



Opinion

Uphold Cassation Court's rulings and lift travel ban on citizens

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

THE Court of Cassation is a court of law, not a court of merits, in accordance with the established Kuwaiti law. Its primary objective is to ensure that the rulings issued by first-degree and second-degree courts are legally sound and free from errors. Hence, its decisions and the justifications behind them are considered precedents that can be built upon in the future.

In a major ruling, the highest court stated that the debt-based travel ban imposed on a

citizen is unlawful, unconstitutional, and inhumane. This conclusion is based on a widely recognized principle - The highest court identifies legal flaws and seeks to rectify them, rendering its decisions final and beyond challenge.

The lower courts must adhere to these rulings, meaning they should not impose travel bans on any citizen regardless of

the debt amount or the individual's financial status. The principle is that every citizen has a rightful place in their homeland and the right to travel and return as they see fit.

A travel ban should only be applied in cases where a citizen has committed a serious felony, such as murder, forgery, fraud, or offenses against national and internal security, including high treason.

Based on this, the Court of Cassation has established a legal foundation that judicial circuits must consider when formulating their rulings to avoid contradicting the principles

set by the Court of Law.

Therefore, the ruling against preventing a citizen from traveling should be foremost in the minds of all those involved in public affairs.

From this perspective, it is the responsibility of the Supreme Judicial Council, as the judicial authority, to amend the law and rectify any existing deficiencies. Alternatively, it should refer any necessary amendments to the Council of Ministers to prevent inconsistencies in rulings.

We must return to the reality of travel restrictions, which have been widely used in

recent decades to limit citizens' freedom of movement. As reported on multiple occasions in various newspapers, it is reasonable to stop someone from traveling over a debt of just KD 100?

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Al-Jarallah

2 Kuwait at forefront globally to defeat terror, radicalism

5 Images Diagnostic Center's Neuro Imaging Summit highlights latest innovations in diagnostic imaging

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9 Gulf Bank highlights innovative cash withdrawal solutions in latest GB Talks session

16 Al-Salmiya continues winning streak as Kuwait Club & Al-Qadsiya renew rivalry

Newswatch

PARIS: Kuwait on Tuesday called for the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to hasten its implementation of decisions of the Executive Board and the General Conference, especially those concerning Palestine and the Gaza Strip.

This came about during a speech by the Charge d'Affaires of Kuwait's Embassy in France, and Acting Permanent Representative of Kuwait to UNESCO, Counselor **Mohammed Al-Ajmi**, during the 220th Session of the Executive Board in Paris.

He reassured Kuwait's dedication to cooperate with all members in order to enhance the organization's performance. (KUNA)

DOHA: Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani announced Tuesday that the Cabinet has finalized draft constitutional and legislative amendments to be put up to a popular referendum after the approval of the Shura Council.

This came during his speech at the inauguration of the fourth ordinary session of the first legislative term, corresponding to the 53rd annual session of the Shura Council.

Sheikh Tamim explained that he has directed that the draft, including a return to the system for appointing members of the Shura Council, are to be referred to the council for necessary action, then to be reviewed by the Council of Ministers in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. (KUNA)

GAZA: At least 55 Palestinians were killed and 329 others injured in new massacres committed by Israeli occupation forces in the past 24 hours, health authorities announced Tuesday.

In a press statement, they added that the Israeli occupation committed four massacres against families in the Gaza Strip, adding that 55 martyrs and 329 injured others were taken to hospitals. (KUNA)

BEIRUT: More than 400,000 children in Lebanon have been displaced in the past three weeks, a top official with the U.N. children's agency said Monday, warning of a "lost generation" in the small country grappling with multiple crises and now in the middle of war.

Israel has escalated its campaign against the Lebanon-based Hezbollah militant group, including launching a ground invasion, after a year of exchanges of fire during its war with Hamas in Gaza.

The fighting in Lebanon has driven 1.2 million people from their homes, most of them fleeing to Beirut and elsewhere in the north over the past three weeks since the escalation. (AP)

KUWAIT MUST DIVERSIFY INCOME SOURCES: AL-ANZI 'Strengthen local economy before foreign transfer tax'

National Integrity chair calls for enhanced public-private partnerships

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Chair of the National Integrity Center and former Municipal Council member **Hamoud Oqla Al-Anzi** has affirmed that diversifying sources of income necessitates clear vision and a comprehensive reform plan aimed at developing various economic sectors of services, petrochemicals, industry, and agriculture among others.

In an interview, he stressed the importance of reviewing economic legislation to create productive markets that contribute to the national economy.

Al-Anzi highlighted the need to rebuild the relationship between the government and the private sector, advocating for greater trust and expanded opportunities for private sector's participation on a wider scale.

He called for a redesign of partnership programs to make them fairer and more competitive.

Regarding his vision for diversifying sources of income, Al-Anzi said, "Diversifying sources of income requires a government with a clear vision and specific action plans based on realistic studies that adopt best practices in planning and implementation.

Kuwait has huge potential to reform its economy, but this necessitates a comprehensive reform plan based on solid economic foundations.

It is important to reform the various economic sectors, including services, petrochemicals, industry, and agriculture, as most are governed by outdated legislation that hinders the creation of productive markets. This has led to notable failures in the tourism, industrial, and agricultural markets, making it difficult for them to compete regionally or even within the Gulf.

Moreover, we need to improve the decision-making process, starting with the Cabinet by focusing on decision-making and supporting the Cabinet and the rest of the state councils, in accordance with the best international practices.

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Amir's Representative arrives in Belgium for EU-GCC Summit



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's Representative, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation arrived in Belgium on Tuesday to attend the first EU-GCC Summit due in Brussels today. In a statement upon arrival, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah underscored the significance of the Summit in contributing to forging a strategic partnership based on joint prospects, visions and goals in various fields, with the aim to achieve mutual prosperity. His Highness the Premier added

that the summit would also take the already distinguished relations between the two blocs into higher and broader levels. His Highness also expressed appreciation for the historic Kuwait-EU relation and keenness to continue on developing them upon the wise directions of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince. His Highness the Amir's Representative was received at the airport by GCC Secretary General Jassem Al-Budaiwi and Kuwait's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and its representative at the EU and NATO Nawaf Al-Enezi. (KUNA)

PM Diwan photo

Dr. Al-Huwailah vows accountability

Cooperatives set for 'qualitative shift'

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Childhood Affairs, Dr. Amthal Al-Huwailah, announced that the new Cooperative Societies Law will soon be implemented, heralding a "qualitative shift" in the cooperative movement.

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Kuwait affirms its commitment to bolstering economic stability

NEW YORK, Oct 15, (KUNA): The State of Kuwait renewed its commitment to supporting international efforts aimed at enhancing economic stability and effectively contributing to achieving sustainable development goals, calling for enhancing joint action in the

field of sustainable investments and vital projects.

The remarks were made during a speech by the Permanent Delegation of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations,

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Kuwait awards top health honors to Jordanian and Iranian experts

DOHA, Oct 15, (KUNA): Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi awarded State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to Dr. Asem Hamza, of Jordan, and Prof. Davood Khalili, of Iran, in recognition of their efforts to promote public health.

The prize-giving took place on the fringes of the 71st session of the World Health Organizations (WHO) Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean which opened in Doha on Monday and

continues until Thursday, October 17.

Addressing the event, Dr. Al-Awadhi said, "The prize reflects Kuwait's commitment to supporting scientific research and pioneering initiatives for improving public health in our region and beyond."

"Over the last decades, the State of Kuwait has been pursuing a comprehensive approach for controlling chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, which pose a serious threat to the lives of million people.

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Kuwait's Minister of Health during the award ceremony.

KUNA photo

Kuwait sounds alarm on 'organized crime'

VIENNA, Oct 15, (KUNA): Kuwait warned against rising organized crime and its serious impact on societies at all levels, with regard to security or development efforts and connections with terrorist activities.

The remarks were made in a speech during the 12th session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Organized Crime on Monday, delivered by Attorney General, Counsellor Bader Al-Masad in Vienna.

Al-Masad confirmed Kuwait's commitment through the principles of its constitution and national legislation, and the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against organized

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Day by Day

OH Minister of Foreign Affairs, we have raised concerns about the conduct of certain officials within the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development.

In response, they have chosen to boycott the publication of the Fund's commercial advertisements in the Al Seyassah and the Arab Times newspapers.

However, the financial aspect is not a priority for these newspapers. Is this truly the way to deal with those who expose corruption and violations? Should we all be expected to turn a blind eye and remain silent?

I have full confidence that you, Minister of Foreign Affairs, do not endorse such actions against a media institution with a 60-year legacy, one that serves as the voice and conscience of the people. I am certain that you will not take this matter lightly and will ensure that it is thoroughly investigated, even amidst your busy schedule. ... Yet tomorrow is another day.

Zahed Matar

Prayer Timings

Fajr	04:30	Asr	14:51
Sunrise ..	05:48	Maghrib ..	17:18
Zohr	11:34	Isha	18:35

Local

Expected weather for next 24 hrs:

By Day: Hot with light variable wind to light to moderate north-westerly wind, with speeds of 08-30 km/h.

By Night: Rather hot to mild and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate

Weather

southeasterly wind to light variable wind, with speeds of 06-26 km/h.

Station	Max Exp	Min Rec
Kuwait City	38	25
Kuwait Airport	40	22
Abdaly	40	22

Bubyan	36	23
Jahra	41	26
Failaka Island	36	24
Salmiyah	36	29
Ahmadi	35	22
Jal Aliyah	41	24
Nuwaisib	40	24

Working on visa-free visit to Schengen area: Koistinen

'Kuwait can count on European Union; we highly value decades old ties'



Photos by Rizk Taufiq
Ambassador of the European Union to the State of Kuwait Anne Koistinen speaking to the mediapersons.

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Ambassador of the European Union to the State of Kuwait Anne Koistinen says Kuwait is a vital partner for the European Union (EU), which was evident from the visit of the European Council President Charles Michel to Kuwait in September.

She revealed that President Michel, during the visit, had the honor of meeting His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Following these productive meetings, President Michel said, "Kuwait can count on the European Union. The European Union highly values the strong relationship built with Kuwait over the decades".

During a press conference held for discussing the first summit between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council, Ambassador Koistinen said, "The President of the European Council Charles Michel visited Kuwait to prepare for this important event".

This summit will provide a valuable platform to deepen the strong partnership between EU and Kuwait, and elevate it to a strategic level. EU and GCC leaders will come together to strengthen ties between the Gulf region, the EU, and its member states.

This summit reflects the commitment of both the EU and the GCC countries, including Kuwait, to strengthen our longstanding partnership. Kuwait's high-level participation in the summit is of utmost importance, especially with its upcoming presidency of the GCC in December.

We look forward to Kuwait's presidency of the GCC and the leadership role it will play in advancing the outcomes of this historic summit between our two regions.

During the summit, we aim to collaboratively pave the way for deeper cooperation in several priority areas, including trade and investment, green and digital transformation, sustainable energy, humanitarian assistance, education, research, and innovation. We will also focus on investments in projects that connect Asia, the Middle East, and Europe through both physical and digital infrastructure.

The EU Joint Declaration on the Strategic Partnership with the Gulf in 2022 was unequivocal in highlighting the strategic importance of the GCC countries, including Kuwait, for the EU. The EU is committed to strengthening the people-to-people relations.

Since the opening of the EU delegation to Kuwait five years ago, the delegation has actively promoted cultural exchange initiatives to foster closer ties between our peoples.

Furthermore, the EU aims to strengthen human rights dialogues with the GCC countries, including Kuwait, based on mutual respect. We are currently preparing for the next round of the Human Rights Dialogue with Kuwait.

To support people-to-people relations between the EU and Kuwait, the EU introduced highly preferential Schengen visa rules for Kuwaiti citizens in September 2023. This allows them to obtain multiple-entry visas valid for five years upon their first application.

The EU recognizes the desire of Kuwait and other GCC countries to travel visa-free to the Schengen area. I am committed to closely monitoring developments, as European institutions will need to make decisions regarding this matter.

The EU looks forward to strengthening cooperation with the GCC in the economic and investment sectors and is eager to work with Kuwait within the framework of the EU Global Gateway initiative.

There is a deep connection concerning security between our two regions. Consequently, strategic coordination on key regional security issues such as de-escalation in the Middle East, regional nuclear non-proliferation, Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and violence in the Horn of Africa will be an important topic of discussion during the summit.

The EU remains committed to engaging with regional actors to promote diplomacy, dialogue, and restraint, and preventing further military escalation.

The EU has called for a ceasefire in Gaza and the implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions throughout the occupied Palestinian territory.

We have also stressed the urgent need to ensure full, rapid, and safe access for large-scale humanitarian assistance to Palestinians in need.

In response to the dire situation of the Palestinian people, the EU quadrupled its emergency assistance to over 103 million euros in 2023 and pledged approximately 275 million euros in 2024.

The EU has strengthened its political contacts with the Gulf countries to pursue a political solution based on the Arab Peace Initiative.

The efforts of the EU, Saudi Arabia, and other partners, including the League of Arab States and the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, have come together to launch the International Coalition for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution.

Ambassador Koistinen highlighted that the EU, along with regional partners, has called for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 1701.

Meanwhile, the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell expressed deep concern regarding the number of civilian casualties in Lebanon, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and its long-term consequences, and the large number of internally displaced persons.

He said, "In response to these tragic events, the EU has bolstered its humanitarian assistance to Lebanon, raising approximately 104 million euros this year.

This new emergency aid package will provide urgent food assistance, shelter, healthcare, and other essential support. The European Commission is also delivering material assistance to Beirut through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism."

During the summit, EU and GCC leaders will discuss strengthening cooperation on maritime security, counter-terrorism, non-proliferation, cyber and hybrid threats, as well as disaster response.

Recent developments in the Red Sea, particularly the ongoing Houthi attacks on commercial vessels, affirm the importance of maritime security for the EU and our partners in the Gulf region. Continued attacks could negatively impact Kuwait's maritime trade.

It is in our common interest to protect global trade and ensure food security. To this end, the EU has committed to continue working closely with GCC countries to address security challenges and ensure freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and beyond.

Kuwait at forefront globally to defeat terror, radicalism

'We are in race against time to resolve crisis'

By Fares Al-Abdan

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Development and International Cooperation Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan said the State of Kuwait has been at the forefront of global efforts to fight against terrorism and radical groups, as it successfully pioneered roles in combating terrorism at the regional and international levels.

In his speech when Kuwait hosted a workshop for the East Africa Working Group emanating from the Global Counterterrorism Forum, chaired by Kuwait and Kenya; Al-Mashaan stated that the East Africa Working Group extends geographically to the counterterrorism theaters in East Africa and the Middle East that often overlap and reinforce each other.

He affirmed "the geographical race, influence and networks put us in a good position to facilitate responses that address emerging challenges in the region. We are jointly determined to make an effective contribution to the strategic vision of the Global Counterterrorism Forum for the 2021-2031 decade to reduce terrorist recruitment and enhance capabilities through long-term strategic engagements. We look forward to building on the solid foundation established by the co-chairs, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the European Union (EU). We have accomplished a lot over the past years in terms of building bridges to eliminate the ambitions of those who have taken the path of radicalism, threaten the safety of our societies and cause chaos to our institutions."

He pointed out that given the importance of resolving the issue of foreign terrorist fighters and following it up in the items of this meeting later, he cannot miss discussing the proactive efforts of Kuwait in cooperation with friendly countries to resolve this escalating crisis, because "we have succeeded with you in our partnership, thanks to our extended friendship and long-term alliance in various aspects."

He affirmed the efforts of the Kuwaiti government in fulfilling the requirements of the international community in resolving the issue of foreign terrorist fighters in the region, in addition to civilians in conflict zones. He said this is done by receiving security delegations from the countries of origin concerned with fighters returning to their countries via Kuwait's air bases in the camps of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq -- around 1,200 foreign terrorist fighters and their families since 2018.

Addition

He stated this is in addition to Kuwait's co-chairmanship with Turkiye and the Kingdom of the Netherlands of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) group emanating from the International Coalition to Defeat ISIS, which contributed to creating a suitable climate to contain and rehabilitate terrorist fighters and their families and integrate them into their societies.

He stressed that "we are racing against time to resolve this crisis. Kuwait is fully prepared to receive requests from countries in cooperation with the allies sponsoring these operations and covering all the needs."

He added that because the threats of terrorism have become an important driver for governments; the international community is now monitoring, weighing and anticipating achievements in combating terrorism; hence, the need to take action in meetings to enhance capabilities in combating it.

He confirmed Kuwait's continued commitment to unify efforts to achieve the desired goals in the specific instruments and others within the agreed time frames. He pointed out "this must be done in order not to put us in the crosshairs of criticism, to achieve and multiply interests in these sensitive periods of our war on terrorism, to stand on the dimensions of what is happening today in the battlefields that besiege us, and to avoid exaggeration. We have to avoid normalizing the practice of separating citizens from foreign terrorist fighters in conflict areas. I stress the significance of approaching this issue with a forward-thinking perspective that keeps up with the goals of reclaiming foreign terrorist fighters and their families and reintegrating them into their communities after they complete rehabilitation programs preceded by fair trials and serving their prison terms in the country of origin. The necessary steps must be taken in accordance with local laws. They must be rehabilitated in accordance with the principles of human rights until sustainable peace is achieved in the region."

He highlighted the importance of the international community's continuous support for Somalia and partners in East Africa in their efforts to disrupt the Shabaab movements, as it remains one of the most dangerous organizations affiliated with Al-Qaeda, which has caused the deaths of thousands in Somalia and various parts of East Africa. "All countries must be urged to track the causes of its continuation. The region has become a fertile soil for recruiting fighters and a source for future generations who adopt radical extremist beliefs, given that a child born in such environments is a time bomb," he added.



Photo by Samer Shaqir
Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan during the workshop.

Kuwaiti out to give streets, public places new look, summons youth

By Mohammad Al Musleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: In a world where many resort to complaints about poor infrastructure and public facilities, Kuwaiti citizen Yousef Al-Omran stands out as an exceptional figure. He prefers action over grumbling, embarking on a mission to improve Kuwait's streets and public spaces.

Al-Omran redefines volunteerism with his motto, "Abu Jarrah Changes", taking on the responsibility to correct situations rather than wait for solutions.

Al-Omran's journey of volunteer work is unconventional, yet inspiring. His projects have breathed new life into Kuwait's roads and public facilities, spreading a spirit of teamwork and community engagement.

He firmly believes that change begins with the individual, often saying, "I don't like to complain." Instead, he channels his energy into tangible improvements, exemplified by his work on Kuwait's neglected streets, bridges, and tunnels.

One of Al-Omran's notable initiatives was the restoration of the Sulaibikhat Bridge, a vital road leading to the Sulaibikhat Club. With the upcoming Gulf Cup Championship, his efforts not only enhanced infrastructure but also contributed to the national sporting event.

His other successful projects include repairing Abdali Road and beautifying the Jabriya Tunnel, transforming it into a stunning landmark.

What makes Al-Omran truly remarkable is not just the physical changes he brings to public spaces, but the influence he has on others.

The phrase "Abu Jarrah changes" has become more than a slogan -- it is a way of life. His volunteer campaigns have inspired countless citizens to join in, fostering a growing culture of community involvement.



Photo by Rizk Taufiq
Painting a bridge.

Each new initiative attracts more volunteers, proving that volunteering is not just about fixing places, but also about improving oneself and the society at large.

Al-Omran's latest endeavor is beautifying bridges on Kuwait's Sixth Ring Road. This project aims to add an aesthetic touch to the bridges by painting them with bright, attractive colors, turning these vital connections into visual landmarks.

The initiative also highlights the broader message that public spaces belong to everyone, and their upkeep is a shared responsibility. "Painting bridges is not just about beautifying roads," Al-Omran explained. "It's a message to future generations that volunteer work can turn anything into an opportunity for creativity and beauty."

He further emphasized that the bright colors used in the project were not random; they were chosen to improve road safety by enhancing visibility at night, while also complementing the visual identity of each area. Al-Omran's vision doesn't stop here -- he has ambitious plans to continue beautifying roads across Kuwait, believing that the journey of reform begins with a single step.

During a recent tour, volunteers working alongside Al-Omran were seen cleaning and preparing the bridges for painting. Their enthusiasm reflected the strong community spirit he has instilled.

One volunteer, Ali Al Mulla, shared his thoughts, saying, "When I saw how neglected places were being transformed into beautiful landmarks, I felt the need to be part of this change. It's not just about painting bridges; it's about contributing to the improvement of our country."

Focus on quality control

Medical labs confab set for Oct 21

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Director of the Medical Laboratories Department at the Ministry of Health Dr. Rimaa Al-Safi announced the launch of the 6th Medical Laboratories Conference, titled "Developments in Clinical Microbiology and Quality Control", taking place on October 21-22 at the Regency Hotel, under the patronage of the Minister of Health Dr. Ahmad Al-Awadhi.

In a press statement, Dr. Al-Safi highlighted that the conference aims to shed light on the latest developments in quality control for medical laboratories, clinical microbiology, and the diagnosis and treatment of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

She affirmed that the conference will also serve as a platform for exchanging experiences among participants and strengthening communication between doctors, laboratory technicians, and other specialists in the medical laboratory field.

Dr. Al-Safi explained that the conference will feature many scientific lectures, open discussions, and workshops, as well as an exhibition showcasing the latest developments in the field. It will include workshops focused on developing quality control systems in medical laboratories, advancements

in molecular biology, information technology systems in medical laboratories, and laboratory informatics.

She revealed that the conference will feature a group of speakers and experts from the local and international levels, including participants from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Nigeria, and Canada.

Dr. Al-Safi explained that the scientific lectures at the conference will be organized into two tracks:

- The first track focuses on developments in clinical microbiology, and includes lectures on rationalizing antibiotic consumption, microbial resistance to antibiotics, and the latest developments in diagnosing and treating infectious diseases. It will also include a dialogue session on antibiotic consumption programs in hospitals across Kuwait.

