ gm Gold Coin.

The Festive edition of jewellery that the brand has unveiled presents jewellery lovers with an enthralling array of designs in gold, diamond and precious gem jewellery. The special design has been made available across a wide range of sub-brands such as Mine, Era, Precia, Viraa, Ethnix and Divine, comprising

- The attractive offers have been unveiled as part of the festive season.
- Customers get assured gold coins on Gold & Diamond jewellery purchase.
- Exclusive collection of Gold, Diamonds & Precious Gem jewellery unveiled as part of the Festive Edition.
- Block gold rates by paying 10% advance
- Zero deduction on exchange of 916 gold jewellery.
- Special buy counters offering jewellery at attractive discounts.
- Offer valid across all Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms.
- Offer valid till November 2nd, 2024.

of 22k gold, diamonds and precious gem jewellery. Elegant designs crafted in contemporary fashion have also been introduced in the 18K gold category. As part of the offer, customers have the opportunity to exchange their old 916 gold jewellery for the latest designs without any loss. Additionally, the brand will also be setting up Special Buy counters at their showrooms, offering incredible discounts on selected

jewellery designs.

"Our customers eagerly anticipate the special offers we introduce each festive season, and this year is no exception. With every purchase from our exquisite diamond jewellery collection, we're delighted to gift free gold coins, allowing our customers to celebrate with grandeur and joy. In line with our campaign tagline - Malabar With You in All Celebrations, our exclusive offers and stunning range of designs are a testament to Malabar Gold & Diamonds' unwavering commitment to being a part of our customers' cherished moments. Having our brand ambassador Anil Kapoor launch the offers was an added joy for us" said Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, Managing Director - International Operations at Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

In light of the gold rate fluctuations, customers can take advantage of the Gold Rate Protection offer provided by Malabar Gold & Diamonds, wherein customers can block the prevailing gold rates by paying just a 10% as advance, valid till the 29th of October. If the gold rate goes up during this period, customers can purchase at the blocked rate and if the rate happens to go down, customers can draw mileage from the lower rate. The Gold Rate Protection offer can be availed by visiting any of Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms, or online through their mobile app.



Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils festive season offers with Anil Kapoor.

'Flexible investment periods'

Warba to hold third quarterly 'Sunbula' draw today at 2 PM

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Warba Bank will hold the third quarterly Sunbula draw today, where the names of the winners will be announced at 2:00 PM on Thursday, 10/10/2024. The draw will be held at the Bank's main headquarters in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Warba Bank employees.

The Sunbula account is the best choice for all those who wish to save money and achieve fixed financial returns on their balances at the same time, in addition to getting opportunities to win cash prizes throughout the year, as the Sunbula account campaign in 2024 is distinguished by the mega draws that are held on a quarterly basis. In this third mega draw, one winner will receive the grand prize of KD 250,000. In addition to the mega draw, the winners of the weekly Sunbula account draw will be announced, where each of the 10 winners will receive KD 1,000.

The 7 winners of the monthly draw for Sunbula Kids Account will also be announced, with the first winner receiving KD 1,000, the second winner receiving KD 500, and the third to seventh winners receiving KD 100 each.

Regarding the conditions, Abdullah Nasser Al-Shuail, Senior Director of Branches and Private Banking Services at Warba Bank, said: "KD 100 is required to enter the weekly and grand draws of the Sunbula, noting that the client gets one chance for every KD 10 in the account, and the chances are calculated according to the lowest balance in the account, so the amount must have been held for two full months before the grand draws to calculate the chances."

Al-Shuail added that there are no restrictions or limits for withdrawals and deposits, the higher the deposited amount, the greater the client's chances to win, taking into account the minimum account limit.

As for the Sunbula deposit clients, they will have the opportunity to enter the Sunbula account draws for every KWD 1,000 in the deposit account,



Abdullah Nasser Al-Shuail

which is characterized by its compliance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and is based on the principle of investment agency, and is characterized by flexible investment periods that reach a maximum of 60 months, distributed according to the client's desire, either monthly, annually, or upon maturity.

The Sunbula Account is a banking product that is compatible with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and is based on the principle of "agency for investment", making it the ideal choice for clients who wish to save and achieve financial returns at the same time. Through it, clients' money is invested and its returns are deposited into the client's account on a quarterly basis.

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



Sunbula account poster.

'Get access to 1,200+ airport lounges'

KIB directs customers to register in 'Visa Airport Companion App'

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced a new service enhancement for its Visa Platinum and Signature Credit cardholders, in addition to KIB's Visa Infinite Credit and Debit cardholders. KIB's Visa cardholders can now access airport lounges through the new Visa Airport Companion App. The app, developed by Visa in partnership with DragonPass, will allow eligible Visa cardholders to access over 1,200 lounges worldwide more conveniently, quickly, and flexibly. Eligible KIB Visa cardholders must register to the new Visa Airport Companion App to continue enjoying their Airport Lounge privileges.

Commenting on the update, Laila Naserallah, Senior Manager of Product Development at the Digital Innovation and Data Intelligence Department at KIB, said: "We encourage our customers, who are holders of eligible Visa Credit and Debit Cards, to download the new Visa Airport Companion App from the Apple or Google Play Store, complete the registration process and enroll their eligible cards to continue benefiting from the exclusive benefits offered on their KIB Visa cards." She added: "The Visa Airport Companion App will allow eligible KIB Visa cardholders to enjoy a fully digital experience and an even more convenient check-in at lounges through real-time eligibility checks using the App's QR Code feature, while having access to detailed information on a variety of lounges across global airport destinations."

It serves to note KIB's ongoing commitment to providing world-class customer service to its traveling customers, stressing the availability of its Contact Center anytime anywhere, either through the Bank's international phone service reachable at (+965 22957300), or any of its digital channels, including its Live Chat service and the KIB Online portal - both available on its website (www.KIB.com.kw). KIB's WhatsApp messaging service (accessible through the Bank's local number 1 866 866), as



KIB's Laila Naserallah

well as through its local and international video call service that can be accessed through the KIB Mobile banking app.

About KIB
Kuwait International Bank (KIB) is a bank that operates according to the Islamic Shari'ah, based in the State of Kuwait. Incorporated in 1973, and originally known as Kuwait Real Estate Bank, KIB made the transition to its current Islamic operating model in 2007. In 2018, KIB embarked on a new phase of its journey full of innovation and development. As part of its new strategic direction, the Bank focuses on offering a next-level customer experience under the slogan: "Bank for Life".

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

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



Hiroshima Castle: A unique landmark that tells important chapters of Japan's history. KUNA photos

Rising from ashes: Remarkable history of Hiroshima Castle

Hiroshima Castle, also known as Rijo (Carp Castle), is a historic landmark in this Japanese city. Constructed in 1589 by the feudal lord, Mori Terumoto, the castle served as the focal point of the Hiroshima Domain during the feudal period.

It is strategically positioned by the Ota River, offering a defensive

advantage. The original castle featured multiple layers of walls, a grand keep, and a trench. Unfortunately, Hiroshima Castle was destroyed by the Atomic Bomb of Hiroshima in 1945.

Hiroshima Castle has been reconstructed in 1958 and now serves as a museum showcasing the castle's history and Hiroshima's samurai

culture.

Visitors can explore the main tower, which features exhibits about the castle, Hiroshima's development and samurai life. The Hiroshima Gokoku Shrine is also located on the castle grounds. (KUNA)

Migratory birds ... trespassers of international frontiers

Kuwait, a bird-watcher's delight amidst desert

By Sanjay Jangle

Despite being described by Britannica as "one of the driest, least-hospitable deserts on Earth," Kuwait offers a delightful surprise for bird-watching enthusiasts. Situated at a prime transit point for migratory species, it becomes a vibrant stopover for flocks of flamingos, gulls, terns and many other migratory birds traveling between Europe in both summer and winter. For keen bird-watchers, it's a visual treat to witness these avian visitors gracing Kuwait's skies. Although there are no rain-forests and fields in this tiny country, about 400 species of birds have been recorded in Kuwait, most of them being migratory birds.

Kuwait's position in the northwestern Arabian Gulf places it along one of the region's most vital migratory bird routes. The biodiversity of the Arabian Gulf is enriched by soft sediment and algae from tidal flats, providing critical feeding grounds for migratory and wintering shorebirds which typically feed and nest in shallow waters. These mudflats are key areas for supporting bird life in the region.

Survive

Birds migrate to survive and reproduce, away from the freezing temperatures and scarcity of food in the Arctic and other parts of Northern Europe to warmer south in the winters and then back to Europe in summers, flying thousands of kilometers.

Birds frequently travel along the same migration paths each year, but how do they find their way?

While it was once believed that the birds they relied on landmarks, smell, and the position of the sun and stars, recent research suggests they may also use cryptochromes, blue-light-sensitive proteins in their eyes, to sense Earth's magnetic field, as explained by quantum mechanics.

During their first migration, birds develop an internal map that allows them to navigate with incredible accuracy in future journeys. Some even return to the exact same nest or perch each year. Remarkably,

around 50 percent of adult songbirds successfully return to their breeding sites annually.

There are eight major migration routes or flyways around the world. The Central Asian Flyway covers 30 countries and Kuwait is part of this route. Sri Lanka is the southernmost land mass of the Central Asian Flyway. The birds chart their course from the southwestern areas of Russia, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan towards the warmer regions of eastern and central Africa. Another migratory route they follow starts from northern and eastern Europe, passing through Turkey and Syria, before continuing to India, with many birds making a stopover in Kuwait.