- The second track addresses quality control in medical laboratories, with lectures on the latest developments in quality control systems, the role of artificial intelligence in medical laboratories, and quality control in rapid tests. It will also include a dialogue session on global quality control programs, such as "American recognition of quality control and recognition of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)".

Workshop to teach students spend cautiously and rationalize launched

By Marwa Al-Bahrawi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: In coordination with the Ministry of Education and the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition (PAFN), the Consumer Protection Association in Kuwait (CPAK) launched the "Smart Shopping" workshop yesterday as part of its initiative to raise awareness among school students about making right purchasing decisions, protecting against commercial fraud, and rationalizing consumption.

In an interview, Director of CPAK Mishal Al-Manea explained that the campaign commenced with the "Smart Shopping" workshop at Mansouriya School for Girls in the Capital Educational Zone. The campaign will continue for a month, from October 13 to November 13, in elementary and intermediate schools in all educational zones. It will feature many lectures, workshops, and activities aimed at educating students about the importance of saving and rationalizing consumption. This effort is in line with government's recommendations

to alleviate pressure on subsidies and promote more efficient consumption in state-supported sectors.

He highlighted that the campaign encompasses six main axes:

1. Providing comprehensive information on consumer rights and the importance of consumer awareness.
2. Equipping students with the skills to identify quality products and avoid harmful ones.
3. Enhancing students' self-confidence when navigating the market.
4. Addressing consumer challenges.
5. Creating an integrated educational and cultural environment that supports consumer rights, in collaboration with educational cadres.
6. Teaching students the importance of saving and rationalizing resource consumption, such as water and electricity, with the aim of educating them about reducing pressure on government subsidies through responsible consumption practices, which will help ensure the sustainability of these subsidies for future generations.

MoC seeks to fill 200 vacant top positions

By Mohammad Al-Musleh

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Once again, the Ministry of Communications has turned its attention to filling vacant supervisory positions, placing this task at the top of its priority list to ensure stability in operations and the continued progress of key projects.

In an effort to address this urgent need, the Ministry has announced the opening of applications for 200 supervisory roles across all its sectors and departments.

According to an internal circular, a copy of which has been obtained by the Al-Seyassah daily, the Ministry is calling on qualified and specialized employees, subject to Civil Service Council decisions, to submit their applications.

Applicants must include a CV and all relevant decisions related to supervisory roles, such as for department heads and supervisors. The application window opens today, Tuesday, and will remain open until the end of the month. Employees who fail to apply within this timeframe will be considered to have implicitly waived their right to seek a supervisory position.

The vacancies span several sectors, including subscriber services, postal and communications services, administrative and financial affairs, the Undersecretary's departments, purchasing and warehouses, and the Information Systems Center.

'Confronting graft, politicization ... MoH's path to reclaiming its role'

"SINCE Kuwait gained independence, the Ministry of Health has faced two profound crises that have destabilized its healthcare system," columnist and former minister of health, **Dr. Mohamed Al-Jarallah**, in his writings for **Al-Jarida** daily.

"The first crisis, which emerged about a decade ago, involved rampant embezzlement of public funds within the ministry's leadership.

"This widespread financial corruption soon pervaded all levels of the ministry, embedding a culture of bribery and misconduct.

"The system became a breeding ground for personal enrichment with many prioritizing self-gain over the delivery of quality healthcare services.

"This malfeasance severely compromised the ministry's ability to provide adequate care to citizens and residents, a situation noted by.

"The second crisis struck when political interference began to disrupt the ministry's administrative structure.

"Political appointments replaced merit-based leadership selections, with officials chosen not for their expertise but for their political alignments and connections to influential figures, including members of the National Assembly.

"This politicization undermined long-established administrative practices and laws, further eroding the ministry's integrity. The result was a chaotic, inefficient system with increasing gaps between the ministry's bloated bureaucracy and the urgent need for reform.

"As the administrative pyramid turned upside down, the balance of justice collapsed, and the ministry's structure weakened considerably.

"The cumulative effect of these crises has left the health system in disarray, with leadership performance deteriorating, and no clear solution in sight to address the deeply rooted problems. Numerous reform initiatives have failed to dismantle the entrenched 'inverted administrative pyramid' that prevents meaningful change.

"Amid this turmoil, the Dhaman Hospitals Project emerged as a beacon of hope. Seen as a potential game-changer, this project was designed to deliver healthcare to 2 to 3 million expatriates, easing the burden on government hospitals.

"It also aimed to bring financial stability to the ministry's budget and allow resources to be redirected toward improving healthcare services for Kuwaiti citizens. However, despite its promise, the project soon encountered significant obstacles.

"Fierce legal disputes erupted between the Kuwait Investment Authority and its strategic partner, while internal resistance from the Ministry of Health further stymied progress.

"The meetings were delayed, contract signings stalled, and unresolved legal battles piled up. This resistance likely stemmed from bureaucratic leaders who viewed the project as a threat to their vested interests and were determined to preserve the status quo.

"As the situation worsens, the operation of the Dhaman Hospitals has become an urgent necessity. For the health system to recover, the key stakeholders -- the KIA, its strategic partner, and the Ministry of Health -- must prioritize national interests and find common ground. Redirecting 2 to 3 million expatriates to the Dhaman Hospitals would significantly alleviate pressure on government facilities, opening the door for a comprehensive overhaul of the health system.

"However, this positive disruption must be followed by more radical reforms by transforming government hospitals and their associated centers into companies overseen by the authority.

"These hospitals would operate efficiently under private sector regulations, improving service quality while curbing financial and administrative waste.

"A universal insurance policy for citizens, encompassing treatment both in Kuwait and abroad, should also be introduced. This comprehensive transformation would not only revitalize healthcare services but also address the systemic inefficiencies that have plagued the ministry for years.

"This model is not without precedent. In 2003, Kuwait proposed a similar healthcare reform initiative to the Gulf Cooperation Council's Health Ministers. This plan was successfully adopted by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Qatar.

"Unfortunately, Kuwait's own efforts were derailed by political meddling, weak governance, and entrenched interests that have long obstructed meaningful reform.

"Bold, exceptional measures are needed to resolve the conflicts draining state resources and to propel development forward.

"The resolution of the Dhaman Hospitals Project is pivotal in providing the 'calculated shock' necessary to restore order and functionality to Kuwait's health system.

"By confronting these two major crises head-on -- corruption and politicization -- the Ministry of Health can reclaim its rightful role of serving the Kuwaiti people and providing healthcare that reflects the nation's aspirations for a healthier and more prosperous future."

Also:

"For over five decades, the Arab world has been gripped by a profound sense of defeat, submission, and intellectual retreat, symbolized by the widespread acceptance of the Zionist entity as an invincible force," columnist **Suad Fahd Al-Moajel** wrote for **Al-Qabas** daily.

"This defeatist mentality, particularly after the 1967 war, has led many Arabs to consider the Zionist occupation of land taken during that conflict as a fait accompli.

"Demands for justice and the return of rights have been limited to what was lost in 1967, overlooking the lands usurped in 1948. This psychological surrender has permeated every aspect of Arab life, including poetry, literature, culture, and the arts.

"Attempts to stimulate the Arab mind, to awaken it from this state of intellectual defeatism and submission, have failed time and again.

"As an Arab nation, we became content with repeating hollow slogans like 'Revolution until victory' and 'What was taken by force can only be regained by force'. Yet, these proclamations were detached from reality, and we were continually misled by illusions of victory that never materialized.

"Instead, we found ourselves embroiled in endless regional conflicts that only deepened our sense of failure. Over time, we became dependent on the international community, pleading for their support -- whether in the form of refugee camps to shield people from the elements or resolutions that claimed to protect us from the repercussions of war.

"These promises rarely materialized into action, leaving us trapped in a cycle of despair and longing for stability and prosperity that seemed increasingly out of reach.

"Meanwhile, Arab martyrs continue to fall, sanctities are desecrated, and homes are bombed, yet silence persists. This silence has become, tragically, a permissible activity born from our brokenness. However, there were glimpses of hope -- moments when the spirit of resistance briefly reignited.

"The floods of Al-Aqsa and the war in southern Lebanon brought back a memory of chivalry and rejection of the humiliating reality imposed on us. These events reminded some that change could only come through self-transformation, as the Holy Quran teaches: 'Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.'"

"Yet, despite these moments of resistance, many remain determined to entrench the state of defeat in the Arab psyche. These defeatists argue that confronting the Zionist entity is futile, that resistance is doomed to backfire, and that surrender to the enemy's conditions is the only viable option.

"They point to the repeated failures of Arab armies to confront Israeli aggression as proof that resistance is hopeless.

"Over time, this mindset has fostered what can be described as a 'culture of defeat' -- a deep-rooted belief that peace, no matter how fragile or incomplete, is better than continued conflict, even if it means accepting the destruction of Arab lives and infrastructure.

"This defeatist mentality has infected the Arab character. Mistrust and doubt now permeate our interactions, and we remain haunted by the scars of the 1967 defeat.

"These wounds, still open after generations, have led to a state of inherited brokenness. We unconsciously pass this defeatism on to our children, while in our hearts we deny the possibility of any real resistance that might free us from the grip of failure.

"For over five decades, we have practiced defeat and accepted our blood as cheap, which has only emboldened our enemies. The defeated cannot take the initiative or act with confidence, and so we have spent these years dwelling in the bitterness of failure, always fearing surprises -- even if they might be to our advantage.

"Some have even questioned the value of resistance. But today, resistance has become the language of the people. Hundreds of thousands of the wounded, displaced, oppressed, and downtrodden are now ready to cast off the cloak of defeat and failure.

"They will find, in their blood, hands, and struggle, the hope to change history and restore the dignity that has been lost for so long."

— Compiled by PFX Fernandes



Dr Al-Jarallah

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

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Security and Safety Department of Kuwait University, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior, held the activities for Traffic Awareness Campaign Week on Monday under the patronage of the Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Facilities Management Affairs Mohammad Al-Sulaiman, and Director of the Security and Safety Department at Kuwait University Yousef Al-Khamis.

The campaign took place in the lobby of the College of Engineering and Petroleum in Sabah Al-Salem University City, in the presence of Director of the Traffic Awareness Department Colonel Fahd Al-Essa, and Assistant Director of the Traffic Awareness Department Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Bu Hassan.

In a press statement, Director of the Security and Safety Department Al-Khamis explained that Kuwait University, through the Security and Safety Department, is conducting the traffic awareness campaign at the beginning of the academic year for the third consecutive year. The goal is to educate students about common violations on campus and the practices they should adopt to avoid violations and penalties.



Col Al-Essa

The campaign's activities include tours and lectures that present images and statistics related to violations observed on campus. Statistics for the 2023/2024 academic year indicate a reduction in accidents, with only 26 incidents reported throughout the year. The primary objective of this campaign is to achieve an even further decrease in accidents.

In this regard, the Acting Assistant Secretary-General for Facilities Management Affairs Mohammad Al-Sulaiman expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Interior, particularly the Traffic Sector, for its ongoing awareness campaigns aimed at ensuring student safety.

He highlighted the continuous cooperation between the university and the ministry to achieve a partnership that benefits both parties.

Al-Sulaiman urged students to adhere to traffic rules to ensure everyone's safety.

Meanwhile, Assistant Director of the Traffic Awareness Department Lieutenant Colonel Abdullah Bu Hassan announced that the ministry will be present for a week in the lobby of the College of Engineering and Petroleum to engage with male and female students in various classrooms to understand their traffic needs and the challenges they face on campus, as well as to present on traffic accidents, violations, and unsafe behaviors.

He affirmed the importance of adhering to traffic rules and laws for the safety of all.

Lieutenant Colonel Bu Hassan indicated that many issues may arise during this period, but they can be solved through ongoing communication and collaboration with the Security and Safety Department.

He stressed that the goal of the visit is to enhance traffic awareness and ensure compliance with traffic regulations, reiterating that the Security and Safety Department is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities with the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior.

'Absence of driver's license does not justify police arrest & search'

'Appeals' overturns acquittal of former MP Al-Qallaf

By **Jaber Al-Hamoud**
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: In a significant ruling, the Criminal Court cautioned police and traffic officers against searching suspects without obtaining permission from the Public Prosecution.

The court stressed that "observing a suspect in an abnormal state does not equate to sufficient evidence of the crime of possessing narcotic or psychotropic substances."

As a result, the court acquitted an individual who was charged with possession of narcotic substances (hashish) and psychotropic substances with the intent to trade and use.

According to the case file, a police officer stopped the defendant at a security checkpoint after noticing his strange behavior. Upon requesting identification, the officer found that the defendant did not have his driver's license. As a precaution, the officer conducted a search and then ordered the defendant to board the patrol car, after which he retrieved the confiscated items.

The court stated that, although the officer correctly stopped the accused at the security checkpoint, he should have ceased further procedures at that point.

The discovery that the accused did not have a driver's license, a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to three months under Article 3 of the traffic Law No. 3/1982, did not warrant the search that followed.

Misdemeanor

Although this misdemeanor allows the police officer to issue a traffic ticket, it does not justify arresting and searching the accused solely for lacking a driver's license, as this offense is not listed among the cases warranting arrest under article 4(4) of the traffic law.

The conditions outlined in Article 5(5) of the Criminal Procedures and Trials Law did not apply to the accused.

The court explained that the police officer's testimony did not indicate that he asked the accused for his name and address, or that the accused refused or provided an unconvincing statement about his identity.

There was also no mention that the accused gave a false name or address, or that he refused to go to the police station without explanation. Furthermore, the officer did not claim that the accused was taking measures to conceal his presence or that there was strong evidence suggesting he was attempting to escape.

Also, while a police officer can search an accused person and their vehicle without a warrant from the public prosecutor if they observe

Municipality lifts 41 abandoned vehicles in Mubarak Al-Kabeer

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Public Relations Department of the Kuwait Municipality has reported that a recent inspection by the General Cleaning and Road Occupancy Department at the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate Municipality branch led to lifting 41 abandoned vehicles, including dilapidated cars, cruisers, mobile grocery stores, and iron containers, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

In addition to the removal of these items, the department issued 32 citations for various infractions related to public cleanliness and safety.

Furthermore, 78 warnings were issued to individuals or entities for non-compliance with municipal regulations.

As part of their ongoing efforts to maintain a clean and orderly environment, the department also replaced 80 old garbage containers with new ones, ensuring that residents have access to proper waste disposal facilities.

This proactive approach reflects the municipality's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Kuwait by keeping public spaces tidy and reducing the presence of abandoned or unsightly vehicles and objects.

the accused in an abnormal state, this alone does not constitute sufficient evidence of a crime, such as possession of narcotic or psychotropic substances.

Moreover, the officer did not state that the accused was known to him, nor did he provide any serious indications that warranted the arrest or search of the accused without a legal basis.

The court concluded by stating that the actions taken by the police officer in terms of the arrest and search were conducted in circumstances not permitted by law. As a result, the arrest of the accused, the search of the accused and his vehicle, and the subsequent actions, such as sending him to the Public Prosecution for a urine test by the General Department for Criminal Evidences, were deemed illegal and invalid, especially since the accused did not admit to having consumed the narcotic or psychotropic substance.



Al-Qattan

During the court session, the counsel representing the defendant Lawyer Abdul Mohsen Al-Qattan explained the circumstances of the case, insisting that the arrest and search procedures were invalid due to the lack of a case of flagrante delicto, the absence of elements constituting the alleged crimes, and the implausibility of the incident itself.

Ex-MP's acquittal quashed: The Court of Appeals overturned the acquittal of former MP Hussein Al-Qallaf in a State security case after the Public Prosecution appealed the acquittal ruling of the First Instance Court.

The higher court sentenced Al-Qallaf to two years in prison with hard labor for challenging the rights and authority of His Highness the Amir and offending the Amiri status.

Al-Qallaf denied all the charges when he appeared in; stressing that he was referring to the government, not His Highness the Amir, in his recorded speech went viral on social media and WhatsApp.

The prosecution decided to imprison Al-Qallaf for 21 days and refer him to the Central Prison after he criticized the procedures of the Interior Ministry in organizing the activities of Husseiniyas during the month of Muharram in an audio recording.

On the other hand, the Ministerial Court upheld the decision of the Permanent Investigation Committee to dismiss two reports against former minister Dawood Maarefi.

The court confirmed in the appeal filed against the committee's decision that there was no crime of assault on public funds in the return of dissolved clubs and the referral of ports employees to retirement.

The defense lawyer, Daej Al-Kandari, asserted that the decisions issued by his client are correct. He said his client intends to sue those who offended him after being vindicated by the judiciary.

Moreover, the Criminal Court scheduled the trial of former MPs and tweeters on Nov 11. They are facing charges of broadcasting false news and harming the country's national interests against the backdrop of preventing the entry of Shuaib Al-Muwaizri.

The prosecution released the accused on bail and imposed a travel ban on them.

Digital system launched for seized abandoned vehicles

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Director of the Project Development Department at Kuwait Municipality Fayez Al-Mutairi announced the development of the system for impounding abandoned vehicles in Al-Nayem and Abdullah Port. This is in line with the municipality's goal to digitize all transactions, reports Al-Jarida daily.

He explained that an electronic message will be sent through the Sahel app to notify vehicle owners of the location of their impounded vehicles and the deadline before they are put up for auction.

The Project Development Department, which is affiliated with the Projects Sector, was established in 1993 based on a request from the Council of Ministers. Its purpose is to offer projects to the private sector to help enhance efficiency and reduce spending from the state's general budget, beginning with projects offered under Law No. 105.

Al-Mutairi said, "Projects continued to be offered under Law No. 105 until 2006 when a government directive was issued to halt the establishment of new projects under that law. Subsequently, Law No. 7/2008 was issued, but no projects were initiated until the establishment of the Public-Private Partnership Authority under Law No. 116/2014. Since then, the authority has been responsible for facilitating projects between the public and private sectors. However, the process has become slow and requires legislative amendments to expedite it."

18 road maintenance deals signed

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (KUNA): Kuwait signed some 18 agreements with local and foreign firms for maintenance on highways and major roads across the country, the public works minister said on Tuesday, citing the government's green light to set the deals in motion.

Relevant state bodies have given their approval of the agreements that aim to overhaul roads across Kuwait, Minister of Public Works Dr. Nora Al-Mashaan told KUNA after the cabinet's weekly session, in which she explained to state ministers the intricacies behind the deals.

Prosecution clears man over croc video row

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Public Prosecution has dismissed the complaint filed by the Environment Public Authority against a well-known social media personality who had previously shared a video featuring 'crocodiles' in his possession, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to the man's lawyer, the Prosecution concluded that no crime

had been committed and announced plans to pursue a lawsuit for the material and moral damages his client experienced.

The complaint stemmed from the Authority's assertion that the individual violated the Environmental Protection Law and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

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Council OK's port expansion, key projects



Khaled Al-Mutairi presided over the session, attended by Eng. Nizar Al-Awad, Farhan Al-Anzi, Dr. Hamoud Al-Otaibi, Ahmed Al-Juwaisri, and Khaled Saad.

Spring camps to begin Nov 15

Camping site proposals under review

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Chairman of the Spring Camps Committee at Kuwait Municipality Faisal Al-Otaibi revealed that there are proposals to invest in certain camping sites for the upcoming season, which are currently under review by the committee, reports Al-Rai daily.



Al-Otaibi

In a press statement, Al-Otaibi indicated that the number of camping sites will be reduced, with some sites set to be canceled due to low public interest and a request from the Environment Public Authority (EPA) to combat desertification.

He assured that all approved sites will be announced soon. Al-Otaibi explained that the camping season will

commence as scheduled on November 15 and end on March 15, with no changes to this timeline.

Also, the committee decided in its last meeting not to increase the fees - a non-refundable amount of KD 50 for obtaining a campsite license, and a KD 100 deposit for every 1,000 square meters or less, which will be refunded after the camp is removed and the site is cleaned.

Each camp will be allocated a plot of 1,000 square meters, which will be available to everyone without exception, including expatriates, who are also entitled to obtain a camp license.

He stressed that one of the important recommendations from the last meeting of the Spring Camps Committee was to streamline the licensing process for cooperative societies by allowing applications to be submitted through the Kuwait Municipality's website instead of manually.

Farwaniya to evaluate site allocations

By Inaas Awad
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council Khaled Al-Mutairi presided over the council's session on Monday, during which the following were approved:

■ Expansion of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port project site to become 116 million square meters -- 10 times more than the previously designated area measuring 1,161 hectares;

■ Proposal of Farah Al-Roumi on the preparation of sustainability regulations and guidelines for the rehabilitation and preservation of archaeological sites and historical buildings;

■ Request of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to allocate a site for the establishment of a supply center in Omariya - Block Five measuring 1,000 square meters and parking area with the same size;

■ Request of the Ministry of Communications to allocate a site for the third phase of the major fiber optic network project in Salmi measuring about 2,008 square meters, while adhering to the conditions stated in the responses of the members of the Sub-Committee for Public Facilities and Services, and the condition to provide parking spaces within the site boundaries;

■ Request of the Municipality to allocate the desert adventure area project in North Mutlaa with an area of nine million square meters instead of 13 million square meters;

■ Report of the Jahra Governorate Committee on the request of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to allocate a site for the establishment of a supply center opposite Oyoun, measuring 1,000 square meters and a parking lot of the same size;

■ Proposals of Munira Al-Amir to determine the architectural identity of government buildings and lay down mechanisms for the Municipality to preserve the appearance of the Capital as the facade of Kuwait;

■ Proposal of Alia Al-Farsi on preventing delivery bikes from stopping and plying through sidewalks;

■ Delay the response to Al-Farsi's proposal to form a joint committee to follow



Photos during the council's session.

up on the implementation of the regulations for people with disabilities and the Kuwait Code for Accessibility according to the general design;

■ Request of Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) to allocate a site for

fuel filling station No. 49 in Mahboula, Block Three;

■ Request of the Ministry of Social Affairs to allocate a site for the establishment of a mini central market in Hadiya (Block One), a walkway, 3 playgrounds, children's games, lighting, landscaping and an irrigation network in Fahaheel (Block Four);

■ Request of Nasser Al-Jadaan and Nasar Al-Azmi to allocate a site for establishing a walkway in Fahaheel (Block One);

■ Requests of the Public Authority for Roads and Transportation (PART) regarding the allocation of basins, water channels and connection links to collect and drain rainwater in Al-Maqwa to serve Ahmadi and Al-Manqaf, and the allocation of only 10 basins with seven water channels and an earthen barrier to collect and drain rainwater in Sabah Al-Ahmad and South Sabah Al-Ahmad;

■ Request of Kuwait Fire Force (KFF) to allocate a site in Saihed Al-Awazem -- northern part of the Seventh Ring Road -- as an alternative to the site relinquished in Al-Rai in favor of the Ministry of Finance to cover the actuarial deficit of the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFFS).