Climate

Birds make stopovers either in the fields, forests or wetlands where they get their food, for continuing their further flights. In Kuwait there aren't any fields or forests, but there are wetlands, where the birds forage on insects and fish. During the migration cycles, there are a large number of birds soaring the skies of Kuwait in the wetlands and some of the gardens. Specific sites are Jahra nature reserve, Doha Spur, Sulaibikhat Bay, Al Shaheed park, Green island, Boulevard park etc. Of the migratory birds, flamingos, waterfowl, gulls, terns and waders, storks, pelicans, egrets, seabirds and herons are seen in maximum numbers during the migratory cycles.

These birds seek refuge in the wetlands and the climate of Kuwait during their migration cycles provides the perfect escape from both.

As an amateur bird-watching enthusiast, I had the exciting experience of witnessing egrets, white-throated Kingfisher (or maybe European Bee Eater), gulls, at Sulaibikhat bay in Jan 2024; witnessing in Feb 2024 the Lesser Flamingos and gulls in Kuwait at Sulaibikhat Bay, right behind Sabah Al Ahmed Urology Center which was a mesmerizing sight, making it a truly unforgettable experience for me. The flamingos were gracefully swaying and the



Flamingos at Sulaibikhat Bay



Hoopoe in Boulevard park

gulls were gleefully swirling glimmering like luminescent pearls.

While in the Boulevard park in March 2024, I spotted a Hoopoe bird a migrant to Kuwait in summer, with pinkish brown on the head and shoulders, with a long distinctive crest and black-and-white striped wings and tail, called Hud-hud in

Arabic. Yellow-vented bulbuls are a common sight in Boulevard park, which is a member of the bulbul family of passerine birds. It has black head, brown upper-parts and whitish sides and underparts, bright yellow vent. Indian Myna, with a dark brown body and bright yellow bill and legs, too is regularly seen in gardens in Kuwait.

Kuwait Ornithological Rarities Committee was established in 2008 who systematically record the birds observed in Kuwait by the residents with validations. The 'Conservation Directory of the Birds of Kuwait' provides an extensive guide detailing the status of bird species within the State of Kuwait. White eared bulbul, Common myna, House sparrow, Western reef heron, Crested lark, Kentish plover, Feral pigeon and Laughing dove are very

common resident birds in Kuwait and Eurasian collared dove, Little grebe, Gull billed tern, Caspian tern and Eurasian spoonbill fairly seen throughout the year in Kuwait.

Urbanization

With incessant urbanization, loss of wetlands (coastal 'sabkha' - coastal mudflat), pollution, hunting and climate change affect these migrations. It is now considered that decline in insect populations also does threaten the migratory birds. Hence, there is a need to foster wildlife for ecological balance. Migratory birds bring ecological balance to the region. They contribute to plant reproduction, diversity through pollination and seed dispersal near bodies of water. It is worthwhile to note that the official emblem of Kuwait depicts a bird, the national bird of Kuwait, a falcon with outspread wings.

World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated each year on the second week-ends of May and October each year, and the big day would be celebrated on 12th October in 2024. It is aimed at promoting awareness about birds and the natural environment, to inspire and reconnect people back to nature. It's a delight to witness the stunning migratory birds, playing a vital role in maintaining the balance of our ecosystems.

Falling in love with the birds, I soar alongside

In the nest of my heart, chirping birds reside!

About the author:

Sanjay Jangle is an engineer by profession, working in Kuwait since 1988. Originally from Pune, India, he is a health enthusiast, pragmatist, and optimist. As a globe-trotter, he has a passion for nature trails, bird watching and photography.

Variety

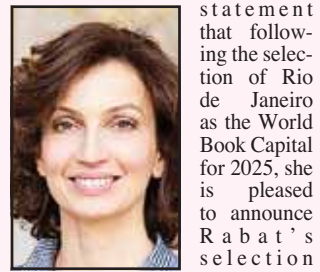
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: The International Islamic Calligraphy Festival is set to be held in Brunei from Oct. 16 to 18, local media reported on Wednesday.

The event will take place at the International Convention Center (ICC) in Bandar Seri Begawan, capital of Brunei, featuring several activities including an opening ceremony, a keynote address, and a prize presentation, according to local media Borneo Bulletin.

The festival will also include an International Islamic Calligraphy Exhibition, paper presentations, workshops, and a spontaneous calligraphy competition. The event attracted 158 participants from 19 countries and regions. (Xinhua)

PARIS: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has announced the selection of Rabat (Morocco) as the World Book Capital for 2026, based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for the World Book Capital.

UNESCO's Director-General Audrey Azoulay stated in a press



Azoulay

statement that following the selection of Rio de Janeiro as the World Book Capital for 2025, she is pleased to announce Rabat's selection for 2026, emphasizing that "Rabat is a crossroads of culture where books help convey knowledge and arts in all forms."

UNESCO revealed that the Advisory Committee chose Rabat "in recognition of its clear commitment to developing literature and empowering women and youth" through reading and combating illiteracy, especially in underserved communities.

Additionally, UNESCO noted that Rabat hosts 54 publishing houses, the third-largest international book and publishing fair in Africa, and a growing number of libraries, stating that "the book sector in Rabat is not only a vital part of the city's creative economy but is also at the forefront of knowledge dissemination."

As for the World Book Capital for 2026, Rabat will launch a series of initiatives aimed at stimulating steady economic growth and enhancing social benefits by improving access to books and supporting the local publishing sector. (KUNA)

NEW YORK: US Vice President Kamala Harris, in a Tuesday appearance on ABC's "The View," was unable to name a decision she would have made differently than President Joe Biden.

Her answer encapsulated Harris' challenge in portraying herself as a candidate who can deliver the change voters want after serving four years as a loyal member of the current administration.

"We're obviously two different people," Harris said, adding that "I will bring those sensibilities to how I lead."

Pressed on where she might have diverged from Biden had she been in charge, Harris said, "There is not a thing that comes to mind." Some Harris aides privately winced as Republicans swiftly circulated clips of the answer. It wasn't until later in the show that Harris identified one thing that she would do differently than Biden - she would put a Republican in her Cabinet. (AP)

Media

When is an interview too tough?

CBS News grappling with question after Dokoupil interview

NEW YORK, Oct 9, (AP): Television morning show interviews often don't stray beyond dinner recipes or celebrity hijinks. Yet a week after it took place, CBS News host Tony Dokoupil's pointed interview with author Ta-Nehisi Coates about Israel remains the subject of heated conversations at the network and beyond.

CBS management took the unusual step of scolding Dokoupil before his colleagues for not living up to network standards, in a private meeting Monday that quickly became public, and "CBS Mornings" staff continued to discuss it on Tuesday.

The seven-minute interview on Sept. 30 was about Coates' new book of essays, and Dokoupil zeroed in right

away on a section about Israel and Palestinians in the West Bank in an exchange the Washington Post last week called "unusually tense and substantive."

For all of Coates' honors as a writer, Dokoupil said that the essay "would not be out of place in the backpack of an extremist." He wondered why Coates' writing did not include references to Israel being surrounded by enemies that want to eliminate the country.



Dokoupil

"Is it because you just don't believe that Israel in any condition has a right to exist?" he asked.

Coates said there was no shortage of places where Israel's viewpoint is represented, and that he wanted to speak for those who don't have a voice.

"I wrote a 260-page book," Coates said. "It is not a treatise on the entirety of the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians."

Dokoupil later asked Coates about what offended him about the existence of a Jewish state, and he said that Palestinians "exist in your narrative merely as victims of Israel," as if they had not been offered peace in any juncture.

Coates said that he was offended when anyone - including the Palestin-

ians who talked to him for his book - are treated as second-class citizens in the country where they live, comparing it to the Jim Crow-era United States where his ancestors grew up.

In the staff call on Monday, CBS News chief Wendy McMahon and her deputy, Adrienne Roark, said several journalists in the company had reached out to them about the interview.

"There are times we have not met our editorial standards," Roark said, citing Dokoupil's interviews and other comments made by CBS personnel that she did not identify.

CBS News is built on a "foundation of neutrality," she said. "Our job is to serve our audience without bias or perceived bias."

She said that the problems had been addressed, but neither she nor CBS explained what this meant.

McMahon told staff members on the call that she expected its contents would remain confidential. But a tape of it was posted within hours on The Free Press news site.

Dokoupil did not immediately return messages seeking comment. A spokesman for Coates did not return a message.

Dokoupil is one of three "CBS Mornings" hosts, along with Gayle King and Nate Burleson. All three participated in the interview with Coates, but with the exception of an opening question by Burleson and a brief one at the end by King, it was dominated by Dokoupil.



This image released by Focus Features shows Lego characters voiced by Jay-Z, (left), and Pharrell Williams, in a scene from 'Piece By Piece.' (AP)



This image released by Focus Features shows a Lego character voiced by Pharrell Williams in a scene from 'Piece By Piece.' (AP)



Guests at the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World World brave wind and rain as bands of weather from Hurricane Debby pass through Central Florida, Aug. 5, 2024, in Bay Lake, Fla. (AP)

Major storm

Theme parks shut down for 'Milton'

ORLANDO, Fla., Oct. 9, (AP) — Orlando's tourism machine began grinding to a halt Tuesday with at least three major theme parks and the main airport announcing closures ahead of Hurricane Milton's expected hit as a major storm in Florida.

Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando and SeaWorld will close their theme parks and respective entertainment facilities on Wednesday, with the latter two also closed on Thursday and Disney likely to remain closed.

Universal also canceled Halloween Horror Nights scheduled for both days.