Meanwhile, the council referred to the Farwaniya Governorate Committee the response of the executive body to the question of Walid Al-Dagher about the studies, concepts and activities permitted in the neglected buildings in Ardiya Industrial Area.

On the letter of the Public Utilities Company regarding the renewal of temporary surface parking licenses in various areas; the council recommended that the executive body, Ministry of Finance and the company should coordinate their efforts to do the necessary.

It also recommended coordination between the executive body, Ministry of Information (Tourism Sector) and all concerned parties to act on the letter of Dr. Khalifa Behbehani about the tourism in Kuwait from a scientific perspective.

It suggested the submission of a traffic study to complete the discussion on the question of Dr. Hassan Kamal about the studies and approvals to establish entrances and exits in Sabah Al-Salem.

Agency generates KD 12.2 mln from sale

Energy ministry sells 32,899 tons of surplus equipment in major auction

By Mohamed Ghanem
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy recently completed the procedures for selling 32,899 tons of surplus materials and equipment outside the scope of their use, including cables, ductile pipes, and transformers through five auctions held by the Ministry of Finance.

According to informed sources from the ministry, the total value of the items sold in the five auctions is KD 12.217 million, which will be paid by the winning companies in accordance with the Ministry of Finance's procedures.

The first auction, valued at KD 5.017 million, pertains to copper cables and their accessories, comprising 4,857 tons of aerial copper cables and various other copper products.

The second auction involves transformers of various sizes, some containing oil, with a total quantity of 13,643 tons.

The third auction is for ductile pipes and their accessories, amounting to 11,819 tons, valued at KD 840,000.

The fourth auction includes aluminum cables, specifically aerial aluminum cables,

totaling 2,580 tons, at a cost of KD 626,940.

The fifth auction involves used oil drums, empty iron drums, blue plastic jerry cans, and 250-gallon tanks, totaling KD 673,020.

The sources went on to explain that the ministry, in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, conducted these auctions in compliance with the budget regulations and in accordance with circular No. 4/2017 issued by the Ministry of Finance regarding the disposal of materials that are outside the scope of use.

Therefore, the ministry, through technical committees, is cataloging all materials in its warehouses, identifying those no longer in use, and placing them among the materials registered on the government finance system. This process allows for their disposal through government auctions organized by the Ministry of Finance, preventing the inflation of the ministry's warehouse balances and avoiding damage or obsolescence of these materials and equipment.

The ministry's failure to dispose of stagnant materials in its warehouses has drawn criticism from oversight agencies, particularly the State Audit Bureau, which has raised concerns about the lack of action regarding these materials and equipment.

CSC sets Oct deadline for labor needs

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has notified ministries, agencies, and government departments that they have time until the end of October to submit their labor requirements, reports Al-Rai daily.

In a new circular, CSC affirmed the importance of providing these demands by the end of October 2024 so that it can be presented to the Civil Service Council for appropriate action.

It clarified that the financial budget allocated for appointing Kuwaitis cannot be carried over to the next fiscal year, adding that the recruitment demands submitted by each institution must be collective rather than individual, and must represent all sectors.

The new circular serves as an addendum to the letter sent on September 3 to all government agencies, which reiterated the necessity of entering the functional requirements of Kuwaitis into the integrated civil service systems for all positions starting October 1, 2024. These demands should be categorized according to approved job titles based on functional groups.

Shortage of fresh water

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Ministry of Electricity, Water, and Renewable Energy in Kuwait has announced a temporary shortage of fresh water will hit several areas, including Al-Dhahr, East Ahmadi and West Shuaiba Industrial Area, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The disruption will begin at 8 pm on Thursday and is expected to last for six hours.

The ministry attributed the water shortage to maintenance work being conducted on the water network, specifically at the Mina Abdullah water tanks.

The ministry has issued a statement to inform residents of the affected areas about the situation and ensure that steps are taken to mitigate the inconvenience caused by the maintenance.



iPhone 16 unit

About 20K iPhone 16 units sold in a month

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: About 20,000 iPhone 16 units were sold in the country within a month, reports Al-Anba daily.

Taking into consideration the limited developments made by Apple in the iPhone 16, which it unveiled in the middle of last month, and the lack of major differences from its predecessor, the iPhone 15; the sales of the new phone did not differ much from the previous version.

In a statement to the daily, a number of employees in phone and electronics showrooms revealed that about 20,000 new iPhone units were sold in the first month of its launch.

They said the most in demand is the 'pro max' category, pointing out that the increasing demand for these phones reflects a trend among consumers who are searching for distinction and advancement.

They disclosed that the prices of iPhone 16 categories did not differ from those of the previous version that was launched last year, indicating the prices range from KD375 to KD590. They added the offers of telecom companies on the new phone are similar to last year when the previous version was launched, as they offer two-year subscription and the prices range from KD38 to KD51 monthly, depending on the category, storage capacity and package.



October

Room Promotion



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LOCAL

Housing crisis worsens, over 97,000 still await gov't homes

Rent aid hits 176 million dinars yearly

By Mohammed Al Musleh
Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The ongoing accumulation of housing applications continues to present a significant challenge for citizens awaiting government housing, as recent statistics reveal that the number of pending 'lifetime home' applications has surged to approximately 97,671 as of this October.

According to data issued by the Public Authority for

Housing Welfare (PAHW), 2024 saw the submission of 6,134 new applications, marking a substantial increase compared to the previous year.

The figures highlight the escalating demand for housing, with some applications dating as far back as 1985, leaving those eligible waiting decades for housing assistance.

The statistics further indicate that the total expenditure on rent allowances for those still awaiting their homes is projected to reach around 175.8 million dinars annually, with a monthly outlay of 14.6 million dinars.

This growing expense underscores the urgent need for solutions to address the mounting housing backlog and alleviate the financial burden on the state.

Uphold Cassation

Continued from Page 1

Even if the debt is KD 20,000, KD 100,000 or even KD one million, no individual should be prevented from traveling, as they may have interests abroad that could enable them to repay their debts.

This practice is regarded as an unpublicized form of imprisonment and a restriction on freedom of movement in every nation on earth.

Kuwait's continued reliance on this legal flaw, despite the Court of Cassation deeming it unlawful, represents a persistent influence of a deep state, usurers, and self-serving individuals. For years, these entities have shackled citizens with loans, cheques, and other financial burdens in order to take away their will and means of subsistence.

When a citizen is imprisoned or prevented from traveling, it effectively cuts off their means of livelihood. If they are incarcerated or confined within their own country, how can they generate the funds needed to pay their debts?

This is why many countries in the world have prohibited physical coercion and restrictions on the freedom of movement for individuals who need to earn a living and repay what they owe.

This means empowering individuals to overcome the obstacles placed before them by creditors who work based on the rule of "a drowning man will clutch at a straw", showing little regard for the hardships faced by others.

There is no doubt that the ruling of the Court of Cassation is a landmark decision that is written in gold, and cements a legal rule that has become obligatory. It cannot be overturned regardless of the circumstances.

Therefore, the concerned institutions, particularly the current Council of Ministers, which now holds both legislative and executive authorities, must adopt this ruling and amend the law accordingly.

This is because the basis of our legal system is rooted in mercy, fairness, and the pursuit of justice, rather than transforming state institutions, including security and judicial bodies, into mere tax collectors serving the interests of creditors, especially loan sharks.

'Strengthen local

Continued from Page 1

A new methodology is required to evaluate the performance of the boards of directors of government agencies and institutions, as many of these entities require huge reform."

Below are the details of the interview:

Question: Does the private sector have a role in diversifying sources of income?

Answer: Absolutely. The private sector plays a very important role in diversifying the sources of income. However, it is important to rebuild trust between the government and the private sector, as the government currently dominates all economic sectors, either directly or indirectly.

On the other hand, the limited participation of the private sector is largely due to the lack of justice in dealing with all companies in the private sector, and the existence of challenges related to procedural integrity, weak competition, and insufficient support for the economic sectors.

Furthermore, the partnership between the private and public sectors should be based on justice, as stipulated in the Kuwait Constitution.

Unfortunately, some existing partnerships with the private sector are unfair, allowing certain companies to gain many benefits while contributing minimally to government welfare programs. This is particularly evident in investment opportunities for housing projects, where a lot of land has been allocated for development at the state's expense, but private investors have not provided real value to housing welfare initiatives.

Therefore, it is important to redesign partnership programs to ensure they are fairer and more competitive.

Q: What is your vision for supporting local products and localizing handicrafts?

A: The current measures to support local products are quite modest, primarily due to their ineffectiveness. To enhance support, we need to reorganize the markets and set new regulations that enable local products to compete effectively.

It is also essential to monitor the state's preference for the consumption of imported goods that could be produced locally. Providing incentives for local producers, such as advance purchase orders or agreements, will facilitate the establish-

ment of factories needed to meet these demands.

It is also important to review the policies and procedures of the Public Authority for Industry (PAI). We must closely follow up all industrial usufruct agreements, monitor production, and set performance indicators for local factories. By addressing the existing challenges and setting clear targets for PAI, we can raise industrial production and boost the employment rate of national talent within local industries.

Q: What is your opinion on calls to impose taxes on foreign transfers to increase financial resources?

A: It is premature to impose taxes on foreign transfers before exploring other avenues, particularly in relation to government contracts and capital projects.

A percentage of all government or oil project purchases should be mandated to come from the local market. Measures must be taken to ensure that government spending remains within the country, thereby supporting local suppliers. Projects must be implemented to encourage individuals to spend locally and reduce foreign transfers. This requires a strong economic growth plan aimed at attracting local expenditures and decreasing reliance on foreign transfers.

Q: What are the current challenges in the recycling industry?

A: Investment opportunities in manufacturing industries are limited due to a shortage of available land and restrictive procedures by government agencies regarding the issuance of recycling licenses. This has resulted in weak competition and a low level of recycling industries. There is an urgent need to reform the legislation governing the Public Authority for Industry and the Environment Public Authority, as well as to streamline business management procedures to better support investment opportunities in the manufacturing sector.

Q: How can contract farming support the agricultural sector?

A: It is important to support farmers' markets but good intentions alone are not enough. It is necessary to take a comprehensive approach to the local agricultural sector by promoting contract farming between farmers and agricultural product distributors. Importers of vegetables should be required to purchase a percentage of their imported quantities from the local market. This could be achieved by granting import quotas for vegetable products that are contingent upon the purchase of local produce.

Q: What is the potential of the Kuwait tourism market?

A: The experiences of other Gulf countries in the tourism sector have been quite successful. Kuwait too can be successful in this regard as it has many elements necessary for a thriving tourism economy. With its beautiful islands and a strong local demand for entertainment options, the tourism market in Kuwait has huge potential. However, this potential can only be realized if appropriate opportunities and projects are available.

Q: What is the trend regarding increasing service fees, and how will it impact citizens?

A: While some service fees are quite low and may need to be reconsidered, any general increase in service fees must be accompanied by a significant improvement in the quality of service. Moreover, such increases should be contingent on economic growth that enables citizens to handle additional living costs.

Kuwait awards

Continued from Page 1

"The combat against these diseases is a priority item on the national development agenda and the action program of the Ministry of Health," the minister pointed out.

"The Ministry has launched several ambitious programs for preventing, early diagnosing and treating the chronic diseases with a view to alleviating the social and economic burdens caused by such diseases.

"These programs include large-scale awareness campaigns to educate the public on the risks of these diseases and how to prevent them," Dr. Al-Awadhi added.

He highlighted the importance of regional and international cooperation in addressing the health challenges, noting that Kuwait has been keen on building partnerships with several countries and health organizations to promote public health.

Launched in 2003 and administered by the World Health Organization, the State of Kuwait Prize for the Control of Cancer, Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region recognizes

individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in prevention, control or research in one or more of those disease groups.

Cooperatives set

Continued from Page 1

Speaking at the opening of the new central market of the Abu Fatira Cooperative Society, Al-Huwailah emphasized the government's commitment to addressing challenges in Kuwaitizing jobs within cooperative societies through specialized technical expertise.

Al-Huwailah assured that oversight of cooperative societies will continue, stating, "We monitor the cooperative movement, including prices, goods, and financial and administrative practices."

She emphasized that the Ministry will not hesitate to address any financial or administrative violations, regardless of their severity.

The Minister highlighted the importance of supporting those who operate within the legal framework, affirming that those who violate the law will be held accountable to protect the interests of shareholders.

Kuwait sounds

Continued from Page 1

crimes, to achieve greater stability and create environment for countries to continue towards progress and development.

In his speech, Al-Masad expressed the shared international commitment and ongoing efforts to combat all forms of crime while adhering to the principles of human rights.

He emphasized the necessity of international expertise exchange to improve justice systems, and establishing institutions characterized by integrity and subject to accountability and governance.

Kuwait issued specialized anti-corruption laws and arranged financial disclosure procedures, as well as laws against cybercrimes, Al-Masad added.

He mentioned that Kuwait issued the Cybercrime Law in 2015 at the national level and ratified the Arab Convention on Combating Cybercrime.

He also noted that Kuwait has concluded several agreements aimed at strengthening international judicial cooperation in criminal matters, including legal assistance, criminals expel, and transferring convicted individuals serving prison sentences.

Al-Masad stated that Kuwait established three operational entities at the national level: the Kuwait Financial Intelligence Unit (KwFIU), the National Committee for Anti-Money Laundering and Combating Terrorism Financing, and a national committee for implementing Security Council resolutions to combat the financing of terrorism.

Kuwait affirms

Continued from Page 1

Diplomatic Attache Shabib Al-Ajmi in the Second Committee meeting which was entitled "Macroeconomics".

Al-Ajmi said that the macroeconomics is one of the main pillars of sustainable development and global economic growth, and it directly affects determining the standard of living and quality of life of people in countries around the world.

Al-Ajmi pointed out that Kuwait has adopted, in its vision "New Kuwait", a comprehensive policies aimed at diversifying the economy and sources of income and reducing dependence on oil, as it focused on developing non-oil sectors such as renewable energy, education and technology.

He added that these policies support small and medium-sized companies for their essential role in driving economic development in the country.

With regard to the field of clean energy, the Diplomatic Attache stated that Kuwait has adopted the (Shaqaya) renewable energy project, which aims to generate 15 percent of the total electricity by 2030, in order to enhance efforts to transition towards a green and sustainable economy.

He also pointed out that Kuwait has achieved remarkable progress in the Arab macroeconomic indicators for the year 2023, which reflects its commitment to improving the business and investment environment and strengthening the country's economic structure, in addition to progress in several indicators, including the monetary and banking sector index.



The summit's key speakers.

Images Diagnostic Center's Neuro Imaging Summit highlights latest innovations in diagnostic imaging

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Images Diagnostic Center, the first outpatient imaging center of its kind in Kuwait, collaborated with Advanced Technology Company (ATC), the leading distributor of comprehensive health and environmental care solutions across the public and private sectors, to host the Neuro Imaging Summit at the Four Seasons Hotel in Kuwait on 13 October 2024.

The summit gathered leading local and international neuroimaging experts to discuss advancements in diagnostic imaging and their impact on neurological diseases including strokes, dementia, multiple sclerosis (MS), migraines, and epilepsy. It served as a platform for sharing knowledge on the latest neuroimaging techniques and boosting collaboration among medical professionals in Kuwait and the region. Key topics included innovations in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for early detection and management of neurological disorders, as well as the potential of imaging to improve patient outcomes.

Speakers offered key insights into various neurological disorders during the event's panel discussions. Professor Dr. Gökçen Çoban Çiftçi from Hacettepe University presented the latest developments in MRI for diagnosing multiple sclerosis and



Professor Dr. Gökçen Çoban Çiftçi



Professor Dr. Arnd Doerfler

dementia, while also exploring innovative imaging techniques that offer earlier and more precise diagnosis.

Professor Dr. Arnd Doerfler, Head of Neuroradiology at the University Hospital Erlangen, discussed the role of MRI contrast agents in enhancing image quality and diagnostic accuracy, while Dr. Muhammad Yaman Adi, a Coventry, UK-based Consultant in Interventional Neuroradiology, shared his expertise on stroke imaging pathways, focusing on comprehensive workflows for acute stroke management.

Additional sessions covered migraine and epilepsy imaging, as well as the various MRI techniques that are reshaping diagnosis and treatment of such conditions.

Dr. Yahya Slaiman, CEO of Im-

ages Diagnostic Center, highlighted the evolving role of neuroimaging in neurological treatment: "Rapid innovations in neuroimaging technology are transforming the way we diagnose and treat complex neurological diseases. From identifying early signs of dementia to improving stroke care, these technologies are integral to better patient outcomes."

Commenting on the event, Ghasan Mamlouk, CEO of ATC, said: "We are delighted to collaborate on this summit and bring together experts to exchange knowledge on the latest diagnostic tools in neuroimaging. This aligns with our vision of enhancing healthcare in Kuwait through the adoption of innovative technologies that improve diagnostic accuracy and patient care."



A section of the audience at the summit.

Mishref Coop launches grand Central Market Fest with over 50% discounts

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Chairman and Board of Directors of the Mishref Cooperative Society have inaugurated the Central Market Festival in the Mishref area, marking it as the largest event of its kind in the region, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The festival features discounts exceeding 50 percent on more than 1,500 popular items, catering to the needs of local shoppers and residents.

Chairman Moaz Al-Yahya announced the revival of intensive festivals previously hosted by the cooperative, with the October festival serving as a significant starting point.

This initiative includes offerings from the central market, the family supplies center, pharmacies in Mishref and Mubarak Al-Abdullah, as well as a perfumes and beauty center.

Al-Yahya emphasized the board's commitment to reinforcing the leadership of Mishref Cooperative Society in cooperative work, highlighted by the extensive marketing festivals and services offered to both shareholders and the wider community.

He noted the festival's carefully curated selection of goods, which includes high-quality global and local products tailored to meet the tastes and needs of families.

The festival commenced on October 12 and will run through the end of the month, allowing shoppers ample time to take advantage of the deals. Al-Yahya reiterated the board's dedication to continuing the achievements of the Mishref Cooperative Society and ensuring the satisfaction of its shareholders.

Suleiman Al-Zankawi, Chairman of the Purchasing and Marketing Committee, stated that October is traditionally a month of festivities for the society, designed to meet the desires of shareholders and local residents.

Following the Central Market Festival, the cooperative will launch a pharmacy festival on October 15 and a family supplies festival, providing a dedicated display area in the Mubarak Al-Abdullah suburb market for various products, including electrical appliances and home supplies.

The perfumes and beauty center will also feature a wide range of international brands to conclude the festival season.



The Chairman and members of the Board of Directors of Mishref Cooperative Society during the inauguration of the Central Market Festival in Mishref.

Al-Seyassah photo

INTERNATIONAL



Chinese Premier Li Qiang attends a ceremony with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to mark the completion of the New Gwadar International Airport project at the Prime Minister's Office in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Oct 14. (Xinhua)

Indian FM to participate in SCO meeting

Pakistan locks down capital for Asian security meet

ISLAMABAD, Oct 15. (Agencies): Shaken by multiple militant attacks, Pakistani authorities have locked down the capital in a major security move as senior officials from several nations arrive for an Asian security group meeting.

A three-day holiday started Monday in normally bustling Islamabad and the nearby garrison city of Rawalpindi, and Pakistan has deployed troops and blocked key roads, making it difficult even for ambulances to pass through. Some doctors asked police to remove barricades so that they could go to hospitals, but were instead asked to take longer routes.

The main event of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be held Wednesday, when leaders and officials discuss how to boost their security cooperation and economic ties. The group was founded in 2001 by China and Russia to counter Western alliances. Other members include Iran, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Militants in recent weeks have killed

dozens of people in multiple attacks in restive northwestern and southwestern Pakistan bordering Afghanistan. Security experts say militants have limited capacity to strike in Islamabad.

Pakistan often blames the outlawed Pakistani Taliban, who have sanctuaries in neighboring Afghanistan, for the violence. Afghanistan's Taliban government says it does not allow anyone to use its soil for attacks against any country.

Two Chinese engineers were killed on Oct 6 in a suicide bombing outside the airport in Karachi, the capital of southern Sindh province. The attack was claimed by a separatist group.

In the past, ordinary Pakistanis used to line up on both sides of the main roads to welcome any dignitaries visiting the country, but authorities said they had to take harsh security measures because of fears of militant attacks. Only state media will be allowed to cover the meetings.

Among those attending were China's Premier Li Qiang, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin,

India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref and the prime ministers of Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Mongolia.

India on Tuesday announced that its External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will represent India in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in Islamabad, set to be held Wednesday. A statement from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said that Jaishankar will represent India in the 23rd Meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government to be held on 16 October in Islamabad under the chairmanship of Pakistan.

Jaishankar's visit assumes importance as it is the first visit of an Indian official in almost a decade after bilateral ties strained. The meeting is held annually and focuses on the trade and economic agenda of the organization, and India pledged to participate actively in strengthening the mechanisms and initiatives of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

'Symbolic display of anger'

N.Korea blows up parts of inter-Korean roads

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 15, (AP): In a symbolic display of anger, North Korea on Tuesday blew up the northern section of unused roads that once linked it with the South, with the rivals exchanging threats days after the North claimed that its rival fired drones over its capital Pyongyang.

The roads' choreographed demolition underlines North Korea's growing anger against South Korea's conservative government. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to sever relations with South Korea and abandon the goal of achieving peaceful Korean unification.

Observers say it's unlikely Kim will launch a preemptive, large-scale attack on South Korea because of fear that an almost certain massive retaliation by the more superior forces of the United States and South Korea would threaten Pyongyang's survival.

In response to the explosions, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said its military fired within southern sections of the border as it bolstered its readiness and surveillance posture. The statement did not give details, but the

move could have been an attempt to avert cross-border fire by North Korea. It wasn't immediately known whether North Korea responded.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles affairs with North Korea, separately condemned the North's detonations as a "highly abnormal" and "regressive" measure that violates previous inter-Korean agreements.

Video provided by South Korea's military showed a cloud of white and gray smoke emerging from the explosion at a road near the western border town of Kaesong. North Korean trucks and excavators could be seen clearing out debris. Another video showed smoke emerging from a coastal road near the eastern border.

North Korea has a history of staging the choreographed destruction of facilities on its own soil as a political message.

In 2020, North Korea blew up an empty, South Korean-built liaison office building just north of the border in retaliation for South Korean civilian leafleting campaigns. In 2018, North

Korea demolished tunnels at its nuclear testing site at the start of nuclear diplomacy with the United States. In 2008, North Korea blew up a cooling tower at its main nuclear complex when earlier disarmament-for-aid negotiations with Washington and others were happening.

Destroying the roads, which were mainly built with South Korean money, would be in line with leader Kim Jong Un's order

in January to abandon the goal of peaceful Korean unification and formally designate South Korea as the country's "invariable principal enemy." That order surprised many outside North Korea watchers because it seemed to break from his predecessors' long-cherished dreams of peacefully unifying the Korean Peninsula on the North's terms.

Experts say Kim likely aims to diminish South Korea's voice in the regional nuclear standoff and seek direct dealings with the United States. Kim may also hope to diminish South Korean cultural influence and bolster his family's dynastic rule at home.



A TV screen reports North Korea has blown up parts of northern side of inter-Korean roads during a news program at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, on Oct 15. (AP)

Vance defends former US president

VP Harris and Trump hold rival events in battleground Pennsylvania

OAKS, Pa., Oct 15, (AP): US Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump took their fight for Pennsylvania to opposite ends of the state Monday, with Harris speaking in the northwest corner in Erie and Trump in the southeastern suburbs of Philadelphia.

Democrat Harris and Republican Trump have been making regular appearances in what is the country's largest battleground state - it was Harris' 10th visit to Pennsylvania this campaign season, and just last week Trump made stops in both Scranton and Reading.

Harris at an evening campaign rally homed in on Trump's comments over the weekend suggesting that the US military could potentially be used to deal with "the enemy from within."

She argued that the comments made in a Fox News "Sunday Morning Futures" interview are the latest example of threatening rhetoric from the former president that should concern Americans about what a potential second Trump term could look like.

"He considers anyone who doesn't support him or who will not bend to his will an enemy of our country," Harris said after playing a clip of the comment on the jumbo screen in the Erie arena. "This is among the reasons I believe so strongly that a second Trump term would be a huge risk for America and dangerous."

She added that Trump is increasingly displaying "unstable and unhinged" behavior.

Trump made the comment in response to a question about "outside agitators" potentially disrupting Election Day, pivoting to what he said is a foe closer to home.

"I think the bigger problem is the enemy from within," Trump said. He added: "We have some very bad people. We have some sick people, radical left lunatics. And I think they're the big - and it should be very easily handled by, if necessary, by National Guard, or if really necessary, by the military, because they can't let that happen."

Trump's running mate, Sen. JD Vance, defended Trump's comments



Republican presidential nominee former US president Donald Trump arrives at a campaign town hall at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center & Fairgrounds, Monday, Oct. 14, in Oaks, Pa. (AP)

during a campaign stop in Minneapolis earlier Monday.

"Is it a justifiable use of those assets if they're rioting and looting and burning cities down to the ground? Of course it is. Right?" Vance told report-

ers. "I think the question is, is it a justifiable use of assets, depends on what's actually happening."

Trump beat Hillary Clinton by more than 40,000 votes in Pennsylvania on his way to winning the presidency in

2016. But Joe Biden, a Scranton native, beat Trump by about 80,000 votes in the state four years ago.

Harris called Erie a "pivot" area for her campaign, a Democratic-majority city of about 94,000 people bordered by suburbs and rural areas with significant numbers of Republicans. Erie County is often cited as one of the state's reliable bellwether regions, where the electorate has a decidedly moderate voting record. Trump visited Erie on Sept 29.

Harris also talked up early voting during her rally. Mail-in voting is well underway in the state where some 7 million people are likely to cast votes in the presidential race.

"If you have already received your ballot in the mail, please do not wait," Harris urged her supporters. "Fill it out and return it today or tomorrow. But please get it out."

Beforehand, she stopped by a newly opened coffee shop and record store in Erie as she continues to press her case for Black men's support.

The visit to LegendErie Records and

Coffee House, a Black-owned small business, came after her campaign unveiled a plan earlier Monday to give Black men more economic opportunities and other chances. The campaign is trying to step up outreach to Black men, a key voting bloc that has some Democrats concerned about a possible lack of enthusiasm.

Trump spoke at a town hall Monday in suburban Oaks. Responding to a man who said his dream of homeownership feels out of reach, Trump said regulations make it too expensive to build in some places. He repeated his pledge to increase US oil drilling, which he said would drive down costs, though domestic production is already at record highs.

"We're going to drill baby drill, we're going to have so much energy and we're going to bring prices down," Trump said.

He also claimed that government data from crime statistics to jobless numbers is "fake," alleging the numbers are manipulated to help the incumbent Democrats.

India refuses to cooperate in probes

'Canada had no choice but to expel 6 Indian officials'

OTTAWA, Oct 15, (Xinhua): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Monday that Canada had no choice but to expel six Indian diplomats after the Indian government repeatedly refused to cooperate in investigations into "violent criminal activity" linked to its officials.

Trudeau said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and national security officials have identified six Indian government agents involved in "collecting, through questionable and illegal means, information on Canadian citizens," which was fed to criminal organizations that "would then take violent actions from extortion to murder."

"Given that the Government of India still refuses to cooperate, my colleague, the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Melanie Joly, had only one choice," he said. India denied the allegations and quickly retaliated, ordering six Canadian diplomats to leave the country within a week.

In an earlier press conference, Trudeau said India had made a "fundamental error" in believing it could support "criminal activity ... on Canadian soil," calling it "absolutely unacceptable."

Joly said the decision to expel the diplomats was made only after the RCMP gathered "ample, clear and concrete evidence which identified six individuals as persons of interest in the Nijjar case."

"We continue to ask that the Indian government support the ongoing investigation in the Nijjar case," she

added.

Canadian police arrested four Indian nationals related to last year's murder of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Canadian Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc said in a statement that the RCMP took action because the activities continued and posed a significant threat to public safety, particularly to members of the Sikh and broader South Asian community in Canada.

"For many Canadians, particularly Indo-Canadians, this news will come as a shock," LeBlanc said, adding that the activities are a grave violation of the sovereignty and the rule of law.

The RCMP also issued a statement that it obtained evidence highlighting several serious issues through the national task force and other investigative efforts. These are violent extremism affecting both countries, links connecting Indian government agents to homicides and violent acts, the use of organized crime to foster a perception of insecurity targeting the South Asian community in Canada, and interference in democratic processes, it said.

On June 18, 2023, Nijjar was assassinated outside the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara temple in Surrey, British Columbia. Since then, the Sikh community in Canada has been exerting pressure on the Canadian government for a probe.

Last September, as Trudeau made an explosive statement in the House of Commons that his government was pursuing "credible allegations" from Canadian intelligence against New Delhi for playing a role in the assassination of Nijjar, the relationship between the two countries hit a new low. Canada and India then engaged in tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions.



Britain's Prince Charles, (right), and his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, wave as they prepare to depart Perth, Australia, on Nov 15, 2015. (AP)

Charles set to visit Australia and Samoa on a trip spanning dozen time zones

LONDON, Oct 15, (AP): King Charles III, who is 75 and battling cancer, will travel halfway around the world to Samoa this month to take his seat as the head of the Commonwealth and highlight the existential threat that climate change poses for Pacific island nations.

He will also return to Australia, a country that played a key role in Charles' adolescence - giving him the chance to be an almost normal teenager during the six months he spent at Timbertop school outside Melbourne in the 1960s. The visit marks the first time since he assumed the throne that Charles will visit one of the 14 countries outside the United Kingdom where the monarch is head of state.

The tour, from Friday to Oct. 26, is a watershed moment for Charles, who is slowly returning to public duties after a hiatus following his cancer diagnosis in early February. The decision to undertake such a long journey is seen as a reflection of his workaholic tendencies and his wish to put his stamp on the monarchy after waiting some seven decades to become king.

"He doesn't just want to be a sort of caretaker king, waiting in a sense for his own death and the accession of William," said Anna Whitelock, a professor of the history of the monarchy at City University, London, referring to Prince William. "He wants to be active in the world."

Charles' globetrotting itinerary comes

as he works to shore up support for the monarchy at home and abroad two years after ascending the throne.

It's a challenge the king will face in Australia, a country with a strong anti-monarchy movement.

Charles and Queen Camilla arrive in Australia with a schedule that includes a visit to Parliament House in Canberra, the Australian War Memorial and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander memorial. The king will also meet with professors Georgina Long and Richard Scolyer to learn about their work on melanoma, one of Australia's most common cancers, while the queen's program will include joining a discussion on domestic violence.



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, left, walks past India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they take part in a wreath-laying ceremony at Raj Ghat, Mahatma Gandhi's cremation site, during the G20 Summit in New Delhi on Sept 10, 2023. (AP)

		Change	Closing pts	Change	Closing pts
SAUDI	- TASI	+41.96	12,001.63		
DUBAI	- DFMGI	+14.55	4,469.57		
JAPAN	- Nikkei 225	+304.75	39,910.55		
PHILIPPINES	- PSEI	+129.90	7,456.31		
EGYPT	- EGX 30	+311.18	30,584.24		
PAKISTAN	- KSE 100	+624.27	85,833.50		

Business

Kuwaiti banks' credit facilities for securities dip 34.8% in Aug

Annual rise in credit facilities for securities reaches 86.3%

By Mahmoud Shendi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: In August 2024, the value of credit facilities provided by Kuwaiti banks for purchasing securities decreased by 67.3 million dinars, marking a 34.8 percent decline to approximately 142.9 million dinars compared to 219.2 million dinars in July.

However, on an annual basis, these facilities increased by 66.2 million dinars, or 86.3 percent, from 76.7 million dinars in August 2023. Throughout 2023, the total bank facilities for investment in securities amounted to about 1.22 billion dinars.

At the end of August, the total balance of credit facilities provided to residents and non-residents also saw a monthly decline of about 30 million

dinars, or 0.8 percent, dropping to 3.596 billion dinars from 3.626 billion dinars in July 2023.

The year-on-year, the balance rose by 358 million dinars, or 11 percent, compared to 3.238 billion dinars in August 2023.

In terms of credit facilities extended to companies and institutions, there was a monthly decline of 27 million dinars, or 1.1 percent, resulting in a total of 2.397 billion dinars, while the facilities for individuals decreased by 4 million dinars, reaching 1.198 billion dinars from 1.202 billion dinars in July.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Stock Exchange experienced a slight decline, with its general index falling by 0.01 percent to reach 7,041 points.

A total of 365.8 million shares were traded through 18,621 transactions worth 60.5 million dinars (approximately \$184.5 million). The market value dropped by 6 million dinars to 41.632 billion dinars as a result of limited profit-taking on some stocks.

While the Main Market Index rose by 24.1 points (0.3 percent) to 6,346.30 points, the Premier Market Index fell by 7.7 points (0.10 percent) to 7,565 points; while the (Main 50) index also increased by 21.8 points (0.3 percent) to reach 6,317 points.

In notable trading activity, four agreed-upon deals were executed on shares of Al-Beyout Investment Group Holding Company, totaling 1.3 million shares valued at 640.53 thousand dinars.

Additionally, Jassim Transport & Stevedoring Company (JTC) announced the renewal of a credit facility contract with a local bank, involving non-cash facilities worth 2.70 million dinars and foreign currency exchange of \$300 thousand, aimed at financing its activities.

The JTC reported a profit of 3.26 million dinars for the first half of this year, reflecting a 12.6 percent increase from 2.89 million dinars during the same period last year.

Main market index jumps 1.46%

Boursa Kuwait general index rises 0.86% to 7,101.90 points

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (KUNA): Boursa Kuwait closed Tuesday with the general index climbing 60.88 points, or 0.86 percent, to reach 7,101.90 points. A total of 482.7 million shares were traded through 22,383 cash transactions, valued at KD 83.7 million (USD 255.2 million).

The main market index jumped 92.66 points, or 1.46 percent, to 6,438.96 points, with 334.6 million shares traded through 13,434 cash transactions, worth KD 39.6 million

(USD 120.7 million).

The premier market index gained 55.40 points, or 0.73 percent, to reach 7,620.52 points, with 148.12 million shares traded in 8,949 transactions, valued at KD 44 million (USD 134.2 million).

Meanwhile, the Main 50 index increased by 92.35 points, or 1.46 percent, reaching 6,410.09 points, with 279.13 million shares traded through 9,934 transactions, worth KD 33.2 million (USD 101.2 million).

Brent Crude, WTI declines

Kuwaiti oil price falls to \$77.80 pb

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15, (KUNA): The Kuwaiti oil price fell by 90 cents to USD 77.80 per barrel (pb) on Monday, compared to USD 78.70 pb the previous day, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced on Tuesday.

Globally, the price of Brent Crude dropped by USD 1.58 to USD 77.46 pb, and West Texas Intermediate crude also went down by USD 1.73 to USD 73.83 pb.

The Organization of the Petroleum

Exporting Countries (OPEC) said in its recent monthly report that demand for the OPEC+ alliance's oil was revised down 200,000 barrels per day to 43.2 million bpd, which is around 500,000 bpd higher than 2024 estimates.

In China, official data showed on Monday that the country's crude oil imports in the first nine months of this year dropped by roughly three percent to 10.99 million bpd, compared to last year.

Kuwait retains fifth place among OPEC

Kuwait's crude oil production increases to 2.43 million bpd

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Kuwait's crude oil production saw an increase of 13,000 barrels per day in September 2024, reaching 2.43 million barrels per day, up from 2.41 million barrels per day in August, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

This production level maintains Kuwait's position as the fifth-largest producer among OPEC members, according to the organization's monthly report released yesterday.

In the OPEC rankings, Kuwait is surpassed only by Saudi Arabia, which leads with 8.97 million barrels per day, followed by Iraq at 4.11 million barrels, Iran at 3.32 million barrels, and the United Arab Emirates at 2.96 million barrels.

While Kuwait experienced a production increase, other countries, including Iran, Venezuela, and Equatorial Guinea, also raised their output, although Algeria saw minimal changes, and production decreased in seven member countries, notably Libya, which faced a drop of 410,000 barrels.

Overall, OPEC's production decreased by approximately 604,000 barrels last month, totaling 26.04

million barrels per day compared to 26.65 million barrels in August.

In related developments, Kuwait announced an increase in the official selling price (OSP) for its Kuwait Export Crude (KEC) to Asia, raising it by \$1 a barrel above the average Oman/Dubai price for November, marking an 85-cent increase from the previous month.

The official selling price for Kuwait Super Light crude was also raised by \$1 a barrel, with a 75-cent increase from October. Previously, Kuwait had kept the OSP for KEC unchanged in September and reduced the OSP for Super Light crude by 10 cents.

OPEC has also revised its forecast for global oil demand growth in 2024, now projecting an increase of 1.93 million barrels per day, down from the previous estimate of 2.03 million barrels per day.

The forecast reflects uncertainties in demand expectations, particularly from China, and the global transition to less polluting fuels. Despite these revisions, OPEC's outlook remains among the most optimistic in the market.

Türkiye likely to hold up interest rate cut amid high Sept inflation

ANKARA, Oct 15, (Xinhua): Türkiye is likely to postpone monetary easing until early next year due to higher-than-expected inflation in September, experts have said, predicting a prolonged wait for an interest rate cut that will challenge an already slowing economy.

Türkiye's annual inflation slowed less than expected in September to 49.4 percent, official data showed early October, a figure which analysts said could disappoint central bank officials after a series of interest rate hikes.

"In month-on-month terms, inflation is still significant," Senol Babuscü, a professor of finance from Ankara's Baskent University, told Xinhua, noting that price growth for September climbed to 2.97 percent, and prices for housing rose almost 98 percent on an annual basis.

Despite that inflation would fall further over the coming months, the government's end-year forecast of 41.5 percent, revised up from 33 percent at the beginning of the year, is expected to be surpassed, he said.

Therefore, a rate cut predicted previously by most analysts and banking institutions for November or December is not forthcoming, the expert said. "Early 2025 seems a more appropriate time."

The central bank's next rate decision is scheduled for Thursday, and observers believe that monetary policy will remain unchanged.

According to a survey conducted by semi-official Anadolu news agency with 16 economists and published on Monday, all participants said the central bank will maintain its benchmark interest rate at 50 percent this Thursday.

The Turkish central bank has maintained a tight monetary policy throughout 2024, holding interest rates at 50 percent for six months now.

Inflation reached 75 percent in May this year but started to fall in June and it's been on a downward

path since amid improvement signs in the economy.

Furthermore, Ankara has received credit upgrades from global rating agencies this year, leading to an improved investment image that policymakers wanted to establish to attract foreign investments.

From the view of Mustafa Sonmez, an Istanbul-based independent economist, the slowdown in annual inflation is basically due to a base effect, "because it was very high in 2023."

"The economic growth in Türkiye has slowed to its weakest level since the COVID-19 outbreak as high interest rates take their toll on companies and individuals," Sonmez told Xinhua.

According to economists, high borrowing costs create a more challenging financial environment for companies, discouraging expansion and innovation, while squeezing profit margins and increasing financial risk.

While a crucial tool in the fight against inflation, high interest rates have also dented gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Türkiye.

Second-quarter growth turned out to be 2.5 percent on a year-on-year basis, official data revealed on Oct. 2.

The figure slowed from a 5.3 percent growth in the first quarter and fell below market expectations, according to the semi-official Anadolu Agency.

Economists believe that slowing down the overheated economy will be a key move in reducing inflation to the central bank's single-digit target over the next few years.

Hakan Kara, a former chief economist at the central bank, said on social media platform X that the coming months are expected to be challenging, as businesses face high interest rates and slower growth, in contrast to the recent years when easy-money policies fueled economic expansion.

30 representatives from ARABOSAI to participate

Audit Bureau to host 'Financial Analysis' training program

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Audit Bureau is set to conduct a training program titled "Financial Analysis" from October 20 to 24, 2024, with the participation of 30 representatives from member bodies of the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI), reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Khaled Al-Safi, a senior auditor in the Production and Manufacturing Control Department for oil entities and one of the program's trainers, emphasized that this initiative reflects the Audit Bureau's commitment to fostering knowledge exchange and expertise in auditing and control among Arab financial and accounting institutions.

The program aims to equip participants with essential skills and knowledge for conducting financial analysis. It will cover key topics such as the concept of financial analysis, its components, significance, various types, and the stakeholders involved.

Al-Safi further detailed that the curriculum will explore financial analysis ratios, including liquidity, profitability, financial leverage (debt), activity, market ratios, and cash flow analysis, alongside practical case studies. The training will be co-facilitated by Dr. Adnan Al-Hassan, Director of the Internal Audit Department.

Through the virtual reality experience at 'Watheefti Career Fair'

Warba Bank redefines recruitment process to appoint national talents for 1st time in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Warba Bank announced its participation in the third edition of Wathaefti Career Fair, which will be held at Arena 360 from October 17 to 19. This participation comes from the Bank's keenness to support young national talents and provide promising job opportunities for them in a stimulating and innovative work environment.

Through its participation in this Fair, Warba Bank aims to attract qualified individuals and search for fresh graduates from universities and colleges with high skills and enthusiasm to work in the banking sector, as well as to introduce graduates to available job opportunities and provide a comprehensive overview of the job opportunities available in the Bank, the available career paths, and the training programs offered by Warba Bank.

In this regard, Ma'ali Abdullah Al-Rasheed, Chief Human Resources and General Services Officer, noted: "We at Warba Bank believe in the importance of investing in young national talents



Ma'ali Abdullah Al-Rasheed



Barak Abdulmohsen Al-Nakkas

and developing them. Our participation in this fair comes within our keenness to build a distinguished work team capable of achieving our future vision. We also invite all qualified graduates to visit our stand at the fair and learn about the various employment opportunities, in addition to talking to the

Bank's representatives and asking their questions and inquiries about job opportunities, learning about the work culture at Warba Bank and discovering the values and principles on which the Bank is based."

In turn, Barak Abdulmohsen Al-Nakkas, Director Recruitment

and Rewards at Warba Bank, commented saying: "Warba Bank is always keen to keep pace with digital development in all fields, as the opportunity will be provided to job seekers by obtaining an immediate appointment during the fair, through the recruitment experience via the virtual world, in which the job applicant undergoes a virtual experience that allows him to easily apply for the job, as the job application process will be in a new and integrated vision that is in line with the Bank's strategy and aspirations for the future, and it also saves time for applicants."