The theme parks join Orlando International Airport, which said it would cease operations Wednesday morning. The airport is the nation's seventh busiest and Florida's most trafficked.

Disney World had said earlier in the day that it was open and planned only to close its campgrounds and rental cabins ahead of the storm.

The only indication at Disney Springs that a hurricane was coming had been the closure of a hot air balloon ride. "Closed due to hurricane," an electronic sign read. "Stay safe."

All the other stores and restaurants in the outdoor shopping, dining and entertainment complex inside the resort were open and doing brisk business.

Milton, which is expected to come ashore Wednesday, threatened to ruin the vacations of tens of thousands of tourists at Disney World.

Nicole and Zeb Downs arrived on Monday after a 21-hour drive from Arkansas, expecting a 12-day Florida vacation with their three young sons. By Tuesday afternoon, they were contemplating packing up their car and heading back.

Variety

TEHRAN: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian unveiled a collection of ancient clay tablets on Tuesday, recently returned to Iran from the United States, according to the official news agency IRNA.

The ceremony took place at the National Museum of Iran and was attended by Reza Salehi Amiri, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, as well as Jabrael Nokan-

del, the museum's director. During the event, Pezeshkian emphasized the importance of increasing public knowledge about Iran's rich civilizational heritage and identity.

The newly unveiled collection consists of 1,100 clay tablets from the reign of Darius I, the third king of the Persian Empire (550-330 B.C.). They were returned to Iran in late September on Pezeshkian's plane after his visit to New York for the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). (Xinhua)



NEW YORK: Melinda French Gates

will grant \$250 million to support women's health around the world through an open call for nonprofits to apply for funding.

The pledge announced Wednesday signals a new chapter in her individual



Gates

philanthropic giving since departing from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation earlier this year and is part of a two-year, \$1 billion commitment that French Gates made in May to support women and families around the world.

Haven Ley, chief strategy officer at French Gates' organization Pivotal Ventures, said the grant competition was a "curtain raiser" to a likely new focus on funding women's health globally. Previously, Pivotal had primarily funded organizations working to advance women's power in the U.S. (AP)

Film

'Piece by Piece,' a unique music documentary

Pharrell's life animated in Lego

TORONTO, Oct. 9, (AP) — When Pharrell Williams and Morgan Neville decided to embark on a movie about Williams' life but animated in Lego pieces, they knew there would be culture shocks. But making "Piece by Piece" still led to some places that neither Williams, Neville or Lego could foresee.

"We did have extensive conversations about how wide a back of a bikini bottom would be on a minifig in a 'Rump Shaker' video," says Neville, chuckling. "We had many discussions about things I thought I would never be talking about as a filmmaker."

"Piece by Piece" did not come with any easy-to-assemble instructions. It's part music biopic, part documentary, part family film. It is, like many things about Williams' hit-making life, radiant with uplift, beats and idiosyncrasy.

"Society likes to put us in boxes, pun intended," Williams says, speaking alongside Neville. "Here was a moment where this guy's view of my life and the way he saw it strung together was incredibly liberating for me. While I've never seen myself in a box, this helps other people now to, as well."

Documentaries

"Piece by Piece," which Focus Features releases in theaters Friday, begins, like many documentaries, with the director, Neville, sitting down with a camera crew focused on their subject, Williams. But in this case, Williams - and everything else, including a bearded, bespectacled Neville - are Lego.

"What if we told my life with Legos?" Williams asks in the film. "That'll never happen," replies Neville.

What follows is something like a traditional documentary complete with colorful recounting of past struggles and triumphs, from his upbringing in Virginia Beach to his string of chart-topping hits, told through Williams' voiceover and a number of talking heads. It was recorded that way in interviews, either on camera, Zoom or phone, and then animated into Lego form. Here, finally, is a chance to see Busta Rhymes as a Lego, along with many others, including Jay-Z, Snoop Dogg and Missy Elliott.

"The first meeting we had was with Lego because if they had said no, there would have been no film,"



Pharrell Williams poses for a portrait to promote the film 'Piece by Piece' during the Toronto International Film Festival, Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, in Toronto. (AP)

says Neville, the director of documentaries including "20 Feet From Stardom," "Won't You Be My Neighbor" and "Steve!" "To their credit, they not only said yes, but I think understood the kind of growth it would force them into."

For Lego, the Danish toy company, making "Piece by Piece" was its biggest gamble since stepping into feature films with 2014's "The Lego Movie." Neville approached the company's head of global entertainment, Jill Wilfert with a pitch for what would be Lego's first foray into a documentary not about itself. Wilfert was immediately responsive.

Expectations

"The whole idea behind Lego is its endless creativity and limitless possibility, and Pharrell really kind of embodies that," she says.

As proof of concept, Neville put together a 90-second video of Williams reflecting on his upbringing and the inspiration of artists like Stevie Wonder.

"I came away from that saying, 'This is totally going to work,'" Neville says. "And everybody we showed it to got it. They were like: I want to see this movie."

Still, Neville and Williams knew the Lego approach would mean working within PG parameters. Some things about Williams' life - like being young and famous while operating in the upper echelons of

pop and hip-hop - wouldn't fit in a family-friendly movie. Williams says the movie "paraphrases" his life.

"There were definitely some areas that weren't within my expectations of where we might go," Wilfert says. "We had a lot of good dialogue throughout the whole process. Morgan and Pharrell, there was mutual respect because we are a brand that people have high expectations of and expect certain things of. So we did work with them on areas that we felt did make sense and didn't make sense."

It also pushed Lego in other ways. Williams is particularly proud that the movie led to Lego expanding its available skin tones and hair textures. Williams' Lego self - which he carried proudly to the Toronto International Film Festival premiere of "Piece by Piece" - was specifically designed to match his own skin tone.

Collaboration

"You name the type of human being, we fought hard for their existence and acknowledgement," says Williams. "Lego obliged and I think the brand is better because of it."

One of the movie's most clever designs is illustrating tracks that Williams crafts himself or in collaboration, like Snoop Dogg's "Drop It Like It's Hot," Gwen Stefani's "Hollaback Girl," Nelly's "Hot in Here" or Pharrell's own "Happy." Each is rendered as a unique little glowing set of Legos pieced together.

Other, less happy aspects of Williams' life don't make the cut. You won't see anything about the "Blurred Lines" lawsuit, in which Marvin Gaye's estate sued for copyright infringement and won. Nor is there anything in the film about Williams' recent legal squabbles with his Neptunes co-founder Chad Hugo. Earlier this year, Hugo filed a trademark opposition over the duo's name, claiming Williams' "fraudulently" sought control of it. Representatives for Williams have disagreed, saying Williams "reached out on multiple occasions to share in the ownership."

"Piece by Piece," though, does include a positive portrayal of Hugo, particularly in Williams' early days in Virginia Beach, when the two began making music together.

People

'Most honest, vulnerable'

Winfrey picks Presley's memoir for book club

NEW YORK, Oct. 9, (AP) — Oprah Winfrey has chosen Lisa Marie Presley's posthumous memoir as her new book club pick, and made a trip to the famed Graceland estate in Memphis, Tennessee, to meet with Presley's daughter and Elvis and Priscilla Presley's granddaughter, actor Riley Keough.

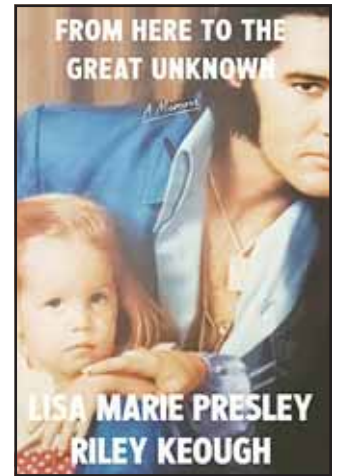
Lisa Marie Presley's "From Here to the Great Unknown," completed by Keough after Presley died unexpectedly in 2023, was published Tuesday. Winfrey's interview with Keough, which will include rare family photos, home videos and audio recordings made by Lisa Marie Presley, was to air Tuesday night at 8 p.m. EDT on CBS.

"I have great love and admiration for Lisa Marie Presley, and was so moved that her daughter Riley, through her grief, was able to help her finish a beautifully touching memoir that allows us to see her mother at her most honest and vulnerable," Winfrey said in a statement. "This is an intimate look at what it was like growing up as heir to one of America's most famous families."

Keough said in a statement that upon being told by Winfrey that she had selected "From Here to the Great Unknown," she thought of how her mother would have been proud "to know her story was going to be read and discussed with such empathy, thought and grace."

"She would have felt incredibly vulnerable, but profoundly grateful for the chance to really reach people," added Keough, who along with Julia Roberts narrated the audiobook edition.

Lisa Marie Presley was the only daughter of Elvis Presley, who was just 42 when he died suddenly in 1977 at Graceland, while young Lisa Marie was in the house. In preparing her memoir, she had recorded "story after story about smashing golf carts



This cover image released by Random House shows 'From Here to the Great Unknown' by Lisa Marie Presley and Riley Keough. (AP)

together in the yards of Graceland, about the unconditional love she felt from her father, about being upstairs, just the two of them. About getting dragged screaming out of the bathroom as she ran toward his body on the floor," according to the publisher, Random House.

The singer and actor also talked about her marriage to Michael Jackson, struggles with addiction and the "ever-present grief" of losing her father. In a video clip released before Tuesday's interview aired, Keough told Winfrey that at times she would find her mother on the floor, drunk, listening to her father's music and crying.