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.

Enhancing customer engagement and operational resilience, says Al Hous

KFH to digitize policies and procedures with Gieom's Digital Blueprint software

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Kuwait Finance House (KFH), the world leading Islamic financial institution, has signed an agreement with Gieom to implement the Digital Blueprint software, driving the digitization of its policies and procedures. This partnership aligns with KFH's strategic goal of enhancing its digital capabilities, improving operational efficiency, and delivering superior customer experience.

Digital Blueprint will enable KFH to centralize and streamline its policy and procedure management, creating a structured, accessible system for employees and stakeholders. By simplifying document review and approval processes, this technology ensures a more efficient and dynamic system contributing to improved service delivery and customer satisfaction.

This move is a significant step in KFH's vision for digital transformation, offering employees better tools to engage with customers, resulting in a faster, more personalized service. Regular assessments of policies will enhance employee knowledge, further supporting



Abdullah Abu Al Hous



Hamad Al Fadhel



John Santhosh

KFH's ability to meet customer needs with agility and precision.

Abdullah Abu Al Hous, Group COO of KFH, said "This initiative ensures our teams are well-informed and equipped to serve customers in a rapidly evolving market. Standardization through digitization will enhance customer

engagement and operational resilience."

Meanwhile, Hamad Al Fadhel, Head of Operations Transformation and Excellence, pointed out that the digitization of KFH's policies and procedures will drive operational efficiency, improve governance, and empower employees

to provide better customer support.

John Santhosh, CEO of Gieom, stated, "KFH is setting a benchmark for the region, leveraging technology to enhance compliance, governance, and customer service. This collaboration will contribute to KFH's operational resilience and customer-centric approach."

KUWAIT ENGLISH SCHOOL

Outstanding results achieved in the IGCSE, GCSE, AS and A level examinations 2023 - 2024

It is with great pride that we announce the continued success of our Secondary School. This summer has brought outstanding results for the school for IGCSE, GCSE, AS and A Level. This is a great tribute to the hard work of the students and dedication of the teachers and the support and encouragement provided from home.

Congratulations to all the staff, parents and students of the secondary school on a successful year for Kuwait English School.

Chris Hansen
Head of School



تهانينا
CONGRATULATIONS

تعلن عن النتائج الرائعة التي تحققت في امتحانات IGCSE, GCSE, AS, A level يونيو 2024
إنه لمن دواعي فخرنا أن نعلن استمرار نجاح طلاب المرحلة الثانوية حيث حققوا هذا الصيف نتائج قياسية للمدرسة مع أفضل النتائج على الإطلاق في امتحانات IGCSE, GCSE, AS, A Level. وقد كانت هذه النتائج تقديراً للجهد الكبير الذي قام به الطلاب، إضافة إلى تفاني المعلمين والدعم والتشجيع المقدم من أولياء الأمور.
تهانينا لجميع موظفي وطلاب المرحلة الثانوية لتلك النتائج خلال العام الناجح لمدرسة الكويت الإنجليزية 2023/2024.

كريس هانسن
مدير المدرسة

YEAR 13 A2 AND AS RESULTS JUNE 2024

 A2 Biology A2 Chemistry A2 Economics A2 Mathematics	 A2 Biology A2 Chemistry A2 Physics A2 Mathematics	 A2 Biology A2 Chemistry A2 Physics A2 Mathematics	 A2 Chemistry A2 Physics A2 Mathematics	 A2 Biology A2 Chemistry A2 Mathematics
 A2 Economics A2 History	 A2 Geography	 A2 Physics A2 Further Mathematics	 A2 Business Studies A2 Mathematics	 A2 Chemistry A2 Mathematics A2 Further Mathematics

YEAR 12 AS AND A2 RESULTS JUNE 2024

 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Physics AS Mathematics	 AS Accounting AS Business Studies AS Economics AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Geography AS Mathematics	 AS English Literature AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Business Studies AS Chemistry AS Physics AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Economics AS Chemistry AS Mathematics
 AS Computer Science AS Physics AS Mathematics	 AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics
 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Chemistry AS Physics AS Mathematics	 AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Economics AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics
 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Business Studies AS Geography	 AS Physics AS Mathematics	 AS Computer Science AS Physics AS Mathematics	 AS Accounting AS Business Studies AS Geography	 AS Biology AS Music	 AS Biology	 AS French AS Biology AS Physics AS Mathematics
 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Physics AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Physics A2 Mathematics	 AS History	 AS Arabic AS Biology	 AS Chemistry AS Mathematics	 AS Biology AS Chemistry	 AS Chemistry AS Mathematics
 AS Biology AS Chemistry AS French A2 Mathematics	 AS Mathematics	 AS Mathematics	 AS English Literature	 AS Biology AS Chemistry			

YEAR 11 IGCSE/GCSE AND AS RESULTS JUNE 2024

 Biology Chemistry Drama English 1st Language English Literature French History AS Mathematics Physics	 Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language English Literature French Geography AS Mathematics Physics	 Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry Computer Science English 1st Language English Literature Mathematics Physics French	 Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry Computer Science English 1st Language Mathematics Physics	 Biology Computer Science Economics English 1st Language English Literature History AS Mathematics Physics	 Business Studies Computer Science Economics English 1st Language English Literature Geography AS Mathematics Physics Physical Education	 Business Studies Computer Science Economics English 1st Language English Literature History AS Mathematics Physics	 Biology Chemistry Economics English 1st Language English Literature French Geography History AS Mathematics Physics
 Accounting Biology Chemistry Computer Science Economics English 1st Language AS Mathematics Physics	 Biology Business Studies Chemistry Computer Science Economics English 1st Language AS Mathematics Physics	 Biology Business Studies Chemistry Computer Science Economics English 1st Language English Literature AS Mathematics Physics	 Accounting Biology Business Studies Chemistry Computer Science English 1st Language Mathematics Physics	 Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language English Literature French Mathematics Physics	 Business Studies Computer Science Economics English 1st Language French Geography Mathematics Physics	 Biology Business Studies Drama English 1st Language English Literature French History Mathematics	 Biology Chemistry English 1st Language French AS Mathematics Physics
 Biology Chemistry English 1st Language English Literature Physics Mathematics Geography	 Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language Mathematics Physics French	 Biology Chemistry English 1st Language Geography History AS Mathematics Physics	 Biology Chemistry Computer Science English 1st Language History Mathematics Physics	 Arabic Business Studies Chemistry Design and Technology English 1st Language French Mathematics Physics	 Arabic Business Studies Chemistry English 2nd Language Computer Science ICT AS Mathematics Physics	 AS Biology Business Studies AS Chemistry Computer Science English 1st Language ICT AS Mathematics	 Art and Design AS Biology AS Chemistry Business Studies English 2nd Language Geography AS Mathematics AS Physics
 Biology Business Studies Chemistry Computer Science English 1st Language History Mathematics Physics	 Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language Mathematics Physics	 Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language Mathematics Physics	 Arabic Biology Chemistry English 1st Language Mathematics Physics	 Biology Chemistry Computer Science English 1st Language French Mathematics Physics	 Biology Chemistry Economics English 1st Language History Mathematics Physics	 Arabic Biology Business Studies Chemistry Drama English 1st Language Mathematics Physical Education	 Business Studies Drama Economics English 1st Language English Literature Geography
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 Biology Business Studies Chemistry English 1st Language	 Biology Chemistry Physics Mathematics	 Design and Technology English 1st Language Spanish Mathematics	 Biology English 1st Language Geography	 Arabic Biology English 2nd Language Mathematics	 Business Studies English 1st Language Geography	 Arabic English 2nd Language History	 Business Studies Mathematics



KES



SECONDARY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Latest GB Talks session held

Gulf Bank highlights innovative cash withdrawal solutions

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: In the latest session of the GB Talks series, Mr. Yahya Qassem, Assistant Manager of the ATM Channel at Gulf Bank, highlighted a variety of exceptional services available to customers through the bank's ATM and Interactive Teller Machines (ITM).

During his presentation, Mr. Qassem explained how customers can conveniently withdraw cash from ATMs using their mobile phones. By accessing the Gulf Bank mobile app and selecting the cardless withdrawal option, customers can enter the desired amount and phone number to generate a code, which can then be used to withdraw cash directly from an ATM. He also noted that customers can withdraw cash using their civil ID if they happen to forget their card.

He noted that Gulf Bank's ATMs come equipped with NFC technology, enabling customers to complete transactions without inserting their card. By simply tapping their card near the designated area on the ATM, customers can withdraw or deposit cash without inserting the card. This feature helps reduce potential issues, such as forgetting their card in the machine.

Mr. Qassem highlighted the success of Gulf Bank's digital transformation, which includes upgrading ATMs and ITMs across Kuwait. These advancements have made banking with Gulf Bank a seamless and convenient experience, accessible to everyone around the clock.



Yahya Qassem highlights a variety of exceptional services available to customers.

ence, accessible to everyone around the clock.

He noted that Gulf Bank offers ATMs at all its branches, providing 24/7 access to cash withdrawals and deposits. Additionally, the bank's ITMs deliver a wide range of services that have significantly reduced transaction times, further enhancing the customer experience.

Gulf Bank remains dedicated to offering 24-hour banking services through various channels, including its website, Gulf Bank mobile app, call center, social media, ATMs, and a network of branches throughout Kuwait.

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

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

Company supported 'Girls Powered' workshop, part of the National Robotics Competition

Kuwait University, Zain empower girls with digital skills



Fostering students' passion for technology.



Empowering girls to acquire robotics and programming skills.

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Zain supported the 'Girls Powered' workshop, one of the programs under the Kuwait National Robotics Competition (KNRC), organized by the Computer Science Department of the College of Science at Kuwait University, the Youth Public Authority, and the Ministry of Education, in partnership with Zain. The workshop aimed to invest in the digital skills and capabilities of girls and young women, focusing on empowering their technical expertise in various fields.

This initiative aligns with the shared vision of the Computer Science Department and Zain to support creativity and enhance technical skills within the community, particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), specialties that are increasingly demanded by modern job markets. The workshop had a specific emphasis on empowering girls and young women to inspire them to enter and excel in these fields.

The workshop, organized in collaboration with the Women's Cultural and Social Society, saw the participation of around 90 girls aged 8 to 14 years. During the event, the girls were empowered to acquire new skills in robotics and programming while enhancing their abilities in utilizing advanced tools and techniques associated with these fields through interactive and practical methods.

A range of hands-on activities was

also held, fostering a spirit of collaboration and teamwork among the young participants. This contributed

to boosting the girls' self-confidence and enhancing their problem-solving and creative thinking skills. The work-



Promoting a spirit of collaboration and teamwork.

shops were led and supervised by faculty members from the Computer Science Department.

This year, Zain returns as a strategic partner for the new season of the Kuwait National Robotics Competition in collaboration with the Computer Science Department, the Youth Public Authority, and the Ministry of Education. The company has seen remarkable success following its support of the previous edition of this initiative after months of hard work and creativity, which culminated in Kuwait University's team winning the Build Award at the VEX Robotics World Championship held in the United States.

The competition contributes to fostering Kuwaiti students' passion for technology and enhancing their creative thinking while helping them chart their future career paths and preparing them to enter STEM fields. This effort is the result of direct and effective collaboration between public and private sector institutions to prepare the next generation of technology leaders in Kuwait.

This partnership comes as part of Innovation Nation, the initiative under which all of Zain's innovation and entrepreneurship programs fall, with a focus on STEM areas. The initiative mainly targets young people and entrepreneurs and aims to foster a digitally capable generation.

Trump's plans would worsen US inflation

Economic policies criticised

WASHINGTON, Oct 15, (AP): With characteristic bravado, Donald Trump has vowed that if voters return him to the White House, "inflation will vanish completely."

It's a message tailored for Americans who are still exasperated by the jump in consumer prices that began 3 1/2 years ago.

Yet most mainstream economists say Trump's policy proposals wouldn't vanquish inflation. They'd make it worse. They warn that his plans to impose huge tariffs on imported goods, deport millions of migrant workers and demand a voice in the Federal Reserve's interest rate policies would likely send prices surging.

Sixteen Nobel Prize-winning economists signed a letter in June expressing fear that Trump's proposals would "reignite" inflation, which has plummeted since peaking at 9.1% in 2022 and is nearly back to the Fed's 2% target.

Last month, the Peterson Institute for International Economics predicted that Trump's policies would drive consumer prices sharply higher two years into his second term. Peterson's analysis concluded that inflation, which would otherwise register 1.9% in 2026, would instead jump to between 6% and 9.3% if Trump's economic proposals were adopted.

Many economists aren't thrilled with Vice President Kamala Harris' economic agenda, either. They dismiss, for example, her proposal to combat price gouging as an ineffective tool against high grocery prices. But they don't regard her policies as particularly inflationary.

Moody's Analytics has estimated that Harris' policies would leave the inflation outlook virtually unchanged, even if she enjoyed a Democratic majority in both chambers of Congress. An unfettered Trump, by contrast, would leave prices higher by 1.1 percentage points in 2025 and 0.8 percentage points in 2026.

Taxes on imports - tariffs - are Trump's go-to economic policy. He argues that tariffs protect American factory jobs from foreign competition and deliver a host of other benefits.

While in office, Trump started a trade war with China, imposing high tariffs on most Chinese goods. He also raised import taxes on foreign steel and aluminum, washing machines and solar panels. He has grander plans for a second term: Trump wants to impose a 60% tariff on all Chinese goods and a "universal" tariff of 10% or 20% on everything else that enters the United States.

Trump insists that the cost of taxing imported goods is absorbed by the foreign countries. The truth is that U.S. importers pay the tariff - and then typically pass along that cost to consumers in the form of higher prices. Americans themselves end up bearing the cost.

Kimberly Clausing and Mary Love-ly of the Peterson Institute have calcu-

lated that Trump's proposed 60% tax on Chinese imports and his high-end 20% tariff on everything else would, in combination, impose an after-tax loss on a typical American household of \$2,600 a year.

The Trump campaign notes that U.S. inflation remained low even as Trump aggressively imposed tariffs as president.

But Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said that the magnitude of Trump's current tariff proposals has vastly changed the calculations. "The Trump tariffs in 2018-19 didn't have as large an impact as the tariffs were only just over \$300 billion in mostly Chinese imports," he said. "The former president is now talking about tariffs on over \$3 trillion in imported goods."

And the inflationary backdrop was different during Trump's first term when the Fed worried that inflation was too low, not too high.

Trump, who has invoked incendiary rhetoric about immigrants, has promised the "largest deportation operation" in U.S. history.

Many economists see the increased immigration over the past couple years helped tame inflation while avoiding a recession.

The surge in foreign-born workers has made it easier for fill vacancies. That helps cool inflation by easing the pressure on employers to sharply raise pay and to pass on their higher labor costs by increasing prices.

Net immigration - arrivals minus departures - reached 3.3 million in 2023, more than triple what the government had expected. Employers needed the new arrivals. As the economy roared back from pandemic lockdowns, companies struggled to hire enough workers to keep up with customer orders.

Immigrants filled the gap. Over the past four years, the number of people in the United States who either have a job or are looking for one rose by nearly 8.5 million. Roughly 72% of them were foreign born.

Wendy Edelberg and Tara Watson of the Brookings Institution found that by raising the supply of workers, the influx of immigrants allowed the United States to generate jobs without overheating the economy.

In the past, economists estimated that America's employers could add no more than 100,000 jobs a month without igniting inflation. But when Edelberg and Watson factored in the immigration surge, they found that monthly job growth could reach 160,000 to 200,000 without exerting upward pressure on prices.

Trump's mass deportations, if carried out, would change everything. The Peterson Institute calculates that the U.S. inflation rate would be 3.5 percentage points higher in 2026 if Trump managed to deport all 8.3 million undocumented immigrant workers thought to be working in the United States.

Trump alarmed many economists in August by saying he would seek to have "a say" in the Fed's interest rate decisions.

'ENBAT gives participants emotional & intellectual grounding to succeed'

KIPCO launches ENBAT 2 with a cohort of 30 participants

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - has launched the second cohort of 'ENBAT' with the participation of 30 fresh university graduates. The program provides participants with a space that can foster skills that they were not exposed to during their education, and that employers feel are key competencies that new hires need to have.

ENBAT, first launched in January of this year, is being hosted by the American University of Kuwait. It provides an inclusive learning space for young graduates to share and collaborate as they practice skills which give them the foundation to build resilience and adaptability, as well as originality in problem-solving and enhanced communication for succeeding in work environments.

More than 150 young people aged 21 to 27 applied for the second round of ENBAT with degrees in engineering, computer sciences, business, literature and accounting, among others. Of the applicants, 67% were women.

The eight-week program is designed in collaboration with en.v, which has worked on a number of successful programs, all of which focus on bringing together people representing different parts of the community and facilitating the

process of building bridges, collaboration and connections.

On this occasion, Ms Eman Al Awadhi, Group Senior Vice President - Corporate Communications and Investor Relations at KIPCO, said:

"The large number of applicants for the second round of ENBAT reflects the successful outcome of the program and the positive impact it has had on our participants. KIPCO is committed to actively contribute to the development of Kuwait's next generation of leaders, and this annual program allows us to equip our young participants with the skills they need to succeed in whatever career path they will pursue. The strength of ENBAT is developing participants as a whole, so that they have both the emotional and intellectual grounding to adapt in any workplace, whether in the public or private sector."

ENBAT is being facilitated by eight trainers, all of whom have private sector experience and have been trained by en.v to help the participants build the core skills needed to become effective leaders and collaborators. The program includes four modules: Self, Systems, and Critical Thinking; Cross Cultural Communication; Design Thinking; and Work Culture & Applying Skills.



Participants pose for a group photo.

Confirming its commitment to the health and safety of its employees

Burgan Bank raises awareness about breast cancer in collaboration with Kuwait Hospital

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: As part of the global Pink October Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Burgan Bank renewed its partnership with Kuwait Hospital to publish a series of educational videos across its social media platforms throughout the entire month, as well as deliver a breast cancer awareness workshop for its employees at its headquarters. The workshop, delivered by Dr. Zahraa Ismail, General Surgery Consultant, and Dr. Maryam Al-Shatti, Senior Specialist Radiologist at Kuwait Hospital, was attended by a large number of Burgan employees, covering a broad spectrum of breast cancer detection and prevention tips and engaging the attendees in a dynamic Q&A session. The educational workshop comes as part of Burgan Bank's comprehensive social responsibility program, its committed adherence to the highest Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards, and its uncompromising care for the mental, physical, and emotional health of all Burgan staff.

"As part of our ongoing efforts to equip our employees with crucial information that enhances their quality of life, we are delighted to collaborate with Kuwait Hospital, one of the top healthcare providers in Kuwait, once again to guarantee the health and wellness of our staff and their families," said Mrs. Kholoud Al-Feeli, Deputy General Manager – Corporate Marketing and Communication at Burgan Bank, commenting on the breast cancer educational workshop. "We believe that educating our employees and raising their awareness about breast cancer is the first and most important line of defense against the risks of this malicious disease. We are honored to be among numerous conscious institutions worldwide participating



Burgan Bank's breast cancer awareness.

in the global Pink October awareness efforts, which reflect positively on the lives of individuals and communities."

On her part, Dr. Zahraa Ismail, General Surgery Consultant at Kuwait Hospital, said: "As medical staff, we spare no effort to provide breast cancer patients with the best care and treatment possible to minimize their physical and emotional pain, and an integral part of these efforts is spreading awareness about the proven methods for detecting and preventing breast cancer. The more commonplace such knowledge is across our

society, the higher the chances that breast cancer patients will be able to receive the right care at an early stage or even avoid the disease altogether. We are very proud to collaborate with Burgan Bank for the second year on our shared mission to raise awareness about breast cancer and contribute to the health and wellness of our community."

To guarantee the efficiency of the educational workshop, Dr. Maryam Al-Shatti, Senior Specialist Radiologist at Kuwait Hospital, delved into the contributing factors that lead to breast cancer and the different

means of protection and prevention. She also introduced the attendees to the different breast cancer symptoms they should watch out for and how to administer a correct self-check.

It serves to note that as part of its robust and dynamic social responsibility program, Burgan Bank continues to spread awareness about the different lifestyle choices that contribute to leading a healthier, more fulfilling life. In addition to breast cancer awareness, the Bank has also participated in raising awareness about diabetes, mental health, and the importance of blood donation.

Registration is open until 2 December 2024

NBK sponsors 'TAMAKAN' training program for fresh Kuwaiti university graduates for 6th consecutive year

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) sponsors "TAMAKAN" training program for fresh Kuwaiti graduates, as part of the strategic partnership with "Creative Confidence" for the sixth consecutive year.

The online registration for TAMAKAN" program continues through www.creative-confidence.co/tamakan/ until 2 December 2024.

The program is an innovative training experience especially tailored for fresh Kuwaiti university graduates. It aims to support young Kuwaiti graduates to develop their skills, expand their capabilities and grow their knowledge in a way that will make them compelling candidates for employment.

NBK will be hosting the program and providing a real business challenge that participants will work on into the final stages of the training



NBK sponsors 'TAMAKAN' training program.

sessions. The program will start on 11 December till 13 February 2025. TAMAKAN is a full-time commitment for 10 weeks, 5 days a week, from 8:00am-4:00pm.

Executive Manager, Head of Public Relations and Event Management at NBK, Talal Al Turki, said, "NBK's sponsorship and participation in the program comes as a part of its strategic

partnership with Creative Confidence. NBK is dedicated towards supporting talented young graduates and empowering Kuwaitis."

"TAMAKAN" is one of these initiatives that help invest in promising youth talents. NBK is looking forward to the outcome of the program and to seeing the participants moving into key leadership roles in their near future," he added.

"NBK believes that investing in human resources is investing in our future. TAMAKAN program goes along with NBK's initiatives to invest in Kuwaiti youth and support their aspirations," Al Turki noted.

In her turn, the Founder and Managing Director of Creative Confidence, Rana Al Resheed expressed her sincere thanks to NBK for their continuous support to TAMAKAN. "We are proud of this strategic sponsorship that results in supporting and investing in the Kuwaiti youths"

She added that graduates will gain real, relevant work experience and develop their skills to help them start their careers. They will get exposed to the latest methods and tools that will help them in designing solutions and shaping ideas in any field.

Best account with highest monthly returns

KIB announces winners of Al Dirwaza account's draw

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced the winners of the weekly draw held under the Al Dirwaza account's 2024 campaign, which is distinguished by the highest number of winners throughout the year. The second weekly draw, based on customers' September deposits, recently took place in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, as well as representatives from the Bank.

The KD 1,000 prize was awarded to Najwa Abduallah Mohammad Marafie, Saad Ali Hussain Hussain, Bjjad Nafea Khaled Almutairi, Laila Mohammad Abdullah Aldamkhi, and Adel Ahmad Hussain Dashti, whilst the KD 500 prize was awarded to Jouri Adnan Hussain Alenezi, Ahmad Mohammad Jabran Manea, Zeyad Hussain Abdulaziz Sheheda, Dabbous Fares Ghanim Aldabbous, Ali Sayed Ahmed Ali, Ayman Mostafa Sayed Elshaghir, and Nafiah Mohsen Abdullah Alazmi.

It serves to note that Al Dirwaza account is a savings account for individual customers, based on the Wakala investment principle, launched by KIB as one of its banking products for individuals. The account is currently the best of its kind in the sector, with annual expected profits of up to 2% disbursed on a monthly basis, where the customer gets an expected profit of 2% for the first 3 months from the account opening date and up to 1% expected rate onward. The expected profits are automatically deposited into the customer's account within the first day of the beginning of each month.

Al Dirwaza account holders are eligible to enter the weekly, monthly and annual draws on the condition of maintaining at least KD 100 in their account. For the weekly and monthly draws, each KD 1 that has completed a full month's cycle in the account will count for one chance, and chances are calculated based on the lowest monthly balance preceding the draw. As for the mega draw, chances are calculated for each KD 1 that completes a two-month cycle in the account – based on the lowest two monthly balances prior to the draw.

Al Dirwaza account is also in

compliance with the provisions of Islamic Sharia and approved by the KIB's Sharia Supervisory Board. Furthermore, the account comes with a wide range of benefits, including the ease of opening the account, which does not require a salary transfer, and the customer's ability to open it remotely without visiting a branch through KIB Online on the Bank's website or KIB Mobile application on smartphones.

Additionally, Al Dirwaza account automatically grants customers instant issuance of an ATM card, with a KD 2,000 ATM daily withdrawal limit, as well as the ability to issue credit cards against the cash collateral in the account. To open the account and participate in its draws, a minimum of KD 100 is required and can only be withdrawn upon account closure.

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.



KIB's Al Dirwaza account.

Continues to strengthen its presence across North America

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils its flagship showroom in Los Angeles

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 360 showrooms across 13 countries, has launched its flagship showroom in the USA at Los Angeles. Marking a major milestone in the brand's growth journey in North America, the new showroom will be Malabar Gold & Diamonds' 5th and largest showroom in the USA.

The showroom was inaugurated by the honorable Congresswoman for California, Michelle Steel. Mr. M.P. Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group, Mr. Abdul Salam K.P., Vice chairman of Malabar Group, Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Mr. Joseph Eapen, Regional Head of North America, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, other senior directors, management team members from Malabar Gold & Diamonds, customers, media and well-wishers were also present for the occasion.

Commenting on the occasion, Malabar Group Chairman M.P. Ahammed said: "Malabar Gold & Diamonds has been making great headway in the international jewellery sector and North American continues to be a key market driving this growth. With the launch of our 5th and largest showroom in the USA at Los Angeles, we are committed to build on our foundation of providing an exceptional jewellery shopping experience to all jewellery lovers in the region in a 100% responsible and sustainable manner. The launch of our LA showroom was the key highlight in our ambitious plan of opening 20 showrooms globally in the month of October 2024. As we expand our horizon and embark on our vision of becoming the world's no 1 jewellery retailer with renewed focus and energy, I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to all our customers, team members, shareholders and other stakeholders for their contributions in making this occasion truly significant."

Located in the city of Artesia, and boasting over 6,500 sq.ft of jewellery shopping area, the showroom houses over 20,000 jewellery designs from 20 countries across 25 exclusive brands and collection in gold, diamond & precious gem jewellery. An extensive collection of bridal jewellery, alongside a wide range of



Malabar Gold & Diamonds inaugurates Los Angeles showroom.

options for occasional wear, daily wear & office wear will also be available. The new showroom will also feature a customized jewellery design facility, providing jewellery lovers with the opportunity to bring their own designs to life with expert assistance of artisans from Malabar Gold & Diamonds. As part of the inaugural offers, customers will get assured gold coins on the purchase of diamond and precious gem jewellery. The limited period offers are valid till the 3rd November 2024.

"California presented itself as the perfect location for our expansion in the USA for several compelling reasons. As a global tech and fashion hub, California provides a unique opportunity to cater to a diverse audience, particularly those from the Indian sub-continent, who have a profound appreciation for the artistry and craftsmanship of Indian jewellery while also embracing contemporary styles and innovation. We opened our first U.S. showroom in 2018, and our growth since then has been driven by our steadfast commitment to offering exquisite jewellery with unparalleled service. Building

on the success of our showrooms in New Jersey, Dallas, Chicago, and Naperville, we are confident that our Los Angeles venture will be equally well-received", commented Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Malabar Gold & Diamonds has announced that it will be opening its 6th showroom in the USA in Atlanta, Georgia. The brand has an aggressive expansion strategy in North America which will include new showrooms in cities like San Francisco, Seattle, Austin, Tampa, Virginia, Detroit, Houston, Charlotte, Phoenix, New York, and San Diego. In Canada, the brand will extend its footprint into British Columbia and Alberta.

"I am extremely thrilled about the launch of our flagship showroom in LA, marking our 5th venture in the USA. At Malabar Gold & Diamonds we have always held our ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) commitments in the highest regards. As we aim to become a leading player in the global jewellery market, we are committed to growing sustainably and responsibly. We ensure that every piece of jewellery in our

showrooms is not only crafted to the highest standards of purity but also responsibly mined, safeguarding the rights of humans, animals and their habitats, and this is our biggest promise to our customers. Our dedication to these values has been recognized globally, most notably with the Responsible Jewellery House Award at the India Gold Conference (IGC), a testament to our ongoing efforts to uphold transparency and integrity", commented Mr. Abdul Salam K.P., Vice Chairman of Malabar Group.

The ambitious global expansion plan that Malabar Gold & Diamonds has charted to open 20 new showrooms in the month of October to is in full swing, with 7 showrooms already launched and 13 showrooms to be launched in the coming weeks across the USA, UAE, Qatar, KSA & India.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is renowned globally for offering an unparalleled jewellery buying experience with convenience and customer-friendly policies along with the 'Malabar Promise' of incomparable quality and service assurance. Apart from this, the Malabar Promise also includes transparent pricing, assured lifetime maintenance from any of the showrooms across 13 countries, guaranteed buyback, tested and certified diamonds, 100% value on diamond and gold jewellery exchange, 916 hallmarked jewellery, responsible sourcing, fair price policy, and fair labour practices.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) initiatives have been a key component of Malabar Group's operations throughout the years, with a focus on Health, Housing, Hunger Eradication, Women empowerment, Education and Environment. The group ensures that all stakeholders continue to benefit from the growth of the business and contributes 5% of its profit to CSR/ESG initiatives in the same country of operation. As part of the Malabar National Scholarship Programme (Launched in 2007), the group has announced that it will be awarding 21,000 scholarships for female students worth USD 1.9 Million. The Group has also opened 247 micro learning centers in India with the aim of promoting basic education amongst the impoverished.



This undated image provided by Light Chaser Animation, a leading Chinese animation production team, shows a poster of the animated film 'White Snake: Afloat'. (Xinhua)

Film

'Just for fans'

Levy's new book is a mix of stories

NEW YORK, Oct 15, (AP): **Deborah Levy** is a celebrated novelist, memoirist and playwright whose latest book — "The Position of Spoons" — is a petite collection of essays spanning the last few decades of her career. Though Levy calls the entries in her book "intimacies," at times that feels like the wrong word, given that she spends more pages writing about the influence of other artists than divulging her own inner world. Some of the entries, lasting just two or three pages, feel incomplete.



Levy

The mood here is never too serious, with musings on "Blade Runner" and a retelling of "Alice in Wonderland" that has the White Rabbit bounding through southeast London. There's not one, but two prose poems structured in an "A to Z" style. The collection brings together many of Levy's pieces that were previously published elsewhere. Several were written as forwards or introductions to works by other authors, perhaps explaining why their audience never seems to be the reader at hand. The collection might be best for the Levy diehards who don't want to miss any of her writing that happens between longer works. And the writing here is not the problem — Levy is engaging on subjects from lemons to Sigmund Freud. Her most moving work is in her personal stories, from the titular essay to her recollection, just three pages long, of meeting the eyes of a colleague whose wife had recently died. It's mainly the purpose of the book that feels askew or absent here. We're left waiting for Levy to really dig in.

Film captivates global audiences with cultural richness

'White Snake' explores Chinese romance

BEIJING, Oct 15, (Xinhua): Light Chaser Animation, a leading Chinese animation production team, has just announced that it would extend the theatrical run of its annual feature "White Snake: Afloat" from Oct. 10 to Nov. 10. The animation, released on the traditional Qixi Festival, known as Chinese Valentine's Day, on Aug. 10 this year, tells a well-known Chinese love story. Its current box office is 424 million yuan (60 million US dollars). In the animated film, Bai Suzhen, or Blanca, is a thousand-year-old white snake spirit who transformed into a beautiful young woman to repay a life-saving debt. Along with her sister Verta, the green snake, she finds and marries Xu Xian, a gentle doctor and the reincarnation of her benefactor, in Hangzhou during the Song Dynasty (960-1279). However, their brief happiness ended with the intervention of a monk named Fahai, who imprisoned the White Snake under a pagoda by the West Lake. In despair, Xu became a monk, and their son would later grow up to become a top scholar to free his mother. Founded in 2013, Light Chaser Animation recognized the necessity of embracing traditional Chinese cultural IPs to establish and distinguish their brand. In 2016, they decided to start with the well-known legend of the White Snake. However, they told a completely new story, setting the events of the White Snake legend five hundred years earlier and recounting the poignant love story between Bai Suzhen and Xu Xian's previous incarnation, A Xuan. This work premiered in January 2019. In July 2021, the second installment of the "White Snake" series chronicled Verta, who, overcoming numerous challenges, ventured to the modern West Lake in search of her sister. The 2024 release of "White Snake: Afloat" marks the culmination of this eight-year journey. Unlike the previous two

animations, which narrated entirely new stories, this one offers a fresh perspective on the centuries-old legend to captivate the modern audience. In "White Snake: Afloat," Hangzhou is depicted as bustling and vibrant. Details abound in the animation. Co-director Li Jiakai said the production team had purchased replicas of Song painting scrolls to study and integrate the most lifelike elements. Even the Song Dynasty dishes on the dining table were meticulously researched. Li noted that the team consulted numerous Song records and even remade the dishes from scratch. However, elements from the refined traditional culture extend far beyond these examples. In an effort to save Xu, Blanca travels to the Kunlun Mountains to gather immortal herbs. The magic incense burner used to send her off is modeled after the burner unearthed from the tomb of a Han Dynasty (202 B.C. to 220 A.D.) prince, evoking a classical Oriental fantasy.

Symbolize

The narrative flow of the work begins and ends with the Lantern Festival, weaving through traditional festivals such as the Qingming Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival, the Mid-Autumn Festival and the Double Ninth Festival. "The cycle of festivals symbolizes the passage of time, reflecting the unique Chinese perception of time. Such settings also allow the audience to feel the festive atmosphere of the Song Dynasty," co-director Chan Kin Hi told Xinhua. The scenes where Xu gently covers a sleeping Blanca with a garment and later, when they meet in the rain, Blanca carries an umbrella for him reflect Light Chaser's understanding and

interpretation of Chinese-style romance. Chan believes such love embodies the most fundamental emotional values of the Chinese. "From its inception, Light Chaser Animation has established a clear mission: 'a Chinese team creating Chinese stories for Chinese audiences,' and it aspires to create world-class animated films rooted in Chinese culture," said Yu Zhou, CEO of Light Chaser. "We hope to utilize the artistic and technical power of animated films to bring China's rich traditional narratives to life," he added. The White Snake series has achieved international success. The 2019 release ranked the second most popular animated film of the year in Japan. Its sequel, White Snake 2, launched globally on Netflix in 10 languages, became the third most-watched foreign-language film, with over 40 million viewers worldwide. For many years, driven by a passion for Chinese history and culture, Japanese manga artist Shichimi Rou has created a series of manga works set in the Chinese history. She also watched the 2019 release of White Snake. "I was really impressed. The heroine's black hair was as beautiful as an ink painting, and it reminded me of traditional Chinese paintings. Also, the power of the action scenes, the composition of the screen, and the color scheme are all wonderful," she said. "I expected a tragic ending, but seeing the characters reunite on the Broken Bridge across time made me so happy," she said, adding that she appreciates such beautiful, sad, thrilling, and gentle work. Notably, the legend of White Snake shares a deep connection with the rise of Japan's animation industry.

NEW YORK: Turns out, Taylor and Travis like to watch a little baseball, too. Pop superstar **Taylor Swift** and her boyfriend, Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, were at Yankee Stadium on Monday night for Game 1 of the American League Championship Series between the Cleveland Guardians and New York Yankees. The famous couple sat together in a suite down the right-field line, in the second row above postseason bunting and a flag commemorating the Yankees' 1932 World Series championship. Kelce, a Westlake, Ohio, native who went to high school in Cleveland Heights, sported a dark baseball cap with the words Midnight Rodeo on it. Swift also wore a hat on a 50-degree night in the Bronx.

Kelce, who turned 35 on Oct. 5, grew up rooting for Kenny Lofton and Cleveland in the 1990s. Kelce threw a wild ceremonial first pitch before the Guardians' season opener last year. It was the second major sporting event for Swift and Kelce in New York City over the past five-plus weeks. The couple also sat in a box to watch the men's final at the US Open tennis tournament on Sept. 8 in Queens. Kelce and the Chiefs, the two-time defending Super Bowl champions, had a bye this weekend after opening the



Swift

season 5-0. Their next game is Sunday at San Francisco, a rematch of last season's Super Bowl. (AP) **ISLAMABAD:** Taliban run-media have stopped showing images of living beings in some Afghan provinces to comply with morality laws, an official confirmed Tuesday. In August, the country's Vice and Virtue Ministry published laws regulating aspects of everyday life like public transportation, shaving, the media and celebrations reflecting authorities' interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia. Article 17 bans the publication of images of living beings, sparking concerns about the consequences for Afghan media and press freedom. A spokesman for the Vice and Virtue Minis-

try, Saif ul Islam Khyber, said government media in the provinces of Takhar, Maidan Wardak and Kandahar have been advised not to air or show images of anything with a soul - meaning people and animals. Khyber told The Associated Press a day earlier that the ministry was responsible for implementing the morality laws. He did not clarify if the rules affected all media, including foreign outlets, or only Afghan channels and websites. Nor did he say how the laws would be enforced or if there was a deadline for compliance. No other Muslim-majority country imposes similar restrictions, including Iran and Saudi Arabia. During their previous rule in the late 1990s, the Taliban banned most television, radio and newspapers altogether. (AP)

Accusations include assaulting men and molesting a minor

Six people accuse Diddy of sexual assault in new lawsuits

NEW YORK, Oct 15, (AP): Sean "Diddy" Combs was hit Monday with a new wave of lawsuits accusing him of raping women, sexually assaulting men and molesting a 16-year-old boy. It is the first time he's been sued by a person alleging they were abused as a minor. At least six lawsuits were filed against Combs in federal court in Manhattan, adding to a growing list of legal claims against the indicted hip-hop mogul, all of which he has denied. The lawsuits were filed anonymously to protect the identities of the accusers, two by women identified as Jane Does and four by men identified as John Does. Some of the Does, echoing others who've accused Combs in recent months, allege that he used his fame and the promise of potential stardom to entice victims to lavish parties or drug-fueled hangouts where he then assaulted them. Some allege that he beat or drugged them. Others say he threatened to kill them if they didn't do as he pleased or if they spoke out against him. The lawsuits describe alleged assaults dating to the mid-1990s, including at Combs' celebrity-studded white parties in Long Island's Hamptons, at a party in Brooklyn celebrating Combs' then-collaborator Biggie

Smalls, and even in the storeroom at Macy's flagship department store in midtown Manhattan. The plaintiffs in Monday's lawsuits are part of what their lawyers say is a group of more than 100 accusers who are in the process of taking legal action against Combs following his Sept. 16 federal sex trafficking arrest. Plaintiffs' lawyer Tony Buzbee announced the planned litigation at an Oct. 1 news conference and posted a 1-800 number for accusers to call. In a statement, Combs' lawyers slammed those tactics as "clear attempts to garner publicity," and said the rapper and his legal team "have full confidence in the facts, their legal defenses, and the integrity of the judicial process. In court, the truth will prevail: that Mr. Combs has never sexually assaulted anyone-adult or minor, man or woman." Combs, 54, has pleaded not guilty in his criminal case, which involves allegations he coerced and abused women for years with help from a network of associates and employees while silencing victims through blackmail and violence, including kidnapping, arson and physical beatings. Twice denied bail, the Bad Boy Records founder remains locked up at a Brooklyn federal jail while

awaiting trial in May. Two judges have concluded that Combs would be a danger to the community if he is released. On Friday, an appeals court judge denied Combs' immediate release from jail while a three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals weighs his bail request. Before Monday's raft of lawsuits, all of the accusers suing Combs had been adults at the time of their alleged abuse, although a Chicago record producer claimed in a February suit that he had "irrefutable evidence" of Combs sexually abusing minors. In a lawsuit Monday, a John Doe alleged that Combs fondled his genitals when he was 16 at one of Combs' white parties in 1998. The man, who now lives in North Carolina, alleges that Combs told him he had "the look" of a star and then abruptly ordered the then-teen to drop his pants. According to the man's lawsuit, Combs explained to him that it was a rite of passage to becoming a music star, at one point asking him: "Don't you want to break into the business?" The man said he complied out of fear, anxiety and a power imbalance he felt with Combs, only realizing later that what he says happened was sexual assault.

Other lawsuits filed Monday in US District Court in Manhattan include allegations of rape and drugging to incapacitate victims. One of the Jane Does alleges Combs raped her in a locked hotel room in 2004 after he invited her and a friend there for a party, gave them drinks and told them to snort cocaine. The woman, then a college freshman, alleges Combs also forced her friend and threatened their lives if they didn't comply. Another Jane Doe alleged Combs violently attacked and raped her in a bathroom in 1995 at a party in Brooklyn for Smalls' music video, "One More Chance." Smalls, also known as the Notorious B.I.G., was killed two years later in a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles. According to the woman, Combs brought her into the bathroom to talk privately and started kissing her unexpectedly. When she tried pulling away, she alleges, he slammed her head against the wall, causing her to fall to the floor. She said she tried to escape, but Combs hit her again and raped her. Afterward, according to the woman, Combs nonchalantly adjusted his clothing and told her: "You better not tell anyone about this, or you will disappear."

Norway pledges over \$90 mln to WHO

Kuwait's KFAED offers \$2 mln for Jordan's Cancer Foundation

AMMAN, Oct 15, (Agencies): Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) and Jordan's King Hussein Cancer Foundation and Center signed on Monday a USD-two-million grant to fund treatment of Syrian refugees in the Kingdom.

Present at the signing were KFAED Acting Director Waleed Al-Bahar and chairperson of the Center's Board of Trustees Princess Ghida Talal, in addition to other officials.

Princess Ghida commended the important partnership with KFAED, stressing the fund's crucial role in helping cancer patients.

Speaking to KUNA, KFAED's Al-Bahar indicated that this was the seventh agreement with the KHCF/KHCC, revealing that the total grants had reached USD 11.5 million.

The Kuwaiti official lauded cooperation with the KHCF/KHCC, saying that the services offered by the center were outstanding.

On his part, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan Hamad Al-Marri revealed that some of Gaza's refugees were included in the future treatment program at the Center due to the newly-signed agreement.

The Norwegian government announced on Monday a major financial commitment to the World Health Organization (WHO), pledging 1 billion Norwegian kroner (93 million U.S. dollars) over the next four years (2025-2028).

The contribution, made during the WHO's first investment round for sustainable financing, underscores Norway's dedication to strengthening global health systems and supporting the WHO's crucial role in global health, the Norwegian government said Monday in a press release.

"The World Health Organization is more important than ever," said Norwegian



KUNA photo of the acting Director General of the Development Fund and the Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of the Al-Hussein Cancer Foundation and Center during the agreement signing.

Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store. "WHO has repeatedly proven its significance as a meeting place and coordinating body, especially in times of crisis."

The investment round, the first of its kind, aims to secure more sustainable fi-

nancing for the WHO's work. Norway is hosting the event with France, Germany, Brazil, Mauritania, South Africa, and Saudi Arabia.

Norway's contribution will be allocated as flexible funds, in addition to its mandatory contributions and donations to the WHO's crisis response efforts. This flexibility is crucial for the WHO to allocate resources to priority areas identified by its governing body, the World Health Assembly.

Meanwhile, WHO and other donors on Monday donated mpox testing kits and medicines for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) worth 1.67 million US dollars.

Abdourahmane Diallo, WHO representative in Kenya, said the mpox laboratory diagnostic kits and more than 15 million tablets of NTDs medicines will strengthen Kenya's efforts to respond to the ongoing mpox outbreak.