Lisa Marie Presley was 54 when she died of complications from bariatric surgery years earlier. Keough is the oldest of her four children, two of whom she had with actor-musician Danny Keough and two with guitarist-producer Michael Lockwood.



Riley Keough, (left), and her mother Lisa Marie Presley arrive at the 24th annual ELLE Women in Hollywood Awards on Oct. 16, 2017, in Los Angeles. (AP)

From grief to hope

Keough felt duty to bring Lisa Marie's 'story' to life

NEW YORK, Oct. 9, (AP) — Riley Keough was quick to agree to help complete her mother's memoir. She thought they'd write it together, reflecting on her extraordinary upbringing and life, but it became a much greater responsibility after Lisa Marie Presley's sudden death in 2023.

Finishing the task her mother - the only child of Elvis and Priscilla Presley and a recording artist in her own right - had started years earlier elicited "all kinds of emotions," Keough said in an interview with The Associated Press ahead of the book's release Tuesday.

"It just felt like a kind of a duty that I had to complete for her," Keough said. "I'm just happy that it's done and that it'll be in the world and there for people to read."

Moving

"From Here to the Great Unknown" is named in a nod to the moving lyrics of Presley's "Where No One Stands Alone," a song Lisa Marie recorded as a duet with her father over 50 years after he first released it and over 40 years after his death.

The book touches on themes of "love and loss and grief and mothers and daughters and addiction," Keough said, adding it was conceived as a way for Lisa Marie to tell her story in her own words and connect with others.

Much of the book is indeed in Lisa Marie's words, as Keough faithfully listened to recordings of her mother recounting memories and experiences both big and small. Lisa Marie wrote openly about the day her father died, her relationship with her mother, her marriage to Michael Jackson, her struggles with addiction and her son Benjamin's death in 2020, among many other parts of her life.

Although Lisa Marie's life had been tabloid fodder since days after her birth, her memoir details intimate moments at Graceland, including how she feared for Presley's health as a young girl. In the

chapter titled "He's Gone," she wrote that as a child, she often worried about her father dying and even wrote a poem with the line "I hope my daddy doesn't die."

She also wrote that Graceland became a "free-for-all" the day of Presley's death in 1977, with those at the house taking jewelry and personal items "before he was even pronounced dead."

Lisa Marie's frank writing extends into the section focused on her headline-making marriage to Jackson from 1994 to 1996. She wrote that Jackson confessed his love for her while she was still married to Keough, and that him wanting to have children with her, along with his increasing reliance on prescription medications, is what fractured their relationship.

Keough said hearing her mother's voice in the recordings was at times "heartbreaking," but she enjoyed listening to happy memories, like how her parents met and fell in love. Keough is one of two children Lisa Marie had with her first husband, musician Danny Keough, along with their late son Benjamin.

Moving

"It makes me want to tell everyone to talk to their parents and record them telling all the stories about how they met and all these things because it's just very cool to have," she said.

Keough's role was to fill in parts of Lisa Marie's story that she hadn't gotten to before her death in January 2023 from a small bowel obstruction caused by bariatric surgery she had years prior. Some of those gaps included lighter moments and happy memories from her mother's adult life.

"Until my mom's addiction, really, which was when I was 25, I think we would all say that we had a really beautiful and exceptionally lucky and wonderful life," Keough said. "I wouldn't define our lives, collectively, as a tragedy. I think that there is so much more."

Baker, Hassabis, Jumper honored for AI-driven protein research

Nobel Prize in chemistry awarded to 3 for protein work

STOCKHOLM, Oct 9, (AP): Three scientists who discovered powerful techniques to predict and even design novel proteins - the building blocks of life - were awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry on Wednesday. Their work used advanced technologies, including machine learning, and holds the potential to transform how new drugs are made.

The prize was awarded to David Baker, who works at the University of Washington in Seattle, and to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper, who both work at Google DeepMind, a British-American artificial intelligence research laboratory based in London.

Heiner Linke, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said the award honored research that unraveled long-standing scientific mysteries.

"That was actually called a grand challenge in chemistry, and in particular in biochemistry, for decades. So, it's that breakthrough that gets awarded today," he said.

Proteins are complex molecules with thousands of atoms that twist, turn, loop and spiral in a countless array of shapes. The shape of a protein determines its biological function. For decades, scientists have dreamed of being able to efficiently design and build new proteins.

Baker, whose work has received funding from the National Institutes of Health since the 1990s, created a computer program called Rosetta that helped analyze information about ex-

isting proteins in comprehensive databases in order to build new proteins that don't exist in nature.

"It seems that you can almost construct any type of protein now with this technology," said Johan Åqvist of the Nobel committee.

Hassabis and Jumper created an artificial intelligence model that has been able to predict the structure of virtually all the 200 million proteins that researchers have identified, the committee added.

Complex

The duo "managed to crack the code. With skillful use of artificial intelligence, they made it possible to predict the complex structure of essentially any known protein in nature," Linke said.

The ability to custom design new proteins - and better understand existing proteins - could enable researchers to create new kinds of medicines and vaccines. It could also allow scientists to design new enzymes to break down plastics or other waste materials, and to design fine-tuned sensors for hazardous materials.

"I think there's fantastic prospects for making better medicines - medicines that are smarter, that only work in the right time and place in the body," Baker told The Associated Press.

One example is a potential nasal spray that could slow or stop the rapid spread of specific viruses, such as COVID-19, he said. Another is a med-



Johan Åqvist, member of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, Hans Ellegren, Permanent Secretary and Heiner Linke, Chairman of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry award this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry to David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John M Jumper at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, in Stockholm, Sweden, Oct. 9, 2024. (AP)

icine to disrupt the cascade of symptoms known as cytokine storm.

"That was always the holy grail. If you could figure out how protein sequences folded into their particular structures, then it might be possible to design protein sequences to fold into

previously never seen structures that might be useful for us," said Jon Lorsch of the NIH.

Baker said Hassabis and Jumper's artificial intelligence work gave his team a huge boost.

"The breakthroughs made by Demis

and John on protein structure prediction really highlighted to us the power that AI could have. And that led us to apply these AI methods to protein design and that has greatly increased the power and accuracy," he said.

Baker told the AP he found out he

won the Nobel during the early hours of the morning alongside his wife, who immediately started screaming.

"So it was a little deafening, too," he said.

Hassabis said in a statement that "receiving the Nobel Prize is the honor of a lifetime."

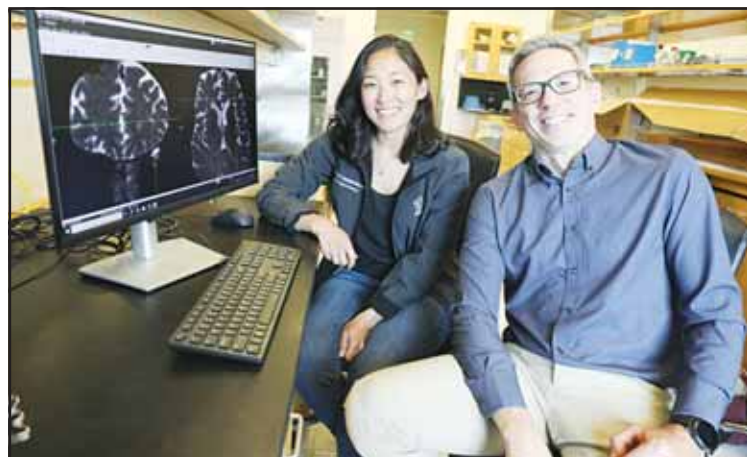
One of Britain's leading tech figures, he co-founded the AI research lab DeepMind in 2010, which was later acquired by Google. DeepMind's breakthroughs include developing an AI system that mastered the Chinese game of Go and was able to defeat the game's human world champion much faster than expected.

Jumper said in the same statement that it was an honor to be "recognized for delivering on the long promise of computational biology to help us understand the protein world and to inform the incredible work of experimental biologists."

"It is a key demonstration that AI will make science faster and ultimately help to understand disease and develop therapeutics," Jumper said.

Baker gets half of the prize money of 11 million Swedish Kronor (\$1 million) while Hassabis and Jumper share the other half.

It's the second Nobel prize that has gone to someone with links to Google. Physics prize winner Geoffrey Hinton also previously worked at the tech company, but later quit so he could speak more freely about the potential dangers of artificial intelligence.



This undated photo provided by the Oregon Health & Science University in October 2024 shows Drs. Erin Yamamoto, left, and Juan Piantino, who used special imaging to spot a long-suspected pathway the human brain uses to clear waste. (AP)

US states file lawsuit

TikTok is addictive to kids, harms their mental health

NEW YORK, Oct 9, (AP): More than a dozen states and the District of Columbia have filed lawsuits against TikTok on Tuesday, alleging the popular short-form video app is harming youth mental health by designing its platform to be addictive to kids.

The lawsuits stem from a national investigation into TikTok, which was launched in March 2022 by a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general from many states, including New York, California, Kentucky and New Jersey. All of the complaints were filed in state courts.

At the heart of each lawsuit is the TikTok algorithm, which powers what users see on the platform by populating the app's main "For You" feed with content tailored to people's interests. The lawsuits also emphasize design features that they say make children addicted to the platform, such as the ability to scroll endlessly through content, push notifications that come with built-in "buzzes" and face filters that create unattainable appearances for users.

In its filings, the District of Columbia called the algorithm "dopamine-inducing," and said it was created to be intentionally addictive so the company could trap many young users into excessive use and keep them on its app for hours on end. TikTok does this despite knowing that these behaviors will lead to "profound psychological and physiological harms," such as anxiety, depression, body dysmorphia and other long-lasting problems, the complaint said.