"These resources are aimed to strengthen Kenya's capacity for rapid and accurate diagnosis, supporting timely interventions and containment of the virus," Diallo said during the handover in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

He said the UN health agency has also supported the training of 137 health workers and 555 airport staff while providing technical support for screening travelers for mpox at 26 points of entry.

The WHO official reaffirmed WHO's commitment to supporting Kenya's goal of eliminating NTDs, including schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis by 2030.

Deborah Barasa, cabinet secretary in the Kenyan Ministry of Health, lauded the WHO for the support which she said will address health challenges faced by vulnerable communities.

Barasa said that the introduction of the testing kits will enhance Kenya's capacity to detect and respond to mpox cases more swiftly and effectively, ultimately saving lives and curbing the spread of the disease.

A guide to effective workouts

Is 'training to failure' right for you?

LONDON, Oct 15, (AP): No pain, no gain, as the old exercise adage goes. But just how much pain do you have to endure to benefit from weight training? That depends on what you're trying to accomplish, fitness experts say.

For years, some trainers have instructed gym-goers that to get the best results, they need to train "until failure," meaning until you cannot physically do one more repetition or exercise. Some recent studies, however, suggest this extreme regimen, when applied to weight training, may only benefit certain people.

"If somebody wants to increase muscle mass as much as they possibly can, then training to failure is something to consider," said Michael Zourdos, chair of exercise science and health promotion at Florida Atlantic University, who co-authored a review of 55 research papers on the subject in the journal, Sports Medicine.

Zourdos and colleagues found that lifting weights "until failure" may build bigger muscles, but isn't needed to increase strength. He said people who work out hard, but don't push themselves to exhaustion, will still likely improve their health and fitness. "There is a difference between training for health and training for elite performance benefits," he said.

For the average person simply looking to increase their fitness levels, Zourdos said it's much easier to get results. He said people who work out regularly would benefit from an intense session that comes within five



Brock Kehler lifts at University High in Morgantown, W.V., Aug. 1, 2024. (AP)

to 10 repetitions of failure, rather than training to complete exhaustion.

He also said "failure training" often comes at a cost, since people working to that standard might be so tired and sore that they skip their next gym session or two.

In extremely rare instances, overdoing it can be harmful, leading to a potentially fatal condition called rhabdomyolysis, where damaged muscles begin to break down, possibly causing kidney damage.

James Fisher, a sport science expert and consultant in Southampton, England, said the idea of working until complete exhaustion can be a turn off for many people.

"What we're really talking about is how hard you should work when you go to the gym," he said, adding that the concept should be interpreted to mean that people can spend less time in the gym - if they work hard.

"If you're short on time, then you can push yourself harder, and then you don't need to work out as long," he said.

Fisher explained that to boost strength, it's critical to push your muscles to a certain threshold.

"If you lift a weight you can easily lift 10 times or more, you never really work hard enough," he said. "Now, if we increase the weight so that on the ninth and 10th rep, it feels properly hard, that will benefit your muscle fibers."

NASA's mission to uncover hidden ocean secrets

Europa Clipper begins journey to probe Jupiter's moon for life signs

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Oct 15, (AP): A NASA spacecraft rocketed away Monday on a quest to explore Jupiter's tantalizing moon Europa and reveal whether its vast hidden ocean might hold the keys to life.

It will take Europa Clipper 5 1/2 years to reach Jupiter, where it will slip into orbit around the giant gas planet and sneak close to Europa during dozens of radiation-drenched flybys.

Scientists are almost certain a deep, global ocean exists beneath Europa's icy crust. And where there is water, there could be life, making the moon one of the most promising places out there to hunt for it.

Europa Clipper won't look for life; it has no life detectors. Instead, the spacecraft will zero in on the ingredients necessary to sustain life, searching for organic compounds and other clues as it peers beneath the ice for suitable conditions.

Rocket

SpaceX started Clipper on its 1.8 billion-mile (3 billion-kilometer) journey, launching the spacecraft on a Falcon Heavy rocket from Florida's Kennedy Space Center. An hour later, the spacecraft separated from the upper stage, floated off and called home.

"Please say goodbye to Clipper on its way to Europa," NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory's flight director Pranay Mishra announced from South-



A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket with a NASA spacecraft bound for Jupiter lifts off from pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center Monday, Oct. 14, in Cape Canaveral, Fla. (AP)

ern California.

"The science on this is really captivating," NASA Associate Administrator Jim Free told The Associated Press back at the launch site. Scientists are still learning about the depths of our own ocean, "and here we are looking that far out."

The \$5.2 billion mission almost got derailed by transistors.

NASA didn't learn until spring that Clipper's transistors might be more vulnerable to Jupiter's intense radia-

tion field than anticipated. Clipper will endure the equivalent of several million chest X-rays during each of the 49 Europa flybys. The space agency spent months reviewing everything before concluding in September that the mission could proceed as planned.

Hurricane Milton added to the anxiety, delaying the launch by several days.

"What a great day. We're so excited," JPL Director Laurie Leshin said after liftoff.

Effects of space travel on plant growth being studied

US school plants a 'Moon Tree' grown with space seeds



Santiago parent volunteer Stacie Aguesse, (left), delivers a small Giant Sequoia tree from NASA's Artemis I Mission's tree seeds that traveled around the moon twice, as NASA scientists, JPL engineers, US Forest Service representatives, and teachers join Santiago STEAM Magnet Elementary School students at a ceremony to plant it after the school was honored in the spring of 2024 to become NASA Moon Tree Stewards in Lake Forest, Calif., on Monday, Oct. 14, 2024. (AP)

LAKE FOREST, Calif., Oct 15, (AP): To cheers and applause from kids wearing spacesuits and star-studded T-shirts, a tree was planted in California that is out of this world.

The so-called "Moon Tree" - grown with seeds that were flown around the moon - was wheeled out in a wagon accompanied by several students carrying shovels to help dig its new home at Santiago STEAM Magnet Elementary School in Lake Forest.

The school, which has roughly 500 students in grades K-12, was among those selected to receive a seedling for a giant sequoia that was grown with seeds flown on NASA's Artemis I Mission in 2022.

"It's kind of crazy," said Emily

Aguesse, a sixth grader who participated in Monday's ceremony welcoming the tree. "I've always wanted to go to space but this motivates it even more."

It's the second time that NASA has flown seeds into space and brought them back for planting. An astronaut for the Apollo 14 mission in 1971 who was a former U.S. Forest Service smokejumper carried seeds that later were grown into the first generation of Moon Trees, which were planted in states spanning from Alabama to Washington.

While many of those seedlings were distributed to national monuments, this latest batch has been given to schools and museums to promote science and

conservation education and help bring space down to Earth, said Paul Propster, chief story architect for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"It's just kind of cool and fun to connect the next generation of explorers," Propster said.

It isn't known whether space travel has an effect on how plants grow and scientists continue to study the topic, he said.

In 2022, NASA and the Forest Service flew nearly 2,000 seeds from five species of trees aboard the unmanned Orion spacecraft, which went into lunar orbit and spent about four weeks traveling in space.

Once back on Earth, the seeds were grown into young sycamores, sweet-

gums, Douglas firs, loblolly pines and giant sequoias that could be shared with the public through an application process.

Nearly 150 seedlings were distributed earlier in the year, and another batch is expected this fall, NASA officials said.

Santiago - a science and technology-focused magnet school - planted its tree in a space-themed outdoor garden decorated with colorful stones painted by students. The school's parent and teacher association will have community volunteers care for the Moon Tree, which is expected to grow in girth and stature for decades amid a grove of eucalyptus that shades the campus in Southern California.

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Ahead of Australia tour

India searching for momentum in test series against NZ

BENGALURU, India, Oct 15, (AP): India will have a keen eye on its upcoming tour of Australia as it takes on New Zealand in a three-test series starting in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Before the five-test clash in Australia from next month, India plays the Kiwis on home soil in a series that could confirm India's spot in the 2025 World Test Championship (WTC) final.

The three tests will be played in Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai. India is currently atop the WTC rankings, and a 3-0 win in this series against New Zealand would assure its spot for the final at Lord's next June.

After beating Bangladesh 2-0 in the preceding test series, a full-strength Indian squad is once again available for selection. In-form top-order batters or world class spinners - India is spoilt for choice.

India would arguably like to see a few more runs from the likes of Virat Kohli and Lokesh Rahul. The 35-year-old Kohli missed the home series against England earlier in the year for the birth of his second child. Against Bangladesh, he only had limited batting time and scored 99 runs in four innings.

Kohli would certainly hope for more runs against New Zealand, looking ahead to the Australian tour where the cricket great averages 54.08 in 13 tests. Meanwhile, Rahul too had missed most of the English series due to injury and batted only three times

against Bangladesh.

Rahul doesn't keep wickets anymore - Rishabh Pant returned to that role with aplomb against Bangladesh - and thus needs to guard his spot against the waiting Sarfaraz Khan, who scored 200 runs in five innings against England.

Pace bowling is one area of concern for India, with the workloads of its fast bowlers - Jasprit Bumrah, Akash Deep and Mohammed Siraj - under scrutiny. The trio is also expected to travel to Australia.

Bumrah has been named vice-captain for the New Zealand series. It is a departure from protocol for India - it doesn't name vice-captains for home series. Rohit Sharma, however, could miss the first test against Australia owing to personal reasons and thus this move.

Pacer Mohammed Shami has suffered a setback in his recovery from an Achilles injury after the 2023 one-day World Cup and his return to action has been further delayed because of a knee issue.

"Right now, it is very difficult for us to take a call on Shami," Sharma said ahead of the first test. "He has had a setback to his knee while close to getting fit and it puts him back in recovery. We don't want to bring an undercooked Shami to Australia. He was supposed to play this series, but we will see at what stage he will be fit for us."

India is carrying a set of traveling reserves for this series, including young pacers Harshit Rana and Mayank Yadav, as well as pace all-rounder Nitish Reddy. One, or all, could be in contention to participate in this series, as well as be included for the Australia trip.

Additionally, India's combination - two or three pacers - for the Bengaluru test at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium will depend on weather. Since Monday, the city has seen heavy rainfall and the forecast for the coming days isn't good either.

For New Zealand, meanwhile, this series is about hitting the reset button.

The Black Caps have already been on a long sub-continental tour. It began with the one-off washed out test against Afghanistan in Greater Noida, India, followed by a 2-0 loss in Sri Lanka.

The transition phase for New Zealand cricket continues with this tough tour of India. Tim Southee stepped down from the captaincy with Tom Latham taking over full-time. Latham has led New Zealand in nine tests previously - all as a stand-in for Williamson.

He leads a young Kiwi side, which does boast a few players who have wide experience of playing in India - Devon Conway, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner and Southee.



New Zealand's Mark Chapman, right, and Mitchell Santner walk back towards the dressing room as it rains during a training session on the eve of their first cricket test match against India at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium, in Bengaluru, India. (AP)

Ghulam stars with ton on test debut



Pakistan's Kamran Ghulam bats during the first day of the second test cricket match between Pakistan and England, in Multan, Pakistan. (AP)

Pakistan reaches 259-5 against England

MULTAN, Pakistan, Oct 15, (AP): Debutant Kamran Ghulam scored a resolute century on a tricky recycled wicket and carried Pakistan to 259-5 at stumps on Day 1 of the second test against England on Tuesday.

Ghulam answered Pakistan's batting problems at No. 4 with a patient 118 off 224 balls. He became the 13th Pakistan batsman to score a century on test debut and is the first to do so against England.

Off-spinner Shoaib Bashir (1-66) broke through Ghulam's defenses late in the final session when he tickled the leg bail with the second new ball just four overs old.

Mohammad Rizwan, who could have been out caught behind early but England didn't go for the television referral, was unbeaten on 37 and first test century-maker Salman Ali Agha was 5 not out at stumps.

The 29-year-old Ghulam had long been knocking at the doors of test cricket with 16 first class centuries before he was finally given a chance after Pakistan left out Babar Azam for the remaining two matches of the series.

Ghulam reached his memorable century off 192 balls in the final session when he drove Joe Root to mid-wicket boundary for his ninth four. He knelt down and kissed the turf.

England squeezed the runs early in the final session through some impeccable reverse swing of Brydon Carse (1-14 in 11 overs) and Matthew Potts (1-36 in 17 overs) as Pakistan lost Saud Shakeel cheaply when the left-hander got a thick edge off Carse.

Jack Leach (2-92) had taken two wickets inside the first 45 minutes to give Pakistan an early shock at 19-2 after captain Shan Masood won the toss and elected to bat on a dry wicket tailor-made for Pakistan's spin-heavy bowling attack.

Ghulam blunted the spin of Leach and Bashir by combining in a 149-run stand with Saim Ayub, who raised his third half century in the last four test matches and made 77.

England captain Ben Stokes, back after two months out injured, kept on pressing for the breakthrough with an umbrella field in front of both sides of the wicket. It was without success before Ayub chipped an easy catch to Stokes at short mid-off at the stroke of tea interval.

But Ghulam didn't feel the pressure and waited patiently for the loose balls to hit 11 fours and a six in his memorable debut before he was undone by Bashir.

Earlier, Leach knocked back the off-stump of Abdullah Shafique (7)

in his second over and Masood (3) fell to the trap of close-in fielders when Zak Crawley pounced on a low catch at short mid-wicket.

England deployed both spinners with the new ball after just five overs after Pakistan opted to reuse the same wicket on which it suffered a historic innings and 47-run defeat in the first test last week.

Potts, one of the two changes made by England, and Carse, virtually found no seam movement or swing on a dry wicket before Stokes turned to his spinners and even Root bowled two overs of off-spin before lunch.

Ghulam struck a straight six against Leach in a show of rare aggression.

Stokes, who missed England's 2-1 win at home against Sri Lanka and also last week's victory in Multan, replaced Chris Woakes. Fast bowler Gus Atkinson made way for Potts.

Pakistan, which is on an 11-match winless streak at home, made four changes after it became the first test-playing nation to lose a match by an innings after scoring 500-plus runs in the first innings.

Four senior players, including out-of-form Babar, were rested for the remaining two tests of the series. The spin trio of Sajid Khan, Noman Ali and Zahid Mahmood, who haven't played first-class cricket for nine months, were included in the playing XI with Agha and Ayub the other spin options for Pakistan.

Sixers Paul's 4th team George leaves preseason win with hyperextended left knee

ATLANTA, Oct 15, (AP): Philadelphia 76ers' prized free-agent acquisition Paul George left Monday's preseason game against Atlanta with a hyperextended left knee.

There was no immediate update how much time George might miss following his injury. A nine-time All-Star, George's knee buckled on a defensive play in the second quarter. He scored eight points in 12 minutes in a 104-89 victory.

"I felt that it hyperextended, and immediately it was, all right, I need to get taken out and (looked at), but if you ask me, I'm not too concerned about it," George told The Philadelphia Inquirer.

76ers coach Nick Nurse said the 34-year-old George would be examined on Tuesday.

"You never want anything to happen to anybody," Nurse said. "Certainly, just kind of trying to work him into things. He wants to work into things, too. This doesn't give us a chance to do that. Hopefully it'll be OK so he's back with us right away."

The Sixers have been cautious with their star players and shut down center Joel Embiid on Sunday for the rest of the preseason for what the team called left knee management.

The 76ers - who signed George to a four-year, \$212 million contract as a free agent this summer - are his fourth team, after seven years with Indiana, two with Oklahoma City and the last five as a member of the Los Angeles Clippers. He's a six-time All-NBA selection and has averaged 20.8 points over first 14 NBA seasons.

With George joining the 2023 NBA MVP in Embiid and All-Star guard Tyrese Maxey, the 76ers were expected to boast one of the most formidable trios in the league as they try to put together a nucleus that can compete with NBA champion Boston.

George played 76 games last season, the first time he played more than 56 since 2018-19.

The Sixers aren't expecting George and Embiid to push 75 games during the regular season.

Embiid has never been healthy for an entire postseason run, one reason the Sixers have stumbled in the post-season on his watch and a pretty big blight -- fair or not -- on his legacy. If the Sixers can't keep George and Embiid in one piece come April, another empty season could be on tap.

George made 8 of 15 shots and scored a team-high 23 points last week in his preseason debut against Minnesota.

The Chicago Bulls expect point guard Lonzo Ball to play for the first time in nearly three years after being sidelined because of a knee injury when they host the Minnesota Timberwolves in a preseason game on Wednesday.

Coach Billy Donovan said Monday the plan is to have Ball play the final two preseason games. Cleveland visits Friday, before Chicago opens the season at New Orleans on Oct. 23.

"Him playing this next preseason game is kind of what we targeted," Donovan said prior to Chicago's game at Milwaukee. "We really felt like we wanted to try to get him to play two games before the regular season, whether it was play tonight or off and then go the next game."

Ball was slowed by COVID last month, and the Bulls are still trying to get a handle on how much activity leads to knee soreness.

Ball has not played since Jan. 14, 2022. He underwent a cartilage and meniscus transplant in his left knee last year after several procedures failed to fix his injury.



Philadelphia 76ers forward Paul George (8) drives to the basket past Minnesota Timberwolves center Naz Reid (11) during the first half of an NBA preseason basketball game in Des Moines, Iowa. (AP)

Mavericks beaten

Intuit Dome opens its doors to Los Angeles Clippers fans

INGLEWOOD, Calif., Oct 15, (AP): The flashy new Intuit Dome opened its doors to basketball fans for the first time Monday night as the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Dallas Mavericks 110-96 in a preseason game in front of 13,400 fans.

The arena has been hosting concerts since August, but this is the first game in the more than \$2 billion vision of Clippers owner Steve Ballmer. Fans streamed in through doors using facial recognition. A double-sided halo board showed photos, videos, statistics and more.

The Clippers were one of three tenants of the crypto.com Arena, sharing space with the Lakers and the Kings. Now they've got their own address.

"It's a great feeling to have a place to call home. Guys are very excited about it," Clippers coach Tyrone Lue said. "Our whole organization is excited about it. Tonight our fans get the chance to see a part of it. You have a chance to have our own place we call home. You can leave your shoes in the locker room and come back tomorrow and they'll be there. We have our own place and own building and everything is secure."

Derrick Jones Jr. - who signed with the Clippers in the offseason - scored 12 points.

"I love it. ... The arena is amazing," Jones Jr. said. "I definitely like it. It's probably one of the best I've ever stepped foot in and the practice facility, too. I'm glad to be able to play here in the Intuit Dome and be the first team to play here."

On "60 Minutes," which aired Sunday, Ballmer showed off his new building, which he hopes will give his NBA team a boost.

"Everything in my instinct says it will help our team, our basketball team, if our crowd team can really get into it and give them energy," Ballmer said.

Ballmer was there and sat court-side under one of the baskets, which is about the same spot he sat at the previous building. When the Clippers' Ivica Zubac made a hook shot in the second quarter, Ballmer displayed his trademark fist pumps and enthusiasm.

As fans entered the arena, they found an 80,000-square-foot outdoor

plaza with a basketball court that's open to the public.

Patricia Blakemore was jumping up and down when she arrived in the arena.

"It's so high tech," said Blakemore, who lives in nearby Manhattan Beach. "I have to say one of the things that makes me exceptionally happy is that from the moment we parked our car to get in here, the staff has been very helpful."

When asked how long he's been a Clippers fan, Eric Swallow said since Monday. He just bought season tickets. "It's a new stadium and it's close to Manhattan Beach," Swallow said. That was all it took for the Clippers to gain a new fan.

Estelle Talleu and Matteo Decarlino came from France to visit Los Angeles and go to the game.

"I love basketball, and I wanted to see L.A. and this atmosphere," Decarlino said. "In France, it's not the same. There's nothing like this. This arena is so big."

Talleu loved the halo board: "It's amazing."

She was taking lots of videos, as were many fans in the nearly 18,000-seat arena.

There's also an abundance of bathrooms, and Ballmer boasted about the 1,400 toilets on "60 Minutes." There's good reason.

The Intuit Dome is in an area that's exploding with sports and entertainment. It's less than a mile from Sofi Stadium - where the NFL's Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers call home - and The Kia Forum, which hosts concerts and used to be home to the Lakers.

The arena is carbon-free and cashless and has all the bells and whistles.

Juvenal Martinez, who is 14, came to the game with his uncle. "The arena is good. I like it. I like all the technology and the facial scan to get in," he said. There were some hiccups, of course. During the first first quarter, the halo board had the score at 19-19 in the first quarter, but the score was actually 23-22 and that score was correct in many other places around the arena. The score was updated within a couple of minutes. Ballmer broke ground on the arena in 2021 and it opened its doors in August.

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Boca Juniors unveil Gago as manager

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 15, (Xinhua): Boca Juniors have appointed former midfielder Fernando Gago as manager on a contract that runs until December 2026, the Argentine club said.

The 38-year-old replaces Diego Martinez, who parted ways with the Buenos Aires outfit on September 29 amid a poor run of results.

"For all Boca fans, today is a very important day," Boca president Juan Roman Riquelme told a news conference.

"Whenever someone returns home for us it is a special day. Fernando knows that this is his home and that we are very happy to have him here." Gago, who had two spells with Boca as a player, became available after parting ways with Guadalajara on Thursday.

According to local media reports, Boca agreed to pay two million U.S. dollars to trigger a release clause on Gago's contract with the Mexican club.

"I think I acted in a good way," Gago

said. "I had a termination clause in the contract at the club's request when I signed. A lot has been said ... [but] I made the decision that I thought was best for me." Gago, who represented Boca Juniors, Real Madrid, Valencia, Roma, Velez Sarsfield and Argentina's national team during a 16-year playing career, turned to management in 2021.

He had spells in charge of Aldosivi and Racing Club before joining Guadalajara in December 2023.