"It is profiting off the fact that it's addicting young people to its platform," District of Columbia Attorney General Brian Schwab said in an interview.

"We strongly disagree with these claims, many of which we believe to be inaccurate and misleading. We're proud of and remain deeply committed to the work we've done to protect teens and we will continue to update and improve our product," said TikTok spokesman Alex Haurek in a reply to the lawsuits.

Brain is remarkably active during sleep
A peek inside brain shows how it cleans waste

WASHINGTON, Oct 9, (AP): A unique peek inside the human brain may help explain how it clears away waste like the kind that can build up and lead to Alzheimer's disease.

Brain cells use a lot of nutrients which means they make a lot of waste. Scientists have long thought the brain has special plumbing to flush out cellular trash, especially during sleep - they could see it happening in mice. But there was only circumstantial evidence of a similar system in people.

Now researchers have finally spotted that network of tiny waste-clearing channels in the brains of living people, thanks to a special kind of imaging.

"I was skeptical," said Dr. Juan Piantino of Oregon Health & Science University, whose team reported the findings Monday. "We needed this piece to say this happens in humans, too."

The study was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The brain is remarkably active during sleep. One reason seems to be that's the time it does a deep clean. And that's gotten attention because while losing a good night's sleep muddles people's thinking, chronic sleep deprivation also is considered a risk factor for dementia.

So how does the brain cleanse itself?

Over a decade ago, scientists at the University of Rochester first reported finding a network they dubbed the "glymphatic system." Cerebrospinal fluid uses channels surrounding blood vessels to get deep into tissue and move waste until it exits the brain. When mice were injected with a chief Alzheimer's culprit named beta-amyloid, it cleared away faster when the animals were sleeping.

It's not clear exactly how that network works although some research has shown the pulsing of the blood vessels helps move the waste-clearing fluid where it needs go.

But it's been hard to find that system in people. Regular MRI scans can spot some of those fluid-filled channels but don't show their function, Piantino said.

So his team in Oregon injected a tracer into five patients who were undergoing brain surgery and needed a more advanced form of MRI. The tracer "lit up" under those scans and sure enough, 24 to 48 hours later, it wasn't moving randomly through the brain but via those channels just like prior research had found in mice.

It's a small but potentially important study that Rochester's Dr. Maiken Nedergaard predicted will increase interest in how brain waste clearance connects to people's health.

But to test if better sleep or other treatments might really spur waste clearance and improve health, "I have to be able to measure lymphatic function in people," added Dr. Jeff Iliff of the University of Washington, who helped pioneer waste-clearance research. The question is whether the new study might point to ways of measuring.

Sleep isn't the only question. For example, animal studies show an old blood pressure drug now used to treat PTSD may improve lymphatic function, and Iliff and colleague Dr. Elaine Peskind are about to study it in certain patients.

Additional larger studies in healthy people are needed and Piantino, whose lab focuses on sleep health, wants to find an easier, more noninvasive test.

"We cannot study all these questions by injecting people," he said.

Medical advances not extending lifespan

Don't expect life expectancy to grow: study

NEW YORK, Oct 9, (AP): Humanity is hitting the upper limit of life expectancy, according to a new study.

Advances in medical technology and genetic research - not to mention larger numbers of people making it to age 100 - are not translating into marked jumps in lifespan overall, according to researchers who found shrinking longevity increases in countries with the longest-living populations.

"We have to recognize there's a limit" and perhaps reassess assumptions about when people should retire and how much money they'll need to live out their lives, said S. Jay Olshansky, a University of Illinois-Chicago researcher who was lead author of the study published Monday by the journal Nature Aging.

Mark Hayward, a University of Texas researcher not involved in the



Emma Morano holds a cake with candles marking 117 years on the day of her birthday, Nov. 29, 2016, in Verbania, Italy. (AP)

study, called it "a valuable addition to the mortality literature."

"We are reaching a plateau" in life expectancy, he agreed. It's always possible some breakthrough could push survival to greater heights, "but we don't have that now," Hayward said.

Life expectancy is an estimate of the average number of years a baby born in a given year might expect to live, assuming death rates at that time hold constant. It is one of the world's most important health measures, but it is also imperfect: It is a snapshot estimate that cannot account for deadly pandemics, miracle cures or other unforeseen developments that might kill or save millions of people.

In the new research, Olshansky and

his research partners tracked life expectancy estimates for the years 1990 to 2019, drawn from a database administered by the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. The researchers focused on eight of the places in the world where people live the longest - Australia, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain and Switzerland.

The US doesn't even rank in the top 40. But it was also included "because we live here" and because of past, bold estimates that life expectancy in the US might surge dramatically in this century, Olshansky said.

Women continue to live longer than men and life expectancy improvements are still occurring - but at a slowing pace, the researchers found.

MEDICAL CLASSIFIEDS

Take care of your health



To advertise in this page please call: (+965) 24813566 Ext.: 513 or E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

For your ads on this page

Call: 24813805 E-mail: advt@arabtimesonline.com

www.arabtimesonline.com

مرکز شفاء الجزيرة الطبي
SHIFA AL JAZEERA MEDICAL CENTRE
الفروانية FARAWANIYA

Dermatology - Cosmetology Dept.

Dr. Abdul Nazer
MBBS, MD (DVD)
Skin & Dermatology Specialist

Dr. Faizan Kalekhan
MBBS, MD, DNB
Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy

Our Services
PRP | Peels | Painless laser hair removal | Treatment for scars, acne scars, wrinkles, Aging, Skin Tightening, Stretch marks | Cellulite, fat, warts, moles, corn | Mesotherapy | Crystal Peel & diamond Microdermabrasion | Carboxytherapy | Dualpeel | Whitening treatment (Localized & Whole body) Botox | Fillers | Hair loss treatment | Nail surgeries | Skin biopsies | Cryotherapy | Dermapen

Behind Maghateer Commercial Complex & Opp. Police Station - Farwaniya
www.shifaaljazeera.com.kw

Ph: 2473 4000

Event organized by Sports Committee

IDAK-KDD Basketball Championship and Fest thrills Indian dentists

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: The IDAK-KDD Basketball Championship and IDAK Fest, held at ICSK Senior School, Salmiya, on Friday, October 4th, proved to be a resounding success, blending athletic competition with family fun. Sponsored by KDD, with Al Mulla as the remittance partner, the event was organized by the Sports Committee under the leadership of Dr. Eldho George and Dr. Renjit George.

The event was officially inaugurated by IDAK President Dr. George P. Alex, with KDD's Mr. Anand Harith (Manager - Business Systems) serving as the chief guest. The basketball championship featured three teams: the Red Raptors, led by Dr. Rupesh and Dr. Ranjitha, the Green Dragons, captained by Dr. Ashwin and Dr. Remya, and the Blue Phoenixes, headed by Dr. Joe Daniel and Dr. Jyothy.

Throughout the tournament, participants displayed impressive skill and exemplary sportsmanship. In



the women's final, the Green Dragons secured a narrow victory over the Blue Phoenixes with a score of 14-12, earning Dr. Aastha the title of Best Player for her standout performance. The men's final saw the



Green Dragons dominate the Red Raptors with an 8-0 victory, and Dr. Christy was named Best Player in the men's category.

The event's organization was top-notch, thanks to a dedicated team



Left-right: Some photos from the event

working behind the scenes. Dr. Shibu, Dr. Tiny, and Dr. Lini managed the reception, while Dr. Pramod and Dr. Reebj energized the crowd as event emcees. The scoreboard team, comprised of Dr. Aju, Dr. Su-

dhin, Dr. Vinod, Dr. Abraham, Dr. Rahul, and Prajul, kept track of the scores, while referees Mr. Shyam and Jai Girish ensured fair play on the court. Photography was beautifully handled by Dr. Jijan Sam

Thomas and Dr. Santosh C.V., capturing memorable moments throughout the day. Meanwhile, the Event Management Committee, working tirelessly, kept participants and spectators refreshed with snacks, water, and juice.

The IDAK Fest brought a lively atmosphere to the event, with a range of entertaining activities for attendees of all ages. Dr. Sharon led the organization of a variety of food stalls that offered delicious treats, while under Dr. Varsha, the junior IDAKians energized the crowd with their creative game stalls. Overseeing the entire event, Dr. Anjana ensured that everything ran smoothly, contributing to the day's great success.

With a combination of intense competition and vibrant festivities, the IDAK-KDD Basketball Championship and IDAK Fest brought the Indian dental community together for a day filled with excitement, camaraderie, and memorable moments.

Lynx returns to finals with win over Sun in Game Five

Collier piles up 27 points, 11 rebounds

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct 9, (AP): The Minnesota Lynx are three wins from a fifth championship, chasing a league record with an entirely different core from the previous dynasty.

Napheesa Collier is fully in charge of this group.

Collier had 27 points on 10-for-16 shooting and 11 rebounds and Courtney Williams contributed 24 points and both-ends-of-the-court energy to lead the Minnesota Lynx past the Connecticut Sun 88-77 and into the WNBA Finals for the first time in seven years.

Collier, the WNBA Defensive Player of the Year, added four blocks in a vintage all-around performance.

"She's improved every season. She's just been incredible. Every game, it's more than scoring how she helps our team," coach Cheryl Reeve said. "When she plays like the MVP, we're tough to beat."

As soon as the final buzzer sounded, with the arena roaring, Collier headed over to Lindsay Whalen's courtside seat and hugged the Hall of Famer and former Lynx star, who was the point guard for the first four championship titles.