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Germany seals Nations League quarters place

France and Italy on course

BRUSSELS, Oct 15, (AP): France and Germany had stand-in forwards to thank for wins over fierce rivals in the Nations League.

With Kylian Mbappé again absent, Randal Kolo Muani started up front for France and scored in each half in a 2-1 victory away to neighbor Belgium.

The Belgians must be sick of the sight of Kolo Muani, who also netted in a 2-0 win in the reverse fixture in Lyon last month. It was also the Paris Saint-Germain striker's shot that deflected into the net when France beat Belgium 1-0 in the last 16 at the European Championship during the summer.

On his debut for Germany, Jamie Leweling had a second-minute strike ruled out after a video review but had more luck with a rasping drive in the

64th to seal a 1-0 triumph over the Netherlands in Munich and guaranteed the Germans a spot in the quarterfinals. Germany is on 10 points from four games, five more than both the Dutch and Hungary.

Leweling, a Stuttgart forward, was one of four players making their first starts for Germany on a night fans paid tribute to four players—Toni Kroos, Manuel Neuer, Thomas Müller, and İlkay Gündoğan—who recently retired from national-team duty. Neuer, Müller, and Gündoğan were at Allianz Arena to receive the acclaim of German fans.

There were also victories for Italy, which beat Israel 4-1, and Hungary, a 2-0 winner in Bosnia, in the top-tier League A.

With two group games remaining in November, France and Italy stand on the verge of clinching a top-two finish and spots in the quarterfinals.

France was forced to hang on to

preserve its third win in four group matches after Aurélien Tchouaméni, its captain in the absence of Mbappé, was shown a second yellow card in the 76th for tripping Belgium midfielder Youri Tielemans.

Tielemans had lifted a penalty kick over the bar in the 23rd, only for Kolo Muani to convert his own spot kick after Wout Faes was penalized for handball after falling to the ground attempting to challenge Bradley Barcola.

Lois Openda headed in the equalizer from Timothy Castagne's cross, with the goal initially ruled out for offside but awarded after a VAR check.

Kolo Muani, who has started only two games for PSG this season, grabbed the winner in the 62nd in Brussels by heading in Lucas Digne's left-wing cross.

It felt like a new era for Germany, with Neuer, Müller, and Gündoğan all given a fond farewell before the game. With Kroos, who wasn't there in per-

son due to commitments at his youth academy, the four players won more than 450 caps for Germany.

Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann is bringing through younger players, with Aleksandar Pavlović, 20, and Angelo Stiller, 23, handed first starts and the 23-year-old Leweling making his debut in place of the injured Deniz Ündav. At the other end of the age scale, goalkeeper Oliver Baumann became the third oldest debutant for Germany - at 34 years, 134 days - having been on the bench 26 times.

Baumann produced a brilliant flying save to deny Netherlands substitute Donyell Malen and keep a clean sheet, ensuring that Oranje's 13-match unbeaten streak in the group stage of the Nations League came to an end.

Stringent security measures, including armed military personnel on the roof of the 25,000-seater stadium in Udine, were in place as Italy hosted an Israel team playing its first match

outside neutral Hungary this year. It came amid Israel's ongoing conflict in the Middle East which has spread to Lebanon after more than a year-long war with Hamas in Gaza.

Mateo Retegui - from the penalty spot - scored the opener for Italy, which had further goals by Giovanni Di Lorenzo (2) and Davide Frattesi as well as a debut for Daniel Maldini, the son of AC Milan great Paolo Maldini.

Around 1,000 people took part in a pro-Palestine demonstration in the city center before the match. Areas around the stadium were blocked off 48 hours before kickoff and declared a "red zone," while hundreds of extra police officers were called up from surrounding areas.

Italy is in the same group as France and leads by one point. Belgium is third, five points behind France, while Israel has lost all four games.



Germany's scorer Jamie Leweling, right, celebrates with teammate Antonio Ruediger after scoring the opening goal during the UEFA Nations League Group 3 soccer match between Germany and The Netherlands in Munich, Germany. (AP)

Best of the Rest

Cameroon edges Kenya: Cameroon defeated Kenya 1-0 in a Group J match of the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers.

Following the win, the Indomitable Lions had 10 points in the group with two games remaining and earned direct qualification for Africa's most prestigious football tournament. Cameroon joined Burkina Faso as the two teams who have now qualified for the 2025 AFCON to be held in Morocco.

Boris Enow Takang scored the lone goal from a free-kick in the 62nd minute in a match played at the Nelson Mandela Stadium in Kampala, Uganda.

Kenya hosted the match in Uganda because they do not have any stadium currently approved by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and FIFA to host international matches. (Xinhua)

□ □ □

Arsenal Women coach quits: Arsenal Women manager Jonas Eidevall quit on Tuesday, less than a month into the new season.

The English team has won just one of its first four matches in the Women's Super League and lost its opening game in the Champions League group stage, 5-2 at Bayern Munich.

Eidevall joined in June 2021 from FC Rosengård in his native Sweden and led Arsenal to two League Cup titles as well as the Champions League semifinals in the 2022-23 season. It was the first time in 10 years Arsenal reached that stage in Europe's top club competition.

His last game in charge was a 2-1 home loss to Chelsea in the Super League on Saturday.

Arsenal said Eidevall resigned with immediate effect.

"We have great respect for the dedication and commitment he showed to our women's first team," Arsenal sporting director Edu Gaspar said of Eidevall, "and recognize the role he has played in the growth and development of Arsenal Women." Assistant coach Renée Slegers will take charge of the team on an interim basis, starting with the home match against Vålerenga in the Champions League on Wednesday. (AP)



Turkey's Orkun Kökcü, left, and Iceland's Mikael Egill Ellertsson battle for the ball during the UEFA Nations League Group 4 soccer match between Iceland and Turkey in Reykjavik. (AP)

Yuting shatters world record

China opens ISSF World Cup Final with 3 golds

NEW DELHI, Oct 15, (Xinhua): Olympic champion Huang Yuting got China off to a flying start at the ISSF World Cup Final as she won the women's 10m air rifle gold with a new world record here on Tuesday.

The tournament saw high-level competition from the very beginning, with German shooter Anna Janssen setting new qualification world record with 636.9 points. Huang was in third place after Oceanne Muller of France, but made her move in the final.

Taking the lead after the first series, Huang never relinquished her position. Two perfect 10.9 shots in the penultimate series brought her close to the previous world record of 250.4 points, set by teammate Han Jiayu. The 18-year-old seized the moment, winning gold and raising the world record to an impressive 254.5 points.

Sonam Uttam Maskar of India won the silver medal with 252.9 points, and Muller took the bronze. Han finished fifth.

"It's an unforgettable year, a shining chapter in my 18th year. I have learned and gained so much," said

Huang, who won the 10m air rifle mixed team gold and individual silver at the Paris Olympics.

In the men's 10m air rifle event, Huang's Olympic gold-winning partner Sheng Lihao secured victory by the narrowest of margins, edging

out Hungary's Istvan Peni by just 0.1 point.

The two-time Olympic gold medalist trailed India's Arjun Babuta for most of the competition but took the lead after Babuta was unexpectedly eliminated in the series

that decided the fifth place. Holding a 0.9-point advantage heading into the final shot, Sheng's 10.0 was enough to outlast Peni, who scored a 10.8. Sheng finished with 251.4 points, with Peni taking silver and Jiri Privratsky of the Czech Republic earning bronze.

China's dominance continued as Olympic champion Xie Yu showcased his quality again in the men's 10m air pistol final. The 24-year-old took advantage of Robin Walter's consecutive sub-10 scores in the last five shots, overtaking the defending champion to secure gold with 244.6 points. Walter settled for silver, 1.3 points behind, while Italy's Federico Nilo Maldini took bronze.

The only gold that eluded Team China on the opening day went to Camille Jedrzejewski of France, who won the women's 10m air pistol. Jedrzejewski now has her sights set on the 25m pistol title, which will be contested on Wednesday.

The ISSF World Cup Final continues on Wednesday with the men's and women's 50m rifle 3 positions, men's 25m rapid fire pistol and women's 25m pistol golds on offer.



In this file photo, Nigeria soccer team poses for a group photo before the African Cup of Nations final soccer match between Ivory Coast and Nigeria, at the Olympic Stadium of Ebimpe in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. (AP)

Nigeria boycotts qualifier after being stranded

ABUJA, Nigeria, Oct 15, (AP): Nigeria's soccer players returned to their country dancing and singing after boycotting their Africa Cup of Nations qualifier in Libya where they were stranded overnight at Al Abraq Airport in what the team captain described as "mind games."

Though authorities in Libya denied it was sabotage, the Confederation of African Football which organizes the competition said it will investigate the "disturbing and unacceptable experiences" of Nigeria.

The Super Eagles were scheduled to play the Group D game on Tuesday. Nigeria won 1-0 when the teams played on Friday, when similar accusations of sabotage from the Libya team came after they were delayed at a Nigerian airport.

Nigeria captain William Troost-Ekong said the plane was due to land at Benghazi Airport but was diverted at the last minute to Al Abraq some 220 kilometers (130 miles) away.

"The Libyan government rescinded our approved landing in Benghazi with no reason," Troost-Ekong said on X. "They've locked the airport gates and left us without phone connection, food or drink. All to play mind games. As the captain, together with the team, we have decided that we will not play this game."

The Libyan Football Federation said it regretted the flight diversion, adding: "It is essential to note that such incidents can occur due to routine air traffic control protocols, security checks or logistical challenges that affect international air travel," it said on X.

CAF said it referred the incident to its disciplinary board which will take "appropriate action against those who violated" its rules.

Pictures posted online by the players showed some of them lying on airport

seats, their luggage beside them and with no other passengers in sight. By Monday morning, some of them were asleep.

Nigerian Football Federation spokesman Ademola Olajire said the team spent 19 hours at the Libyan airport and they were prevented from leaving the facility to board the buses that Nigerian officials eventually hired.

"At past midnight, it was learnt that there had been word from 'higher authorities' that the Nigeria delegation should be delayed for a minimum of 10 hours at the airport for what they falsely claimed was done to their team in Nigeria," Olajire said without elaborating.

The Nigerian players and officials eventually resorted to games and music to play down their anger and frustration, he said.

Among the players in Nigeria's squad were Ademola Lookman, who scored a hat trick for Atalanta in the Europa League final last season and is on the Ballon d'Or shortlist, and Victor Boniface, a striker for German champion Bayer Leverkusen.

English Premier League players Ola Aina, Calvin Bassey, Alex Iwobi, Taiwo Awoniyi and Wilfred Ndidi were also in the team that beat Libya 1-0 on Friday.

The Libya team accused Nigeria of maltreatment ahead of the first leg, an allegation the Nigerian federation denied.

Libya captain Faisal Al-Badri said they were delayed "from one city to another" for three hours after their bags were searched, and before they were transported on a road trip to the city where the match was played. He had called for "reciprocity."

Nigeria sports minister John Owan Enoh said he instructed the soccer federation to send a formal complaint to CAF. "This must be on record and thoroughly addressed," he said in a statement.

Latest change under Ratcliffe

Ferguson to step down as Man United ambassador

MANCHESTER, England, Oct 15, (AP): Manchester United great Alex Ferguson will step down from his role as club ambassador at the end of the season, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the move has not been publicly announced.

Ferguson will be 83 in December and the person said the ending of his ambassadorship was "amicable" and he would "always be welcome at Old Trafford."

Ferguson won 13 Premier League titles with United and is widely regarded as one of the finest managers in the history of soccer. He is United's most successful manager, having won 28 major trophies.

He has been a club ambassador since retiring after leading United to its last league title in 2013.

His imminent departure comes at a time when the club is undergoing major change following the partial buyout by British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe in February.

United has undergone an extensive restructuring program following Ratcliffe's investment of \$1.3 billion for a 27.7% stake and implemented

cost-saving initiatives that it said included staff redundancies of around 250 roles.

United reported losses of 113.2 million pounds (\$148 million) in its latest accounts.

Ferguson was hired by United in 1986 at a time when the club had long since lost its place as the pre-eminent force in English soccer.

He ended its 26-year wait for the league title in 1993 and went on to dominate the Premier League era right up until his retirement when United was crowned champion with an 11-point lead over Abu Dhabi-backed Manchester City.

He also won two Champions League titles and an unprecedented treble of trophies in 1999 when leading United to victory in the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

He has been a regular spectator at United games since his retirement, watching the team home and away during a time when the club has been in obvious decline on the field.

Ratcliffe assumed control of United's soccer operations as part of his minority investment. The sporting side had previously been under the control of the majority owning American Glazer family.



In this file photo, former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson waves as he takes his seat on the stands before the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Wolverhampton Wanderers at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, England. (AP)



England's Nat Sciver-Brunt bats during the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 match between England and West Indies at Dubai International Stadium, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

Sports

Japan, Australia draw after own-goal drama

South Korea edges Iraq in thriller

SAITAMA, Japan, Oct 15, (AP): Two own-goals saw the points shared Tuesday as Japan and Australia drew 1-1 in Asian World Cup qualifying.

Shogo Taniguchi accidentally put Australia ahead just before the hour at Saitama Stadium, but Australia's Cameron Burgess returned the favor soon after to leave Japan top of Group C with 10 points from four games, five clear of the Socceroos in second.

"I'm very proud of that performance - the calmness and composure that we showed in defense," said Australia midfielder Jackson Irvine. "It's a top foundation for us to move forward." Japan, which has appeared at every World Cup since 1998, attacked from the beginning but struggled to create

clear chances despite the majority of possession. Takefusa Kubo had the best chance, shooting into the side of the net from close range while Brighton winger Kaoru Mitoma had a shot deflected wide.

It was more of the same in the second half but, just after former Liverpool attacker Takumi Minamoto headed wide, Australia stunned the hosts by taking the lead after 58 minutes with a goal that came out of nothing.

Lewis Miller crossed into the area from the right and Taniguchi tried to clear but only succeeded in diverting the ball past the diving Zion Suzuki and into the net to the delight of the small number of visiting fans.

It was the first time that Japan had conceded in 10 qualifiers in the second and third rounds but the team got the equalizer thanks to another own-goal after 76 minutes. Keito Nakamura dribbled down the left and his low cross hit

Burgess and went into the net from close range.

Japan pressed in an attempt to get the winning goal and maintain its perfect record in qualification but had to settle for the point.

The top two from each of the three six-team groups in the third round qualify automatically for the World Cup while the third and fourth-place teams will advance to the next stage to compete for two more spots.

There was another top two meeting in Group B as South Korea beat Iraq 3-2 in Yongin to move three points clear.

Oh Se-hun gave the hosts the lead four minutes before the break only for Aymen Hussein to level for Iraq six minutes after with a spectacular bicycle kick. Oh Hyeon-gyu and Lee Jae-sung both struck late to secure the win and leave South Korea on course for an 11th successive World Cup appearance.



South Korea's Lee Kang-in, left, fights for the ball with Iraq's Ahmed Yahya Al-Hajjaj during the Asian qualifier Group B match for 2026 World Cup between South Korea and Iraq at Yongin Mireu Stadium in Yongin, South Korea. (AP)



Japan's Takefusa Kubo, right, competes for the ball with Australia's Jordan Bos, center, during the World Cup 2026 Group C qualifying soccer match between Australia and Japan at Saitama Stadium in Saitama, Japan. (AP)

New volleyball season to kick off in November

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff
KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The Competitions and Players Affairs Com-

mittee of the Volleyball Federation has announced that the new season will begin in November 2024, while age group competitions are set to kick off at the end of this month.

This decision was made during a meeting held the day before yesterday between the committee and representatives of participating clubs, where they discussed the structure

and schedule of the upcoming competitions.

The season will commence after the conclusion of the 23rd Arab Championship for national teams, which will take place in Bahrain from September 29 to November 11, with Kuwait's national team ("Al-Azraq") participating. The season will open with the Federation Championship, followed by the Super Championship, featuring clubs Kuwait Club, Qadsia, Kazma, and Al-Arabi.

According to the schedule, the league is expected to begin in late December. It will initially follow a preliminary league format involving all clubs, from which the top six teams will qualify for the Premier League. The Premier League will operate on a home-and-away basis, with the top four teams advancing to the "Golden Square." In this phase, the first-place team will face the fourth, and the second will face the third in a best-of-three series. The winners will proceed to the final, while the losers will play for third place.

Meanwhile, the remaining teams will compete in the "Silver League" after the preliminary round.

For the age group competitions starting this month, the Under-14 League will also begin with a preliminary round, followed by a Golden League for the top six teams and a Silver League for the remaining five. Similarly, the Under-16 League will see the top five teams advance to a Golden League, while the remaining four teams will compete in a Silver League.

In the previous 2023-2024 season, Kuwait Club won the Federation Championship, Super, and Premier League titles, while Al-Qadsia claimed the Federation Cup.

Al-Salmiya continues winning streak as Kuwait Club & Al-Qadsiya renew rivalry

By Khaled Al-Enezi

Al-Seyassah/Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 15: The second round of the Handball League concludes with two exciting matchups. The first game kicks off at 5:00 pm between Al-Tadamon, currently without points, and Kazma, who holds two points. Later at 6:30 pm, the highly anticipated round's top match takes place, featuring the defending champion Kuwait Club with two points against last season's runner-up, Al-Qadsiya, who is yet to score points, in what is dubbed the "league classic."

The first match is expected to be a straightforward win for Kazma ("Orange"), who should have little trouble overcoming Al-Tadamon, a less experienced and capable opponent.

The second clash promises to be a thrilling and competitive encounter, as both Kuwait Club ("White") and Al-Qadsiya ("Yellow") were standout teams last season. Kuwait Club claimed the Premier League title, while Al-Qadsiya finished as runner-up. These meetings are always intense,

attracting significant public and media attention.

Last season, the two teams faced each other four times. Al-Qadsiyasecured a 32-30 win in the merger league, but Kuwait Club won the following three encounters: twice in the Premier League (34-26 and 35-32) and in the Super Cup final (40-35). Their most recent meeting was on September 24 in the semi-finals of the Arab Clubs Championship, where Kuwait Club triumphed 25-19.

With this backdrop, Al-Qadsiya will be eager for revenge and to settle the score, while Kuwait Club aims to maintain dominance in this classic rivalry.

In other matches, Al-Salmiya continued its positive streak, defeating Al-Sahel in the second round at Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Complex Hall. The "Sky Blues" secured their second consecutive victory, raising their points tally to four, sharing the top spot with Al-Arabi, who also achieved back-to-back wins, including a 30-26 victory over Khaitan. Meanwhile, Burgan claimed its first win of the season with a 28-25 victory over Al-Fahahel after losing its opening match to Al-Arabi.



The Competitions and Players Affairs Committee of the Volleyball Federation meeting in progress.

Best of the Rest

De Zoete takes early lead: Dutch cyclist Mylene de Zoete from the Ceratizit-WNT Pro Cycling Team took the lead after the first stage of the 2024 Tour of Chongming Island.

De Zoete completed the 108.9 km stage in two hours, 29 minutes, and seven seconds, earning the yellow jersey, awarded to the rider with the shortest total time in each stage. She also claimed the green jersey, given to the rider with the highest total sprint score.

The 25-year-old Dutch rider said the rainy weather didn't bother her much. "I don't mind the rain. There are a lot of straight roads here and no dangerous corners, so it's okay," said De Zoete.

Regarding the team's strategy, she added, "We wanted to do some sprints to be in front with multiple girls. It's a hard final with big roads and a lot of chaos actually, but it went well in the end." Qi Wenjia of the Bodywrap LTwo Women's Cycling Team was the highest-ranked Chinese rider, finishing sixth. "I hope to achieve a better result in the next stage. Competing against top riders from around the world has been a valuable experience. They are all strong and skilled, and I hope to make breakthroughs in the future," said Qi.

The Tour of Chongming Island, as part of the 2024 UCI Women's World Tour, runs from October 15 to 17, featuring 99 riders from 18 teams competing over three stages for a total distance of 349.3 kilometers. (Xinhua)

Osaka confirmed to play HK Open: Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka has been confirmed to compete in the Hong Kong Open tennis championships, organizers announced.

Osaka, who won the Australian Open in 2019 and 2021 and the US Open in 2018 and 2020, is the first Japanese player to win a Grand Slam and the first player from Asia to hold the singles' top ranking, claiming No. 1 spot in January 2019, which she held for 21 weeks.

She will be joined by Russia's Diana Shnaider and Anastasia Potapova, who is ranked 37th in the world.

Twenty-year-old Shnaider is the youngest player currently ranked in the world's top 16, and has won three titles this year. At the 2024 Olympic Games, she partnered with Mirra Andreeva to capture the silver medal in the women's doubles. (Xinhua)



A file photo of Kuwait Club and Al-Qadsiya players in action.

New Zealand thumps Pakistan to reach semis

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Oct 15, (AP): New Zealand reached its first Women's T20 World Cup semifinals in eight years after dismissing Pakistan for a record-low 56.

Wrist spinner Amelia Kerr picked up 3-14 and New Zealand won by 54 runs in the last Group A clash.

New Zealand had to win to knock out

India and join defending champion Australia in the semifinals. Pakistan had a slim chance but fell to the second lowest score in the T20 World Cup's 25-year history.

Opener Suzie Bates scored 28 off 29 balls to help New Zealand register 110-6. Then they fielded brilliantly to dismiss Pakistan in 11.4 overs. They were

led by Kerr, off-spinner Eden Carson,

who took two wickets, and two run outs.

"Incredibly proud of this group; 2016 was the last semifinal we made. We will celebrate tonight," New Zealand captain Sophie Devine said. "Results have not gone our way leading into this tournament. But the thing I am most proud of is we stuck to the processes. When

we get it right, we can beat any team in the world." The last Group B match between England and West Indies on Tuesday will determine the semifinal matchups. Both teams and South Africa are in contention.

New Zealand opted to bat and made a good start of 41 off 39 balls between Suzie Bates and Georgia Palmer (17).