"I definitely want to do her proud," Collier said.

Kayla McBride had 10 of her 19 points in the first quarter for the Lynx, who advanced to face the top-seeded New York Liberty in Game 1 on Thursday night. The best-of-five series continues with Game 2 in New York on Sunday afternoon, before Minnesota hosts Game 3 on Oct. 16.

The Lynx, who finished second in the league and two games behind the Liberty during the regular season, have won three of four matchups with New York this year. That includes the WNBA Commissioner's Cup on June 25 to take the in-season tournament title.

Dijonai Carrington had 17 points and 12 rebounds and Brianna Jones had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Sun,



Minnesota Lynx guard Courtney Williams (10) works toward the basket as Connecticut Sun guard Dijonai Carrington (21) defends during the second half of Game 5 of a WNBA basketball semifinals in Minneapolis. (AP)

who shot only 38.5% from the floor (25 for 65) and were flustered into 19 turnovers that the Lynx converted into 22 points.

"They just kind of punched us in the face, and we got shellshocked and then we couldn't fight back," said DeWanna Bonner, who had 14 points on 4-for-13 shooting.

The Sun were ousted in the semifinals for the fourth time in six years. They lost in the finals in those other two seasons, 2019 and 2022, when Williams was part of the core that still hasn't cleared that last hurdle to the franchise's first title.

Williams, who's in her first year with Minnesota, was on a mission to make it there from the tip. The fiery ninth-year point guard was the catalyst on both ends of the floor, attacking the basket, pushing the pace on the break and pes-

tering the Connecticut ball-handlers. Williams had her most points in a playoff game since 2019 and added seven assists, five rebounds and two steals.

She was 6 for 6 in the first half. "When you start a game like that, you kind of know the hoop's feeling big, you've got the super green light," Williams said. "I think that's the confidence that Cheryl gives us."

The Lynx built a lead as large as 21 points in the second quarter, six more than their biggest of any of the first four games. They had a sluggish start to the second half that was muted by the Sun's cold shooting, before Alanna Smith swished a 3-pointer to end a 4:22 scoreless skid.

Then Williams swiped the ball away from Bonner as she drove to the basket and sped the other way for a layup and a 58-41 lead. Collier drained a 3-point-

er to cap that 12-0 run.

Connecticut eliminated Minnesota here in the decisive Game 3 of the first round last season. Since winning Game 5 of the WNBA Finals in 2017 for their fourth championship in seven years, the Lynx were just 1-4 in winner-take-all games in the playoffs.

The atmosphere at Target Center matched the moment, with a raucous crowd that included Whalen, Minnesota Vikings running back Aaron Jones and two members of the state's congressional delegation, Rep. Angie Craig and Sen. Tina Smith.

Collier, who averaged 40 points in the two-game sweep of the Phoenix Mercury in the first round and had 29 points and 13 rebounds at Connecticut in Game 4, was her usual cool self with the confidence and determination of a star chasing her first championship.

Lyon, Chelsea win

Roma upsets Wolfsburg

ROME, Oct 9, (AP): Roma opened its women's Champions League campaign with an upset 1-0 win against two-time champion Wolfsburg, while record eight-time winner Lyon eased past tournament debutant Galatasaray 3-0 and Chelsea held on to beat Real Madrid 3-2.

The most impressive performance belonged to Roma, considering it finished bottom in last season's group stage.

"It's a huge victory, a result that we wanted at all costs," Roma coach Alessandro Spugna said. "I think it is our best (result) in Europe. We delivered an intelligent performance, understanding the game and managing the difficult moments well."

All of Lyon's goals were headers, with France striker Kadidiatou Diani getting two of them in the other Group A match.

After Lyon lost the final to Barcelona last season, Lyon's coach Sonia Bompastor left to replace Emma Hayes at Chelsea.

Bompastor's new side was in charge for long spells at Stamford Bridge, before sloppy defending gave Madrid a late lifeline.

Roma took the lead early on at Tre Fontane stadium through captain Manuela Giugliano's 14th-minute penalty following a foul by right back Lynn Wilms.

Wolfsburg striker Alexandra Popp made her 99th competition appearance and is one away from becoming only the second player to reach 100, after Lyon's Wendie Renard.

But it was defender Marina Hegerberg who was Wolfsburg's most dangerous threat, and she twice went close with headers as the 2023 runner-up chased an equalizer.

Goalkeeper Camelia Ceasar made several saves to keep out the German side.

"We knew we were facing a top team, but we prepared well," Roma midfielder Giada Greggi said. "These games make you grow in every aspect:

mental, technical, tactical."

Lyon won the trophy five consecutive times during its heyday and was runner-up last season to Barcelona.

Diani headed in a 34th-minute cross from Mali winger Tabitha Chawinga, who assisted again moments before the break with a looping left-wing cross to give Canada's Vanessa Gilles an easy header from near the goal line.

Galatasaray goalkeeper Gamze Yaman denied Lyon before Diani nodded in Amel Majri's left-wing cross in the 77th.

Ada Hegerberg, who won the first women's Ballon d'Or, went close to adding to her record 64 competition goals when she glanced a header wide in stoppage time.

Bompastor was replaced at Lyon by Joe Montemurro.

French hopes firmly rest with his side after Paris Saint-Germain - a semifinalist last season - was eliminated by Juventus in qualifying.

Hayes left Chelsea to lead the United States women and immediately made her mark with gold at the Paris Olympics.

Not seeing her patrolling the touchline must have felt unfamiliar for home fans after her 12 years in charge, which included a semifinal loss to Barcelona last season.

But they were cheering in the second minute when Sjoekie Nuisken forced the ball in after challenging for Johanna Rytting Shenker's cross with Madrid defender Sheila Garcia.

Midfielder Guro Reiten's crisp penalty made it 2-0, but Madrid pulled one back shortly before the break when forward Alba Redondo's low shot went through the legs of goalkeeper Zecira Musovic.

A looping header from Colombia striker Mayra Ramirez made it 3-1 early into the second half.

Chelsea looked in control but some muddled defending led to a scramble and Colombian Linda Caicedo pounced for the Spanish side in the 84th.



Wolfsburg's Svenja Huth, left, kicks the ball past Roma's Giada Greggi during the women's Champions League Group A soccer match between Roma and Wolfsburg at the Tre Fontane stadium in Rome. (AP)

Klopp appointed Red Bull's Global Head of Soccer

BERLIN, Oct 9, (Xinhua): Jurgen Klopp's whereabouts have been the subject of intense speculation since the 57-year-old left Liverpool after nine years last summer. Reports have circulated about his retreat to various locations, including a villa on the North Sea island of Sylt, a luxury finca on Mallorca, and a house in Wiesbaden, Germany, that Klopp and his family reportedly built.

While his Sylt property is reportedly available for rent, Klopp has largely disappeared from the public eye, taking a sabbatical. During this time, he's focused on family life, especially after becoming a grandfather following the birth of his stepson's child.

Despite his retreat, the former Liverpool coach is set to return to the football world. Klopp has been linked to numerous high-profile coaching roles, including Germany's national team, but his next move will be behind the scenes. According to Bild, Klopp is joining the Red Bull group as the "Global Head of Soccer" starting in January 2025. The report, confirmed by Red Bull shortly after it broke, also suggests his contract includes an exit clause allowing him to



Soccer coach Juergen Klopp, right, receives the Order of Merit of the German State of Baden-Wuerttemberg in Stuttgart, Germany, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, from Governor Winfried Kretschmann, left, for his wide-ranging social commitment outside of sport. (AP)

pursue the Germany job in the future.

As Global Head of Soccer, Klopp will oversee the Red Bull-affiliated clubs, including RB Leipzig, Red Bull

Salzburg, Leeds United, New York Red Bulls, Red Bull Bragantino (Brazil), and Omiya Ardija (Japan). His role will involve advising on club strategy,

player transfers, coaching appointments, and overall development.

Klopp admitted in a recent interview that although he initially left Liverpool feeling drained, saying "I ran out of energy." He noted that while playing padel and spending time with family have been enjoyable, his passion for football remains strong.

Oliver Mintzlaff, Red Bull's CEO of Corporate Projects and Investments and former head of RB Leipzig, orchestrated Klopp's move. The exit clause in Klopp's contract reportedly allows him to return to the coaching bench, with a particular eye on the German national team after the 2026 FIFA World Cup, once Julian Nagelsmann's tenure concludes.

"I couldn't be more excited to join a project like this after 25 years on the sidelines," Klopp said in a Red Bull statement. He expressed enthusiasm for mentoring coaches, players, and management, and helping Red Bull expand its sports initiatives. In addition to football, the company is involved in a variety of extreme sports, overseeing more than 600 athletes worldwide.

Change Name

I am POLI SUBBA REDDY, Holder of Indian passport no. V7783924, having permanent address of D.No.146, Pondalur, Penagalur Mandal, Annamaya District, Andhra Pradesh, India, Pin: 516128, residing in Kuwait at present hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as SUBBA. Given name: RAMA SUBBAREDDY And Surname: CHINTHAKUNTA.

Saudi Arabia pays for naming rights to Atlético's stadium for 9 years

MADRID, Oct 9, (AP): Saudi Arabia has consolidated its branding push with Atlético Madrid by paying for naming rights to the Spanish club's stadium for the next nine years.

Atlético, which has been sponsored by Saudi state-owned Riyadh Air since last season, said Wednesday that its Metropolitan stadium will be known as the Riyadh Air Metropolitan henceforth until 2033.

It is the third naming rights deal for the Metropolitan, which was first called the Wanda Metropolitan after a deal with the Chinese real estate group when it opened in 2017. In 2022, the venue became the Civitas Metropolitan after an agreement reached with the Spanish real estate developer. The stadium was built to replace the outdated Vicente Calderon.

Atlético did not say how much it was

receiving for the new agreement "which makes the Saudi Arabian company the most important sponsor in the club's history."

The deal for shirt sponsorship from 2023-27 was already worth a reported 40 million euros (\$44 million) a season to the club.

"The final installation of the new name of the stadium on the main, northeast and southeast facades will take place in the

next few weeks," Atlético said.

The establishment of Riyadh Air was announced by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in March 2023. It is yet to begin commercial operations.

Saudi Arabia is all-but confirmed to host the 2034 World Cup. It is the only candidate in a contest FIFA member federations will decide in a Dec. 11 vote.

Hosting the World Cup is part of the sweeping Vision 2030 project backed by

the crown prince to modernize Saudi society and diversify the economy beyond dependence on oil. Sports and entertainment events are key to his project.

Deals with Atlético provide a link to the club's CEO, Miguel Angel Gil Marín, who is board member of the influential European Club Association, which should be a key stakeholder in negotiations with FIFA over which months the 2034 World Cup will be played.

'Khaleeji Zain 26' unites Gulf nations in Kuwait



Al-Mutairi, Al-Kharafi, and Al-Rumaihi with guests.

Zain Title Partner of Arabian Gulf Cup for second consecutive edition

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 9: Kuwait is gearing up for a historic sporting event as it hosts the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup titled 'Khaleeji Zain 26', from December 21, 2024, to January 3, 2025. This will be the fifth time the tournament is held in Kuwait, with Zain as the Title Partner for the football competition for the second consecutive time.

Zain, a leading provider of innovative technologies and digital lifestyle communications operating in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, is reaffirming its commitment to supporting major sporting events, enhancing Kuwait's position as a key player in regional sports, boosting the development of football among the youth.

The Arabian Gulf Cup, which began in 1970, has solidified its place as one of the most prominent sporting events in the region. The football competition underscores the unity, deep-rooted relations, and shared heritage of Gulf nations.

Zain announced its partnership during a ceremony held at Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, attended by Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Abdulrahman Bedah Al-Mutairi; Secretary-General of the Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation, Jassim Al-Rumaihi; Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO, Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi; Zain Kuwait CEO, Nawaf Al-Gharabally; Acting Director of the Public Authority for Sports, Bashar Abdullah; Director of the GCC Joint Program Production Institution, Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Sabah; Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, Dr. Nasser Al-Muhaisen; and Sheikh Ahmad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah, along with senior officials from the Kuwait Football Association.

The occasion highlighted preparations for 'Khaleeji Zain 26', the brand identity of the tournament, and its official logo. Following the presentation, Zain and the Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation signed the title partnership agreement.

The Gulf Cup has a special place in the hearts of football fans across the GCC, particularly Kuwaitis, as Kuwait won the inaugural tournament in 1970 and remains the most successful team in Gulf Cup history.

Zain will utilize its resources and national talents to ensure this edition of the tournament leaves fans with unforgettable memories. In addition, the company plans to engage football enthusiasts through a series of interactive events and programs like fan zones, social media contests, giveaways, and more.

The logo for 'Khaleeji Zain 26' incorporates symbolic elements from Gulf nations, including sand dunes, the Kuwaiti dhow sail, camels, palm fronds, and the Arab letter "Alef," falcon wings, and



Bader Al-Kharafi and Jassim Al-Rumaihi sign the partnership agreement between Zain and AGCFF.



Al-Mutairi, Al-Kharafi, and Al-Rumaihi during the event.

Bader Al-Kharafi:

- We look forward to contributing to the event's success under the wise leadership and vision of H.H. the Amir and H.H. the Crown Prince.
- Competition will elevate Kuwait's standing as a leading force in regional sports, and boost the development of football among the youth

the traditional Arabian headdress (Aqal), which all form the shape of the Gulf Cup. The color blue represents Kuwait's national team's colors.

Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO, stated, "We look forward to contributing to the success of the event and reflect Kuwait's leadership under the wise guidance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah."

Al-Kharafi added: "This partnership highlights Zain's ongoing support for sports at both the national and regional levels as this football festival will attract thousands of fans to Kuwait, and will be watched by millions across the globe all celebrating the unity, rich heritage, and enduring bonds of the Gulf nations."

Al-Kharafi expressed "his confidence that the tournament will be a great success, enriched by a wide fan base in the stadiums, behind TV screens, and online. Our clear strategy for sustainability and social responsibility enhances our regional standing as a leading digital service provider that fully engages with the communities in which it operates."

Jassim Al-Rumaihi, Secretary-General



Khaleeji Zain 26 logo

of the Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation, said: "In the Federation, we appreciate this partnership with Zain, through our commercial partners IMG, and we are looking forward to a successful competition this edition too. This partnership with Zain will enhance the Arab Gulf Cup edition in Kuwait, especially as it attracts football fans in the region, and we hope to continue this association for the long term."

Adolfo Bara, SVP & Managing Director of Football Events at IMG commented: "Zain Group's continued support

and participation in the Arabian Gulf Cup showcases the strength of the tournament as a growing global asset. Together, IMG & AGCFF delivered one of the most successful editions of the tournament in 2023 and we're looking forward to expanding on that success to grow the competition for the future."

IMG has a long-term commercial partnership with the AGCFF to market the media rights and sponsorship agreements for the Arabian Gulf Cup, through to 2031. The partnership has delivered

significant commercial milestones for the tournament, securing a series of new commercial partners for the previous edition featuring globally renowned brands, alongside established regional brands.

As a leading technology and digital lifestyle company, Zain remains committed to supporting major sporting events as part of its mission to contribute to youth and sports development, which are vital pillars of every society.

This marks the second time the tournament will carry the 'Khaleeji Zain' name, following the previous edition, 'Khaleeji Zain 25', held in Basra, Iraq, in 2022-23, which celebrated the tournament's silver jubilee. The 2022-23 edition saw Iraq win the championship, drawing a significant fan response.

The Arabian Gulf Cup is held every two years, rotating among the member states of the Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation, which includes Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Yemen. This year's matches will be played at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium and Jaber Al-Mubarak Stadium.

For more on the 26th Arabian Gulf Cup titled 'Khaleeji Zain 26', visit: <https://agcfc.com/en/home/>



Kuwaiti team addresses the media on the eve of the World Cup qualifier against Oman.

Sports

Kuwait hopes to keep World Cup dream alive

Oman boosted by return of players

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff and Agencies

MUSCAT, Oct 9: Kuwait faces Oman this evening at 7:00 pm at the Sultan Qaboos Complex in Bousher, in the third round of Group Two action in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

Kuwait currently sits in fourth place in the group with two points, trailing group leaders Jordan, South Korea, and Iraq by two points. Oman is in fifth and last place, yet to earn a point.

Led by Argentine coach Juan Antonio Pizzi and his assistant Ahmed Abdul Karim, Kuwait is aiming for its first win in the qualifiers to keep its hopes alive for World Cup qualification or, at the very least, secure a spot in the final qualifying round.

The top two teams from each of the three groups will qualify for the World Cup finals, while the third and fourth-placed teams will enter the final qualification stage. This will consist of two groups, where the group winners will qualify directly, and the runners-up will compete for a playoff spot.

Kuwait's campaign began positively, securing a point away against Jordan, the 2023 AFC Asian Cup runner-up, and another point against Iraq, the 2023 Arabian Gulf Cup champion, on home soil.

The team has been in a 10-day training camp in Dubai, where the coaching staff focused on improving players' fitness levels and fine-tuning strategies. Pizzi and his team have worked to correct the mistakes made in the previous matches. The players understand the significance of a victory to remain in contention and aim to take advantage of Oman's current situation.

Oman, like Kuwait, is eager for a win after losing both of their qualifiers — 1-0 to Iraq and 3-1 to South Korea. These results led to the appointment of new coach Rashid Jaber, who replaced Czech coach Jaroslav Silhavy, in charge since February.

Oman's squad has been boosted by the return of key players Salah Al-Yahyaie and Mohsin Al-Ghassani for the final training sessions, while other changes have also been made to the roster.

The match will be officiated by an Australian refereeing team, with Alireza Faghani as the main referee, assisted by Anton Shchetinin and Ashley Beecham. Adam Kersey will be the fourth official, while the VAR system will be overseen by Catherine Margaret Jaswicz and Kearney Robinson.

Pizzi, addressed the media in a press conference, acknowledging the challenges ahead: "We know it's going to be a tough match against a strong team with solid local support, but we are eager to play positively." He added, "We've made positive strides, whether in the last two rounds or during our recent camp in Dubai. We have great faith in our players and their enthusiasm, and we look forward to securing a good result."

Goalkeeper Saud Al-Hoshan also emphasized the significance of the match,



Kuwaiti players hold their final training session before Oman match.

stating, "Everyone understands how important this game is. Our technical staff has closely studied the Omani team, analyzing both their strengths and weaknesses. We are hopeful for success for the sake of our team. Our players are highly motivated and ready to fight for victory." He continued, "Both teams are driven to win and collect points, which highlights the importance and difficulty of this match."

Jaber, commented on the significance of the game, saying, "This match is very important for us. It's neither easy nor too difficult. We are playing on our

home turf, backed by our fans, against an opponent that hasn't lost in the first two rounds and is well-organized with talented players. We are determined to win and revive our chances in the competition. Mental focus is key."

Jaber also acknowledged the tough nature of the group, stressing that qualifying will require consistent and diligent efforts.

Omani player Mohammed Al-Musalmi expressed the team's ambition: "We have a clear goal and strong desire to win. Coach Rashid Jaber's presence is a positive boost for us, and we will give our best to make our fans proud."

Poms trail Pakistan by 64 runs in 1st test

Record-breaking Root, Brook lead England to strong 492-3

MULTAN, Pakistan, Oct 9, (AP): Joe Root celebrated his record-breaking day with a resolute 35th century as England cruised to 492-3 on Day 3 of the first cricket test against Pakistan on Wednesday.

Root overtook Alastair Cook as England's top run-scorer in tests to make an unbeaten 176 and his Yorkshire teammate Harry Brook compiled a spectacular 141 not out off 173 balls on a placid pitch of Multan Cricket Stadium.

The two have combined for a 243-run partnership, hitting 24 boundaries between them, and made Pakistan bowlers toil hard on a benign wicket which hasn't deteriorated over the last three days.

England now trails Pakistan by 64 runs through its usual "Bazball" aggressive batting in 3 1/2 sessions, in comparison to the home team's score of 556 over 5 1/2 sessions.

Root overcame cramps in intense hot weather to bat the entire day after resuming on 32. He also featured in two other century-stands with Ben Duckett (84) and Zak Crawley (78), who were the only wickets to fall in the first two sessions.

Brook followed his 108 at the same venue two years ago, with another belligerent century as Pakistan couldn't separate the pair even after taking the second new ball.

Naseem Shah (1-87) and Shaheen Shah Afridi (1-88) were ineffective after hardly finding any reverse swing for with the old ball. Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed also couldn't find any turn of the hard surface, which had some cracks, as England plundered the leggy for 0-174 off his 35 wicketless overs.

Brook had a lucky escape on 75 in an otherwise flawless knock when Aamer Jamal's short ball gently rolled

back to the stumps but didn't dislodge them after ricocheting off the batter's chest.

Root survived two leg before wicket reviews in a patient knock of 277 balls. Naseem was mighty close to getting the England star batter lbw on 168 and Jamal went for unsuccessful television referral before Root had surpassed Cook's run-tally of 12,472 in the first session.

Root crossed Cook's tally with a straight-driven boundary before lunch off Jamal to reach 71 and then completed his first test century in Pakistan with a reverse sweep after the break.

Brook was aggressive from the onset and didn't hesitate to loft Abrar for a straight six as he raised his sixth test century - and fourth against Pakistan - off 118 balls with Pakistan captain Shan Masood running out of ideas to break the partnership.

Both batters didn't give Pakistan any chance with the second new ball, taken in the latter half of the final session, as England scored at a brisk pace of 4.87 an over in a dominant day for the visitors.

Earlier, Duckett recovered from a thumb injury which denied him opening England's first innings on Tuesday afternoon and smashed 84 off 75 balls before he was pinned lbw by Jamal when he came round the wicket to the left-hander in the second session.

England lost the wicket of Crawley inside the first hour when he chipped a catch of Afridi after adding 14 runs to his overnight score of 64. Jamal pounced on the opportunity on a second attempt at short mid-wicket as Crawley tried to whip the fast bowler on the on-side.

But Root stayed calm and Brook showed plenty of aggression to take England into a dominant position.



England's Joe Root plays a shot during the third day of the first test cricket match between Pakistan and England, in Multan, Pakistan. (AP)

Tsitsipas rants at umpire

Sinner avenges Shanghai defeat to Shelton

SHANGHAI, Oct 9, (AP): Jannik Sinner avenged his defeat to Ben Shelton in the fourth round of last year's Shanghai Masters with a 6-4, 7-6 (1) to spoil the 22-year-old American's birthday on Wednesday.

Like last year, the duel again featured some incredible shot-making and serving dominance but this time the 23-year old Italian prevailed to improve his record against Shelton to 4-1.

Sinner's break in the ninth game was all that separated the duo in the opening set. Both players then dominated on their own serve through the second before the Italian sped away in the tiebreak and won the last seven points of the match to advance to his seventh ATP Masters 1000 quarterfinal of the year.

He will play fifth-ranked Daniil Medvedev, who earlier beat long-time rival Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-6 (3), 6-3, in a match where the Greek player launched into a minutes-long rant against the chair umpire Fergus Murphy over a time violation call and initially refused to continue playing.

In a similar incident the day prior, Frances Tiafoe cursed repeatedly at a chair umpire after losing his third round match and later apologized.

Second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz, who won the China Open in a thriller against Sinner last week, made it 12 consecutive wins with a testing 6-4, 7-5 victory over French veteran Gael Monfils to advance to the quarterfinals.

Alcaraz needed all his shot-making abilities to outmaneuver the 38-year-old Monfils, with the 21-year-old



Jannik Sinner of Italy plays a forehand return against Ben Shelton of the United States during the men's singles fourth round match in the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China. (AP)

Spaniard making 22 winners and taking a break in each set to clinch the match in 87 minutes.

The French Open and Wimbledon champion will play Tomas Machac in the quarterfinals.

Novak Djokovic continues his bid for a 100th career title with 6-3, 6-2 victory over 61st-ranked Roman Safiullin.

Also, David Goffin upset third-ranked Alexander Zverev 6-4, 7-5 and seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz beat Holger Rune of Denmark 6-1, 6-2.

Second-ranked Aryna Sabalenka

maintained her undefeated record at the Wuhan Open, opening her campaign with a 6-4, 6-4 win over 37th-ranked Katerina Siniakova in a second-round match on Wednesday.

Two-time defending champion Sabalenka, who received a bye in the first round with the other top eight seeds, broke her Czech opponent twice in each set - as well as surrendering one of her own service games - as she clinched her latest win in 1 hour and 34 minutes of play.

In the third round, the 26-year-old Belarusian will play Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan, who ended Paris Olympics silver medalist Donna Vekic's tournament with 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 victory.

The reigning U.S. Open champion is now up to 13-0 in Wuhan after winning the title on her first appearance in 2018 and defending her crown in 2019 before the tournament took its five-year hiatus from the calendar due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and a WTA boycott of China.

Sabalenka 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.

There were six Americans in second round matches on Wednesday.

China Open champion Coco Gauff routed Bulgaria's Viktoriya Tomova 6-1, 6-2 in 75 minutes, while Hailey Baptiste upset 10th-ranked Barbora Krejickova 6-3, 7-5 for her first win over a Top-10 player.

Ederson: Time for Brazil to 'dig deep'

Hurricane hits Argentina's preparations for qualifiers

MIAMI, Oct 9, (Xinhua): Argentina manager Lionel Scaloni said Tuesday that he was unsure when his team would be able to travel to Venezuela for their World Cup qualifier as Hurricane Milton approached Florida's west coast.

The category five storm swept across the Gulf of Mexico on Tuesday bound for Florida, where the reigning world champions have set up camp ahead of Thursday's clash in the northeastern Venezuelan city of Maturin.

"The game is important but the safety issue is even more important," Scaloni told reporters from Argentina's training base in Fort Lauderdale.

"We are worried and we're waiting to see if we can in fact travel tomorrow as planned." Fort Lauderdale is not expected to be heavily impacted by the hurricane but local authorities have issued tropical storm and flood alerts. Florida governor Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency in more than 50 counties.

Hundreds of flights to and from Florida were canceled on Tuesday, according to tracking service FlightAware, and several airports closed ahead of the hurricane making landfall as soon as Wednesday night.

"It [the logistics] will be difficult for us," Scaloni said, adding that the team had planned to travel on Tuesday but were prevented from doing so because of the severe weather.

"We will arrive just one day before the game. We have to make a stop because they are not allowing flights from United States soil directly to Venezuela.

"These are things that do not depend on us. We have had bad luck with this situation. But the most important thing is the safety and health for the players and the rest of us." Argentina, who will also meet Bolivia in Buenos Aires next Tuesday (Oct. 15), have been hit by injuries to Marcos Acuna and Alejandro Garnacho while goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez is suspended.

Scaloni said that captain Lionel Messi is fully fit after missing the team's September qualifiers against Chile and Colombia because of an ankle injury.

"Leo is fine. He played several games before joining us and that's what he needed, to get minutes," Scaloni said. "Before the last qualifiers, we agreed that he wouldn't be called up because he needed to play. Now he's fit, he's fine and he'll be part of the team." Argentina currently lead the 10-team South American zone standings with 18 points from eight games, two points ahead of second-placed Colombia.

Goalkeeper Ederson said Tuesday that Brazil must "dig deep" to arrest a form slump that threatens to derail the team's World Cup qualifying campaign.

Dorival Junior's side, currently fifth in the South American qualifying group, will meet Chile in Santiago on Thursday and Peru in Brasilia five days later.

"We are not in great form, but neither are Chile," the Manchester City player told a news conference.

Brazil have just three wins from eight outings in the CONMEBOL qualifying tournament.

A failure to emerge from the rut against Chile and Peru could leave the five-time world champions outside the automatic qualifying places for the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

"We have to show more and dig deep to get back to the top of the table, where we should be," Ederson said. "With victories comes confidence and the most important thing now is to win," he added.

Ederson is in line to start against Chile after Liverpool's Alisson was cut from the squad because of a hamstring injury.

The 31-year-old said he was relishing the chance to be a leader and a role model for his younger teammates.

"I'm one of the most experienced in the group, along with Danilo, Weverton and Marquinhos," Ederson said. "But everyone has to be responsible and lead, regardless of their age."